What’s Missing?
You!!!

Pipeline Project Meetings
Dakota Access Pipeline • Sandpiper Pipeline
Palmetto Pipeline • Nexus Pipeline • TEAL Pipeline
LeachXPress Pipeline • Pinion Pipeline
Atlantic Coast Pipeline • PennEast Pipeline
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have dedicated my report to only one subject because I, along with Wade and the rest of my staff agree it is the most value we can provide the clients, and we need to capitalize on it now while the opportunity is at hand.

Believe it or not we are at war with the extreme environmental groups that are trying to stop every pipeline project in Canada and America. War was declared over 6 years ago in our industry concerning the permitting of the Keystone XL Pipeline over the routing of the line by just a mere handful of landowners. Since that time these fringe groups have been able to grow in numbers, and are sharing tactics and information to shut pipeline projects down. At the very least they delay permits on a national scale. “NIMBY” used to be the chant (Not In My Backyard!). Now it’s “BANANA” (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anybody). These extreme groups believe that today should be the end to all fossil fuels and that renewables are the future.

As a nation I think we are making progress in renewables, but any person in the energy supply business that has two brain cells to rub together will tell you that the technology and innovation to eliminate all fossil fuels are decades away, if ever. Unless you and your family live completely off the grid, you are dependent upon fossil fuels for most all of your basic needs without even realizing it. Well over 6000 products that we use on a regular basis require the basic building blocks of petroleum. I won’t try to name them all, but a few that may surprise you are: anything made from plastic, sunscreen, insect repellent, vinyl, nylon, detergents, cosmetics, medicines, golf balls, crayons. This list can be googled, and it just keeps going and going. The opposition screams “Let’s go solar!” Well, today even the solar panels are made from petroleum-based resins and plastic components in their photovoltaic cells. A barrel of oil is 42 gallons which creates 19.4 gallons of gasoline. The rest is used to make products. Americans consume petroleum products at a rate of 3 1/2 gallons of oil, and more than 250 cubic feet of natural gas per day each. Does it sound like fossil fuels are leaving anytime soon? See how silly the notion of abandoning fossil fuels really is when you do some simple research.

Pipeline is our industry and it is our future. You as a member have a powerful opportunity to help guide, not only your own economy, but you can also help strengthen the position of America as a global energy leader, as we should be. We should never have to bow down to foreign countries for our energy needs. Have we as a nation forgot about the tragedy of 9/11, or the oil embargo of the 70’s? Pipelines, and the energy they provide are the life blood of a strong and independent nation.

What can you do to help? We must work collectively; that’s why we joined the union. There is no strength or power to yield if we don’t all pull in the same direction. The direction we need to pull in is better partnerships with our clients. We have commitments from numerous clients for some enormous pipeline projects over the next three to four years. But with that comes some expectations from those partners. I have spoken about this topic almost every issue for the last year, but the membership participation is unacceptable. We need you, when called upon, to attend the various meetings for pipeline projects in your general area. You will not be required to speak unless you feel compelled to do so. We need members in the room. Write a simple letter of support for projects when asked to do so. Your participation is critical to your financial well-being, as well as your local union. These two simple things have, and will continue to create more real pipeline jobs than any picket line ever did. This is the “new” norm for Local 798. The best way to organize is partnering with clients, and we must do a better job of showing the client that the decision to utilize UNION LABOR was the perfect choice.

There is strength in numbers, but only if it is focused. Surely we can unite and be better activists than a bunch of tree huggers who don’t even know what energy they consume every day, or how it got to its customers. Please think about what you should do as members, active and retired in the greatest local in the world, when the phone rings and you are asked to help fight the fight. Will you do nothing, or will you unite and fight as a family when others try to destroy your livelihood? As always I am proud to say “I work for you, the greatest pipeliners in the world.”

Fraternally,

Daniel C. Hendrix
Business Manager

Regional Meeting - Wheeling, WV - July 19, 2015
A Regional Membership Meeting will be held Sunday, July 19, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Wheeling Island Hotel & Casino, located at 1 South Stone Street in Wheeling, WV. Local 798 staff in attendance will include Business Manager Danny Hendrix, Financial Secretary-Treasurer Wade Pilgreen, Dispatcher Ricky Jones, Training Director Farron Hollabaugh, Pension Manager Justin Wallace, and Business Agents Rick Taylor, Chris Lancaster, Phillip Wallace, Chad Gilbert, Black Schroeder, Darrell Turner, and Organizers Terry Langley, Ronnie Hill, and Jerry Ryan. We hope anyone in the area will be able to attend.
Although the work has been a little slow getting started this year compared to recent years, I'm happy to report that we are still working more than average man hours per month, according to historical data. Several areas of the country have been dealing with major weather issues. This has contributed to the dramatic reduction of the number of man hours that we have worked this year. But once the work gets into full swing, I don't foresee a slow down for the next few years. Several of the major pipeline contractors are predicting up to 95 large spreads of work for this two year period. If all of the planned projects get approved, we will lay over 8,000 miles of large diameter pipe during this time frame.

If you are working in the northeast region this summer, I would personally like to invite you and your family to attend the regional meeting in Wheeling, WV. It will be held at the Wheeling Island Hotel & Casino on Sunday, July 19th starting at 1:00. Lunch will be provided. The Business Agents, Organizers and Dispatcher will be in attendance for you to visit with throughout the day. We are also planning on having some of the office staff available that day, so that you can purchase merchandise and pay dues while you are at this meeting. This will be an excellent opportunity to visit with other Local 798 members, and to meet some of the Officers of your Local.

As I am sure most of you are aware, the new wage and benefits rates went into effect June 1st. Most of the 3% total package was applied to 401-K. On high scale work, the Journeymen will be receive an hourly contribution of $4.74. The Helpers will receive a $2.64 hourly contribution. This contribution now represents roughly around 9% of your gross wages, which will be going into a great savings account for your retirement. If you speak to any financial planner about your retirement, they will tell you that in order to reach your retirement goals in the future, you need to contribute a minimum of 15% of your gross wages to your retirement fund. This last raise means that most of you are now two-thirds of the way to achieving your personal retirement goals. And keep in mind that you can contribute on your side to make up the remaining portion of the 15% goal. If you have any questions on how to do this, please get with your Steward today.

I'm sure that many of you realize the opposition that both our Local, and the gas companies are up against in the process of trying to get these major pipelines approved. I believe that it will only intensify in the future. We have recently sent email and call blasts out to members in an attempt to motivate everyone to go to these Town Hall and Utility Board meetings, and show their support of specific pipeline projects. Unfortunately, we only had a few members show up for the Georgia Department of Transportation meetings that were held concerning the Palmetto pipeline. The opposition had nearly four hundred. And within a few weeks, the Georgia Department of Transmission denied Kinder Morgan the permit required to move forward.

Another example of member turnout and the impact it has on the future of the pipeline industry deals with the Minnesota Public Utility Commission. The Commission recently voted unanimously to approve the need for the Sandpiper Pipeline. During most of those meetings throughout the year, we had several members in attendance. They also sent in comment letters to the board and letters to the editors. Our members were very diligent in the process of ensuring the approval of this pipeline. I would personally like to recognize each one of you, in addition to David Barnett and Ellen Boardman from the UA. Thank you for a job well done. After considering the two examples listed above, you can see that it is definitely worthwhile to take the time, and make the commitment to invest your efforts into the project approval process. And the clients are sure to recall who participated in their cause. All of this being said, you should keep in mind that this is the future of your industry at stake here; it is up to you to protect it.

I know that we are all very proud to belong to what we consider the best Union in the world. This local was built on the very best welding skills available anywhere around the globe. Contractors rely on us to get the job done on time and in budget in order to ensure their success. Safety and quality are two additional, yet equally important factors in their formula for success. It is our duty to provide them with Welders, Journeymen, and Helpers that can accomplish this work in a timely fashion. We are the best, and we need to show them each day that no one can do it any better, safer, or faster than 798!

Lastly, I know that several of you are struggling with what to do on the issue of the DOT numbers for the welding rigs. During the Steward School we covered many of the problems we have encountered across the country. It seems as if every day we hear from a member who was pulled over by a DOT officer who interprets the laws differently. The FMCSA handed down a decision earlier this year that basically requires all welders who drive welding rigs with a GVW over 10,000 pounds across a state line for work to obtain DOT numbers and follow the regulations of the FMCSA. While on the jobsite, the contractor will need to provide you DOT numbers for the workday. You must still have your Dot number for your personal time while you are not on the jobsite. We have joined forces with a great group called NTCI that will help you with the process. I have heard from several members who used their services, and they were all very appreciative of their help. If you need help with obtaining a DOT number, you may contact NTCI at (317) 770-0953.

I would also like to point out that the UA and PLCA have drafted a letter to the FMCSA requesting a two year variance which would allow relief for all welding rigs working in the pipeline industry from the FMCSA regulations for that time period. Once this letter is under review we will be asking for your help. Hopefully we can eliminate this issue once and for all.

Let me know if I can assist you in any way. And I thank you for the opportunity to serve you each and every day!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Wade Pilgreen
Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Michels: Casper Construction: members know that you need these jobs.

Tioga, ND to Patoka, IL. I probably sound like a broken record on these jobs, but in June. This 1100 miles of 30" is the next big project in my area. Running from right in their eyes, it makes a difference. Enbridge Suits. When they look out at the crowd and we are looking back at them, showed their support at these last hearings. Thanks to all the Operators, Teamsters, to Jerry Ryan, Terry and Debbie Langley, and the local members who came and meetings along the Sandpiper route. Thanks for all your hard work. Also thanks winter when the Peat Boggs are frozen.

Construction Manager, I think the swamp work and HDD's will get started this coming re-route, it will add several more miles to the project. I don't think that's a bad thing.

Now. There are several environmental groups fighting the proposed route, so alter-

into the Superior, WI Hub. With this good news, there is bidding several more projects here in Texas.

Rockford has been hammered with record rainfall in Rosenberg, like other parts of Texas and OK. It was almost impossible to get anything done due to the mud and water so they just recently had to lay off most all the UA hands. They still had about 11 miles of pipe to lay, and as I write this report they are calling for hands trying to man back up to finish this project.

Precision Pipeline picked up two loops of the Lone Star Express (ETP) with approximately 130 miles of 30". This job will be done with the CRC mechanized welding process, and will start sometime in September or October. They will start the procedures for this project around the 10th of June at CRC in Houston, TX.

For next year Enterprise has 416 miles of 24" from Midland to Sealy, TX. Energy Transfer has over 300 miles of 42" in West Texas. There are two separate pipelines going across the border into Mexico; they are saying that Pumpco was awarded the contract for those projects. The first line is the Trans Pecos, 143 miles long that will run from Coyanoza to Presidio. This line will carry Natural gas from the Permian Basin into Mexico. They have gone up against a lot of opposition from the land owners and the general public in Big Bend Country. The second line is the Comanche Trail. It will run from Coyanoza to San Elizario just south of El Paso. The Comanche Trail is approximately 170 miles of 42”. Both of these projects are scheduled to be constructed in 2016.

The only new pre-jobs are with Price Gregory. They have been training at the Lazy Q Ranch in LaGrange, TX. This training is for some work they have in South LA. If I can be of assistance to any please don't hesitate to contact me.

PHILIP W. WALLACE
AR, IA, KS, MN, MT, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD
918/270-6738 918/663-6520 Press 6

I write this Blue Light report from St. Paul, MN while attending the Public Utilities Commission hearing for the Sandpiper Pipeline. The five board members of the commission voted unanimously to grant the Certificate of Need to build the Sandpiper Pipeline That is a great victory for 798 members and their families who will be working on the 600+ miles of 24" and 30". Enbridge will run 24" from Tioga, ND into the Clearbrook, MN Tank Farm, then 30" will run into the Superior, WI Hub. With this good news, there are still some issues on the route that the Utility Commission will make decisions on this summer. Enbridge has about 95% of the land acquired for the route they have now. There are several environmental groups fighting the proposed route, so alternate routes are being studied. The proposed route is the shortest and if they have to re-route, it will add several more miles to the project. I don't think that's a bad thing.

After listening to all the speakers and talking to the Enbridge Project Manager and the Construction Manager, I think the swamp work and HDD's will get started this coming winter when the Peat Boggs are frozen.

Special Representative of the UA Pipeline Department, David Barnett, and our UA Attorney, Ellen Boardman have worked on this for over a year going to all the town meetings along the Sandpiper route. Thanks for all your hard work. Also thanks to Jerry Ryan, Terry and Debbie Langley, and the local members who came and showed their support at these last hearings. Thanks to all the Operators, Teamsters, and Laborers who took time to show unity to the Utility Commissioners, and to the Enbridge Suits. When they look out at the crowd and we are looking back at them, right in their eyes, it makes a difference.

I will be attending the Dakotas Access Pipeline meetings in North Dakota later in June. This 1100 miles of 30" is the next big project in my area. Running from Tioga, ND to Patoka, IL. I probably sound like a broken record on these jobs, but we have to keep fighting to get these jobs permitted. If you are near any of these meetings, go show your support. Let the Gas and Oil Companies, and the board members know that you need these jobs.

The integrity and maintenance work is about 95% of my work until the big projects get permitted. This work is not as exciting as mainline pipelining, where you stay in one place till the job is done. There is a lot of moving around to different locations. I tell the Welder Foremen on these jobs to be sure to let the dispatch office know of the multiple moves. If you apply for these jobs be prepared to move a lot.

Never forget: United We Stand, Divided We Fall

New Pre-jobs:
Casper Construction:

Intrasource:
- Watertown, SD. Station Modifications for Northern Natural. Superintendent, Jeff Davis. Job Steward, Justin Head.

BLACK SCHROEDER
TX
409/753-2254 918/663-6520 Press 2

I have just returned from West Texas where Trinity Energy finished laying 27 miles of 20" for Sunoco with lots of success. Both Station jobs are also winding down, and Sunoco Pipeline is very pleased with the quality job they have received from union labor. This is the type of statement we must continue to make every time we get the opportunity in order to survive the abundance of cheap labor in Texas. Trinity is bidding several more projects here in Texas.

If I can be of assistance to any please don't hesitate to contact me.

AZ, CO, NV, NM, UT, WY
918/270-6736 918/663-6520 Press 3

I am writing my report from home after returning from Arizona. I have been talking to non-union contractors on the benefits of using our union membership to construct their projects. While in Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming, I have spoken with Venables, D.C. Welding, Arizona Pipeline, Northern Pipeline, and Whitaker Construction. Although the contractors are currently not willing to sign the National Agreement, a dialogue has been opened with the upper management of some of these companies. When a contractor is open to listen, it helps form a better relationship. Contractors who will not communicate show us that they are not open to union labor.

One of the reasons I have been aggressively approaching these smaller market contractors is the amount of Pipeline integrity work to come in the future. While the Nation is focused on pipeline safety, gas companies are looking to improve their systems and bring them up to date. Snelson has received a contract in Colorado for this type of work with a chance to do Xcel Energy’s maintenance for 5 years with a 5-year extension. They still had about 11 miles of pipe to lay, and as I write this report they are calling for hands trying to man back up to finish this project.

Precision Pipeline picked up two loops of the Lone Star Express (ETP) with approximately 130 miles of 30”. This job will be done with the CRC mechanized welding process, and will start sometime in September or October. They will start the procedures for this project around the 10th of June at CRC in Houston, TX.

For next year Enterprise has 416 miles of 24” from Midland to Sealy, TX. Energy Transfer has over 300 miles of 42” in West Texas. There are two separate pipelines going across the border into Mexico; they are saying that Pumpco was awarded the contract for those projects. The first line is the Trans Pecos, 143 miles long that will run from Coyanoza to Presidio. This line will carry Natural gas from the Permian Basin into Mexico. They have gone up against a lot of opposition from the land owners and the general public in Big Bend Country. The second line is the Comanche Trail. It will run from Coyanoza to San Elizario just south of El Paso. The Comanche Trail is approximately 170 miles of 42”. Both of these projects are scheduled to be constructed in 2016.

The only new pre-jobs are with Price Gregory. They have been training at the Lazy Q Ranch in LaGrange, TX. This training is for some work they have in South LA.

If I can be of assistance to any please don't hesitate to contact me.
Our market in the West is turning from the bigger projects, like the Ruby and Kern River, to smaller maintenance and integrity work. Although we love the big work, when it's not available we must have jobs; these smaller integrity projects are good jobs. In order to get more of these projects we have to be the best craftsmen/women we can, and make good relationships with the gas companies. Often on a small integrity job the inspector could be the construction manager who may award the next project for the client. Our actions as members could determine if we secure the next project. Always remember we all represent Local 798 when we are on the job site.

We are looking at two major pipelines that are scheduled to come out of the Front Range toward Cushing this year. The Magellan SaddleHorn Pipeline looks to get underway in December 2015. It consists of 550 miles of 20 inch extending from Carr, CO. to Cushing, OK. The second line, the Grand Mesa Pipeline, is almost running the same route. It is scheduled for September and is 20 and 24 inch. Hopefully our contractors can be competitive on this work.

It's my hope everyone gets a chance to work a good job this year. I know what that means to our members. That's our goal; obtain the jobs and support our members as best we can. Be safe, work hard, and be the best at everything you do. Please call if I can be of assistance in any way.

**New Pre Jobs:**


**DARRELL TURNER**

AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, SC  
918/270-6737 918/663-6520 Press 4

Future pipeline projects across the Deep South are going to provide longtime employment, ample hours for insurance and pension, and some of the best wages this region has ever seen. But the projects have to get past the regulators and protesters before we can go to the ROW. Case in point is the proposed Palmetto Pipeline project between Belton, South Carolina and Jacksonville, Florida. 360 miles of new cross country pipeline would carry refined product (gasoline) across three southern states to the growing east coast of Florida. Additional sales facilities would be constructed near Augusta and Savannah, Georgia. There would also be storage facilities and pumping stations built along the pipeline route. But meanwhile, Kinder Morgan Corporation will spend 1 billion dollars to bring the pipeline on line. The project should generate approximately 5 spreads, 1200 construction jobs, 28 permanent positions, and result in projected revenue to local and state agencies of over $12 million dollars annually.

But hundreds of protesters, led by a mega rich plantation owner who owns news outlets across the entire length of the proposed pipeline, managed to throw the proposed pipeline under the bus (not). Governor Nathan Deal of Georgia, ordinarily a supporter of business expansion, allowed local politics to prompt him to veto the project. The Georgia DOT declined Kinder Morgan’s application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity associated with the proposed Palmetto Pipeline. On the surface, the project appeared to die on the vine. However, Kinder Morgan Corporation is not throwing in the towel. Kinder Morgan Products Pipeline President, Ron McClain said his company believes in the viability of the project, its economic benefit to the Southeast region, and Georgia in particular. Mr. McClain also promised that “Kinder Morgan will pursue all available options to move forward with the pipeline.” Kinder Morgan officials acknowledged that Pipeliners Union 798 offered the only vocal support at each of the open meetings and continues to support the Palmetto Pipeline Project. Local 798 Business Manager, Danny Hendrix declared early on that we stand 100% for the project, and we will not waiver. Brothers and Sisters, on behalf of Danny and Wade, “we will not waiver” is precisely the message I carried to Kinder Morgan Corporation on behalf of our leadership and the great membership of Local 798.

I reported in the last Blue Light that pipeline construction projects down south are becoming reality after a long dry spell. Transco Williams is working feverishly to get the “Dalton Project” off the ground. Pipe sizes will include several miles of 48” and 42” in Alabama and 112 miles of 30” in Georgia. Construction is expected to get underway second quarter, 2016. The Sable Trail, about 500 miles of 36” in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, is also under fire with land owners and environmental groups in Georgia. Again, protesters are willing to do anything to stop this project, worth nearly 4 billion dollars. Sable Trail has ordered pipe, has satisfied the initial FERC process, is in a fight to secure ROW, and has accepted bids from a lengthy list of union and non-union contractors. The successful companies won’t know until year’s end who won those mega contracts. The Southeast Connector Pipeline, owned by Florida Power and Light, has awarded PLCA contractor Rockford 77 miles of 36” and 49 miles of 30” to be built in south Florida in 2016.

There are a number of other projects on the drawing board for my jurisdiction. Awarded to Price Gregory is a phenomenal 24” job in south Louisiana that includes (2) other pipe sizes and 28 directional drills, including the Mississippi River. This is definitely a 2015 project, scheduled for this fall.

So the time is now to hone your pipeline welding skills in the finest training facility in the world (with the best trained and knowledgeable instructors anywhere in the United States). To be prepared means money in your pocket down the road. I might add that Building Trades work is available (right now) to 798 members that TIG and weld up-hill stick. Again, our training school provides the technique if you provide the effort. Leave 798’s Training School with your UA certs, and you will go to work.

I appreciate working for the greatest union members anywhere. The vast majority go to work each and every day doing a phenomenal job of representing yourselves and Local 798 to the max. For those few members who play hide and seek in locations like Lawrenceville, Georgia, Plaquemines and New Iberia, Louisiana, smile, you are on candid camera. We know who you are, and your future as a union pipeline welder or journeyman lies precariously in your hands. You are juggling wonderful health care, a great secure pension, top wages and a future to behold. Is it worth it?

**Recent Pre Jobs:**

Geeding Construction:


TJ Construction Co.:


Sheetan Pipeline:

Work commences in MS, traverses northwest AL, and terminates in TN. Hydro Test and Integrity work on 250 miles of 30” for Tennessee Gas Pipeline (Kinder Morgan Corp). Job is underway. 80% complete. Working 6-10’s. Approximate completion 12-1-2015.

**CHRIS LANCASTER**

IN, KY, MI, NC, OH, TN  
918/270-6735 918/663-6520 Press 1

The work in my area has gotten off to a good start. I have pre-jobbed several smaller jobs, as well as 4 large projects. I am still getting job notifications so the work in my area is looking good. If you aren’t working I encourage you to check the job line for there have been a lot of jobs listed. The outlook for the next few years look very good. There are a few projects coming up: the Nexus Pipeline, Rover Pipeline and the Vector Expansion projects. They are on the schedule to be laid in 2016 and 2017. These jobs are 36” and 42” pipe, to be laid in Ohio and Michigan.

I want to thank everyone for the quality of work being done on most of these projects. For example, the Appalachian Pipeline job in NC for Piedmont Gas completed over 2500 welds, with only one reject. This proves to the Client that we are the best and committed to excellence. Thanks for the great job you are doing.

I hope most everyone in the area is aware of the regional meeting coming up in July in Wheeling, WV. There are a lot of jobs going on around Wheeling, so I’m sure there will be a large turnout. I hope you are able to attend; I will be looking forward to visiting with everyone.

I anticipate seeing everyone working in the area soon. I wish everyone a safe and prosperous work season. If I can be of help, just give me a call.

I have held the following pre-jobs:

**Appalachian Pipeline:**

**Associated Pipeline:**

**B. Miller Excavating:**

**BB&G Pipeline:**

**Big Inch Fabrication:**
Louisville, OH. 2-30” Station modifications. Welder Foreman, Craig Myers.
United Piping, Inc.:

Snelson:

Sheehan Pipeline:

Roberts Pipeline:

PJ Steele:

Minnesota Limited:

Mid-Ohio:

Michels Pipeline:

Geeding Construction:

CBC Pipeline:


Benwood, WV. 46.4 miles of 30”. Welder Foreman, Brian Boyett. Superintendent, Matt Colley. Working 5-10’s. Approx. completion 6-26-15.

Sheehan Pipeline:


United Piping, Inc.:


Welded Construction:


RICK TAYLOR

CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV
918/270-6739 918/663-6520 Press 7

I would like to invite all members and their families to our Regional Meeting to be held July 19, 2015 (Sunday) starting at 1:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Wheeling Island Casino Resort in Wheeling, WV. The Ladies of 798 will also hold their meeting. Dinner will follow the meetings. This provides another great opportunity for those who have been working during the regular Steward School held in April that could not leave the job. It is a great time for fellowship and learning. I hope to see as many as possible attend, along with all business agents and organizers. Danny, Wade, Terry and Renee have put a lot of work into putting this together to benefit the members and I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

I have been extremely busy lately and hope many of you are now working. The pre-jobs have been coming quicker now that the year has moved along. Everyone seems to be hired out either by the contractor, or by taking a dispatch off the job line. Please continue to check the job line each night if you are ready to go to work.

The permits did not come as quickly as we thought this year, but it seems work continues to be steady and should continue through at least the Fall, or perhaps the winter season here in the northeast. The weather, as we all know, controls a lot when it comes to pipelining.

If I can be of any assistance, please call. As Always: Be Safe! Be Proud! Be Union!

Pre-Jobs:

Apex Pipeline Services, Inc.:


- Smithsburg, WV. 5 miles of 12” & 20” steel / 20” HDPE 7.5 miles total for CONSOL Energy. Superintendent, Joseph Kirk. Welder Foreman, Josh Nichols. Mainline Rates. 4-11’s & 1-10.

Appalachian Pipeline Contractors:

- Courtland, VA. 1,856’ of 12” pipe replacement for Columbia Gas Transmission. Superintendent, Ben Gruetzmacher. Welder Foreman, Rusty Wallace. Special Agreement with Mainline Rates. 6-10’s.

Associated Pipe Line Const.:


Bond Brothers, Inc.:

- Raynham, MA. 1 Grass Root Station / 5 Meter modifications for Spectra Energy. Superintendent, Carlo Colarusso. Welder Foreman, Lester Hall. Station Agreement with Mainline Rates. 6-10’s.


- Colchester, CT. 1 Grass Root Station / 5 Meter Modifications for Spectra Energy. Superintendent, James Comeau. Welder Foreman, Ed Stockwell, Jr. Station Agreement with Mainline Rates. 6-10’s.

- Dedham, MA. 4 miles of 16’/12 miles of 24” pipe/Meter Station foe Spectra Energy. Superintendent, Michael Moore. Welder Foreman, Jeff Stockwell. Mainline Rates. 6-10’s.

Contracts Rental Corporation:


Henkels & McCoy, Inc.:


- Dauphin, PA. 2,700’ of 24”-30” / 2,000’ of 30” / 1,500’ of 36” Replacement for Spectra Energy. Superintendent, Greg Kunes. Welder Foreman, John Smith. Mainline Rates. 6-10’s.

- North Franklin, CT. 12” & 16” Pipeline & Facilities / 2 miles of 36” for
Infrasource Construction, LLC.: Steetlon, PA. 12” & 16” Steel Casing Removal for UGI. Superintendent, Tom DeCraene. Welder Foreman, James Wyatt. Mainline Rates. 6-10's.
Mannon Pipeline, LLC.: Pine Grove, WV. 2” to 16” piping Station Work for Eureka Hunter. Superintendent, Dwain Mannon. Welder Foreman, Nathaniel Bowen. Station Agreement with Higher Rates. 5-10s.
- Finley, PA. Lift & Lay 8,400’ of 20” pipe for Columbia Gas Transmission. Superintendent, Mark Carpenter. Welder Foreman, Mark Feagin. Mainline Rates. 6-10's.
- Smethport, PA. 19,200’ of 16” / 19,200’ of 12” / 19,800’ of 8” & 3,800’ of 6” for National Fuel. Superintendent, Rod Tyson. Welder Foreman, Paul Pailette. Special Agreement with Mainline Rates. 5-12's.
Over & Under Piping: Watervliet, NY. 150’ of 12” piping / 4” thru 12” Regulator Station / 6”-600” HDD & Meter & Regulator / 4”-6” Replacement for National Grid. Superintendent, Fred Robinson. Welder Foreman, Ray Brumley. Special Agreement Rates. 5-10s.
- Ford City, PA. 11,000’ of 12” & 8” / 3,600’ of 12” & 8” Dual for EOT Corporation. Superintendent, James Gould. Welder Foreman, Chris Butts. Special Agreement with mainline rates. 5-10s.
Precision Pipeline, LLC.: - Bridgevo, WV. 15.4 miles of 24” Pipeline New Lay for M3 (Momentum Midstream). Superintendent, Brad Moser. Welder Foreman, Jimmy Dick. Mainline Rates. 6-10s.
- Westfield, PA. 17,972’ of 26” Take up and Relay / 2,256’ of 26” retest for Dominion Transmission. Superintendent, Todd Burleston. Welder Foreman, Kenny Powell. Mainline Rates. 6-10s.

Meeting Notice September 11, 2015
The Regular September Membership Meeting will be held at the Pipeliners Local Union 798 Union Hall, 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK on Friday, September 11, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL BUSINESS: Nomination and Election of an Election Committee and Nominations for Convention Delegates. The Election Committee will oversee the 2015 Election of Convention Delegates for the 2016 UA Convention. Therefore, Election Committee Members will not be eligible to seek election as a Convention Delegate.

Nomination and Election of an Election Committee: As provided in the Local 798 Constitution & By-Laws under Article XVII, Elections, Section 7: “For each general election for officers, an Election Committee consisting of three (3) members will be nominated and elected at the nominating meeting. The member with the highest number of votes shall be Chairman of said committee, or, if no such plurality exists, the Committee shall appoint its own Chairman. The nominating meeting will be held at least one meeting prior to the election meeting. Its term of office shall be for that election only.”

Any member who has been in continuous good standing for the two years prior to election is eligible to run for Election Committee. Nominations will be accepted on the floor at the Membership meeting. In addition, letters of nomination may be submitted via fax to 918 627-9327, via email to information@local798.org, or via mail to PO Box 470798, Tulsa, OK 74147. Faxed, emailed and mailed nominations must be submitted by 12:00 noon on Friday, September 11, 2015. It is the nominator’s responsibility to verify that the nomination has been received in the Local Union office.

All nominees must sign a nomination acceptance letter. Nomination acceptance letters must be submitted prior to the start of the September 11, 2015 membership meeting. Letters can be submitted via fax to 918 627-9327, via mail to PO Box 470798, Tulsa, OK 74147 or via email to information@local798.org. It is the nominee’s responsibility to verify that the nomination acceptance letter has been received by the Local Union office.

The secret ballot election will be conducted during the September 11, 2015 membership meeting. Election Committee Members will not be eligible to run for Convention Delegate, and should plan to attend a meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Local 798 Union office.

The Nomination and Election Notice for Convention Delegates located elsewhere within this issue of the Blue Light Reports for information concerning the Nomination and Election procedures for Convention Delegates.

798 Ladies Hospitality & Motel Accommodations
The 798 Hospitality will be held at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel – 6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133 – beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2015. The Renaissance Tulsa Hotel has graciously offered a discounted room rate of $91.00. To make reservations, call (918) 307-2600. Make sure you indicate you are with Pipeliners Local Union 798.
Medicare Insurance and PIBF Insurance

The rules for Medicare coverage and Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund (PIBF) coverage can become very confusing. PIBF is the primary insurance for members who have active insurance from working, even if the member has Medicare. As a minimum, a member should apply for Medicare Part A coverage prior to reaching Medicare eligibility (age 65, or 24 months after approved for Social Security disability). Part A does not have a premium. Once a member decides to stop working, application for Medicare Part B should be made within eight months after the last hours are worked to avoid late enrollment penalties. For those members with PIBF retiree coverage, PIBF will be secondary to Medicare. Should a retiree with PIBF retiree coverage return to work, Medicare remains primary and the PIBF waives one month of retiree premium for every 120 hours worked. Remember, Medicare and Social Security are two different government programs. Medicare is the health insurance for seniors and Social Security is the retirement benefit. The comments in this article are general; therefore, the PIBF staff recommends that you discuss your situation with a Medicare/Social Security representative because of the possibility of changing rules. Special Medicare rules apply to union members because the insurance is provided based on hour bank eligibility.

918-280-4800 – www.pibf.org

NOMINATIONS FOR LOCAL 798
2016 CONVENTION DElegates/ALTernates

This Notice provides important information regarding the nomination process for the upcoming Local 798 2016 U.A. General Convention Delegates. If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact the Union Hall.

NOMINATIONS

1. A meeting to nominate convention delegates will be held on Friday, September 11, 2015 starting at 7:00 p.m. (CST), at the Local 798 Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

2. No Local 798 member shall be eligible as a convention delegate or alternate unless he shall have been a good standing member of the Local Union which he is to represent for at least two (2) continuous years previous to his election and he remains in good standing from the date of his election through the period of the convention. The date of the “election” for purposes of determining eligibility to serve as a convention delegate or alternate is October 28, 2015. Thus, if a member is not eligible as described above as of October 28, 2015, he will not be eligible to run for convention delegate or alternate.

3. Nominations for convention delegates will be accepted from the floor at the nominations meeting. A candidate may nominate himself and need not have a second. If a member is not present at the meeting, he may be nominated or nominate himself by sending a written notice of his acceptance of nomination as a convention delegate. Such written notice may be delivered by hand, mail, or facsimile to the Union Office, or by email to nominations@local798.org. Written notice must be received in the Local Union in Tulsa, Oklahoma no later than 12:00 p.m. noon (CST) on the day of nominations, Friday, September 11, 2015. (Please note that the email address for nominations will be activated on July 1, 2015 and deactivated at 12:00 p.m. noon (CST) on Friday, September 11, 2015.) The names of all candidates received by this deadline will be announced at the nominations meeting.

4. Under Section 504 of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (“LMRDA”), a member who has been convicted of certain crimes may not hold office or serve as a convention delegate for a maximum of 13 years following the date of conviction or the end of imprisonment, whichever is later. Please call the U.S. Department of Labor, or the Chairman of the Election Committee if you have a question about this provision of the LMRDA.

5. The Election Committee will conduct a candidate’s meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2015. All candidates and their observers are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be conducted at the Local 798 Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and will start at 10:00 a.m. (CST).
MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

1. The General President has directed that the election for convention delegates/alternates be conducted by mail ballot. There will be no manual balloting.

2. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible Local 798 members on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at their most recent permanent address on file with the Local Union (“primary address”) as of Friday, October 16, 2015.

3. Ballots will be counted on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma starting at 9:00 a.m. (CST).

4. The results of the election will be announced at the Regular Membership Meeting on Friday, December 11, 2015 starting at 7:00 p.m. (CST) at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

5. In the event there is a tie vote for convention delegates/alternates and a run-off election is necessary, a mail ballot election will be conducted for only those convention delegates for whom there is a tie vote. Ballots will be mailed on February 26, 2016 and will be counted on April 4, 2016 at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma starting at 9:00 a.m. (CST). The results of any run-off election will be announced at the Regular Union Membership meeting to be held on April 8, 2016 at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma starting at 7:00 p.m. (CST).

USING & STORING ACETYLENE GAS

Companies that fail to use or store compressed gases properly are inviting disaster. Improper handling of compressed gases can lead to serious fires, explosions or releases due to pressure buildup in cylinders or reactivity with other materials. Proper procedures for handling and using acetylene gas should be understood and followed by all employees. Acetylene is a well-known fuel gas used almost universally in gas welding. Even though it is very common, this gas is an extremely dangerous material. Acetylene is so reactive it should never be exposed to certain metals such as unalloyed copper. Nor should it be stored or used at pressures greater than 15 psi. Cylinder pressures are rated for 250 psi, but this is acceptable because the gas is dissolved in acetone. Acetylene is so flammable that the National Electric Code has a special designation (it’s most stringent) for using electrical equipment around acetylene. No other substance falls into this classification! Acetylene leaks, no matter how small, can have serious consequences. The explosive range of the gas, when mixed with air, is from 2.5% to 82%, the widest of any commonly used gas. When using acetylene gas, always observe the following procedures:

- Close the cylinder valve before shutting off the regulator to permit gas to bleed from the regulator.
- When returning empty cylinders to storage or for refill, close the valves. Even though the acetylene gas is used up, the flammable acetone in the cylinders can still evaporate into the air and create its own dangers. Acetylene gas is lighter than air so any leaking gas should rise. However, it is only slightly lighter so certain atmospheric conditions may prevent this tendency to rise.
- Acetylene cylinders are not hollow. They are packed with porous rock that is saturated with acetone. Cylinders should be used or stored only in an upright position to avoid the possibility of the acetone leaking from the cylinder. If this is not possible, it is recommended that the cylinder be placed upright and left to stand for one-half hour before using. This is to prevent liquid acetone from running through your regulator.
- Cylinders containing acetylene must not be taken into a confined space.
- Always use acetylene in a well-vented area. Never store cylinders near open flames or electrical equipment.
- Never store acetylene, or any other fuel gas, within 25 feet of oxygen cylinders. If this separation is not possible, erect a noncombustible (1/2-hour fire rated) partition, at least five feet high, between the two gases in storage.
- Always cap and secure stored cylinders upright to prevent them from falling over and damaging the valve or cylinder.
**2014 / 2015**

**Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarships Awarded**

The Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program is pleased to announce the following winners. These students successfully completed the scholarship program requirements and were selected as the highest-ranking applicants. The recipients were chosen by an independent evaluator that scored the applicants according to factors such as their grade point average, the difficulty level of their academic program, the strength of their recommendation letters, and the overall assessment of their essay. Congratulations to this year’s scholarship recipients, and to all of our candidates who are expanding their opportunities through the pursuit of higher education. Thanks also go to our contributors to the Voluntary Fund who have made this program possible.

**Croy Newell** is from Oak Grove, LA. Her parents are Carlton and Cheryl Newell. Her father is a 28 year member of Local 798, and her grandpa, L.T. “Red” Brown has been a member for 65 years. She attended Kilbourne High School and graduated as co-valedictorian. She is currently in the honors program at Tarleton State University and is now majoring in pre-vet, and hoping to go to veterinarian school at Texas A&M University once she graduates from Tarleton.

**Violet Newell** is from Oak Grove, LA. Her parents are Carlton and Cheryl Newell. Her grandfather, L.T. “Red” Brown has been a member for 28 years. She is originally from Oak Grove, LA. Her father is a 28 year member of Local 798, and her grandpa, L.T. “Red” Brown has been a member for 65 years. She attended Kilbourne High School and graduated as co-valedictorian. She is currently in the honors program at Tarleton State University and is now majoring in pre-vet, and hoping to go to veterinarian school at Texas A&M University once she graduates from Tarleton.

**Samantha Jae Christensen** is the daughter of Grant and Devon Christensen, and granddaughter of Grant Sample, 58-year Retired Welder Member of Local 798. She graduated magna cum laude from Jefferson City High School in 2014 and is currently attending Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri.

In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society and was a Missouri A+ Program scholar. She attended the National young leaders Conference in the summer of 2011. As for her achievements, she was the Art Club President at JCHS during the 2013-2014 school year, as well as the Design Editor for the Jefferson City High School Marcullus Yearbook.

Thus far in college, she has participated in a speaking event that benefitted the University of Missouri, Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Center. She also volunteers as often as possible at the Samaritan Center food pantry in Jefferson City, MO.

Samantha would like to study abroad in Europe during the winter break of 2016. She plans to graduate from the University of Missouri in May 2018 with a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism. Afterwards, she wants to pursue a career in which she can use her creativity and graphic design skills, hopefully in the field of advertising or strategic communications.

**Courtney Ross Diaz** is the daughter of Ronald Ross, a 14 year Welder member. She graduated in 2000 with Honors from the University of Mobile with a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. Shortly thereafter, she attended Shakespeare University in England. Her final degree aspiration is the Doctoral program in Educational Leadership at the University of South Alabama in the fall of 2014. Her ultimate goal is to hold a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership as well as become a principal. It is her desire to be of service to the Mobile County Public School System. There is nothing that thrills her more than to see the public schools graduate students who are ready for college or employment, and who are equipped with self-confidence to face life enthusiastically.

Courtney feels blessed to go to work every day and do what she loves. She looks forward to the opportunity to learn each and every day, and become an effective leader. She hopes one day that she is able to become a leader in the MCPSS, or perhaps be a professor, and instill the love for educational leadership in the hearts and minds of others as her past and present leaders have done for her.

**Sage Allen** is the daughter of Gip and Charla Allen. She is the granddaughter of Tim and the late Mary Hartness of Pawhuska, OK. Tim is a 54 year Welder member of Local 798. Sage graduated from Pawhuska High School in May of 2014. While in high school, she was a part of the Oklahoma Honors Society, the National Honor Society, was a four year honor student, and graduated Salutatorian of her class. She is currently attending Northwestern Oklahoma State University where she is majoring Biology. After her first semester at Northwestern, she was on the Vice-President’s Honor Roll by finishing the semester with a 3.67 GPA. After graduating college, she plans on continuing her education by pursuing a career in dentistry.

**Tyler Childs** is the son of Welder member Tommy Childs, and Helper member Natalie Childs. Currently a senior at Henderson State University with a 3.67 GPA, he is involved with several organizations including: the Biology Club, Spanish Club, Chemistry Club, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Heart & Key Service Organization, Alpha Chi Honors Society and the Student Government Association. Tyler is a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society, Alpha Mu Gamma Foreign Language Honor Society, a member of Henderson State University’s Honors College Program, and was honored...
to be the 2013 Greek Man of the Year. Outside of school he serves as a volunteer at Arkadelphia Boys and Girls Club, walks dogs at Arkadelphia Humane Society and volunteers at Arkansas Children’s Hospital. After graduating from HSU with a major in Biology, and minors in Chemistry and Psychology, he plans to further his education at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences with hopes of becoming a Physician’s Assistant.

Olivia Russell is the daughter of Dean and Miriam Russell, and the granddaughter of 50 year 798 Union member, Burl D. and Linda McCord. Olivia is a 2014 graduate of Stringer High School in Stringer, MS. During her sophomore year, she was selected as a representative for the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership conference. She graduated with Highest Honors, earned the distinction of Mississippi Scholar, and was a member of the RHS Hall of Fame. Additionally, Olivia was selected as a Lindy Callahan Scholar, and Wendy’s Heisman Recipient for maintaining a high GPA as an athlete. Olivia also served on the school yearbook staff as a staff member one year, co-editor two years, and editor during her senior year. As an active member of Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Olivia has participated in several different mission trips, including one last summer to San Diego, CA where she worked in a pro-life center for single mothers. She is currently attending Jones County Junior College as a freshman, and plans to attend Pearl River Community College to earn a degree in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program.

Je Suis’ Andrew Scott is the son of Mary and Morgan Scott, who is a Welder member of Pipliners Local 798, and a UA member for 37 years. In 2014, Je Suis’ graduated ranked seventh in his high school class with a 3.95 GPA and a 30 ACT score. Je Suis’ was in the concert band seven years, and played high school tennis. He was selected as a Delegate to the Tennessee American Legion Boys State. He completed 127 community service hours in high school. He did his first flight solo at age 16. He holds a private pilot certification and is currently working on achieving instrument rating certification. He will continue and finish with a commercial pilot rating. He is majoring in Aerospace / Professional Pilot at Middle Tennessee State University. Je Suis’ completed 28 college credit hours while in high school. As a result, while only in his freshman year of college, he is ranked only one credit hour short of being classified as a junior.

Je Suis’ was asked to serve in a teacher assistant internship by the MTSU Department of Chemistry Chair based on his excellent GPA. He holds a 3.818 GPA. He earned MTSU Dean’s List, awarded Presidential Scholarship, Tennessee Merit Scholarship, Parent Alumni Scholarship, UA Scholarship, Tennessee Hope Scholarship, invited for membership in Lambda Sigma National Honor Society, Phi Sigma National Honor Fraternity MTSU, and MTSU Chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Je Suis’ considers the Local 798 Scholarship his most prized and cherished award!

Rebecca Monceaux was born in Lake Charles, LA and attended Grand Lake High School where she was involved in numerous clubs such as: Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Senior Beta, Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council, and Literary Rally. She served as the Student Council president in 2012-2013, as well as student class secretary form 2009-2013. In high school she was also a member of the cheerleading squad and the softball team. With a 4.0 she graduated as the class valedictorian.

After high school she continued her education at Jones County Junior College on an athletic and academic full-paid scholarship. Because of her GPA of 3.6 she was selected to be in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. During her sophomore year she was also chosen as a Who’s Who recipient. Her freshman year of college her softball team won state and got second place at nationals. She was also selected to be on the National Junior College Athletic Association academic team in 2014. After graduating from junior college, she will continue her education at William Carey University on an athletic softball scholarship. At William Carey University she will be studying physical therapy and will also enroll in PT school. She then plans to have a career as a physical therapist, and help serve the people of the community she loves.

Jennifer Austin graduated summa cum laude from Paul G. Blazer High School in Ashland, KY where she was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Beta Club, and a varsity cheerleader.

Jennifer is currently a graduating senior at Eastern Kentucky University and has been on the President’s List all four years with a cumulative 4.0 GPA. She is graduating summa cum laude with a major in Occupational Science and will be continuing her education with a master’s degree in Occupational Therapy at EKU. Her future plans are to work with children who need occupational therapy, and she hopes to open her own early intervention outpatient clinic someday.

Jennifer is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority at EKU in addition to National Honor Society, Golden Key Honor Society, and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She also spends time volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House in Lexington, KY and caring for two twin children in Richmond.

Jennifer is the daughter of Lynne Marsh and stepdaughter of Welder Helper Member Brett Johnson, and a good family friend of Welder Foreman Dave Ferguson.

Cole Hendrix Forrest is the grandson of Doyle Hendrix. Doyle served Local Union 798 as a Helper, Welder, Business Agent, and Financial Secretary-Treasurer. Cole’s uncle and younger brother are also members of 798.

Cole is currently a junior at Oklahoma State University. He is pursuing a major in Management Information Systems. He holds a 3.5 GPA while also actively participating in numerous student organizations on campus. Cole is a founding father of the Epsilon Psi chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity at Oklahoma State.

He currently serves as the Vice President of Programs and coordinates the involvement of sixty men in social and philanthropic ventures. He also spends his time at the local humane society, makes regular blood donations, and participates in fundraising activities for Special Olympics Oklahoma. Cole has been on the Dean’s Honor Roll numerous times. He has worked as a Local 798 Welder Helper, and was initiated into Local 798 in August 2013.
Thank You

Johnny and Barbara Gaudet offer thanks to all 798 members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the help received after Johnny's back surgery. Special thanks to Terry and Ginny Adams, David Lloyd, and Justin Wallace.

Robert ‘Lance’ Dyer and Family would like to thank the 798 Voluntary Fund for the support in their time of need. Special thanks to Beth and Nick Stanton, and Melissa and Tom Drake.

Glenn Carroll writes to say thank you for the recent financial assistance sent to his son, Darrell Carroll. Thank you to those who contribute to the Voluntary Fund so those in need may get assistance.

Darrell Carroll and Family send their deepest thanks to the Voluntary Fund for the recent financial help. It is an honor to be associated with such a group of caring people. Thank you to those who are willing to share and donate so those going through difficult times may have some assistance.

The Johnus Family, and the Family of James Calvin Batchelor sincerely thank everyone who donates to the Voluntary Fund for the generous gift. Special thanks to Charles E. Yates, Jr.

The Duhon Family would like to thank all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The money was greatly appreciated and helped with medical bills. Thank God for our generous Brothers and Sisters, and a special thank you to Phillip Wallace for his help.

Jerry ‘Faz’ Fazio says thank you to all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the gift he received after his welding rig was stolen. Special thanks to Phillip McCann and Richie Hayes.

John Skains wants to thank all his Brothers and Sisters who gave to the Voluntary Fund. Thank you for the gift he was given during his time of need.

Ruth Davis writes to thank Local 798 and its members for the beautiful Bible that was sent to her upon the passing of her husband, Glenn M. Davis. She will cherish it always. Glen was a very proud member of Local 798. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix and Wade Pilgreen.

Harold and Debra Parsons thank you for your generosity and act of kindness. The Voluntary Fund is such a blessing!

Travis and Mary Crabtree would like to thank the Voluntary Fund for the assistance when Mary had a total knee replacement. She is recovering well and continues her physical therapy. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Wade Pilgreen, Neal Crabtree, and Bruce Weeks. It is great to be a member of an organization such as 798, and the Voluntary Fund which helps so many people in time of need. The help was greatly appreciated.

Doy and Annette Knight appreciate your thoughtfulness and gift, but are most thankful to have friends who care so much for their well-being. They are especially appreciative of Rick Hemmer, Rodger Hastings, and Rickey Morgan.

Robert Burdige thanks all the Brothers and Sisters for their contributions to the Voluntary Fund. The check was very helpful while he recovered from his hip surgery. A special thank you to Charlie Garrett.

Larry Moser wants to thank all of the crew on the Price Gregory job in Cambridge, OH for their support. His son had major brain surgery on April 8 and is doing very good. He is proud to be a member of 798.

San and Sherri Sandbothe would like to thank all the members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the help they received after Sherri's surgery. Special thanks to Sydney Pendleton.

Eddie and Becky Brumley greatly appreciate all the members and the Voluntary Fund for the money received during his lengthy hospital stay and surgery. Thank you for the phone calls, texts, and prayers! Also, a special thank you to Black Schroeder, Richard Sowell, Ray Brumley, Danny Simms, and Roy Patrick.

Robert Gravois, Sr., thanks all the members of 798 for the generous donation received in a dark moment of his life. With his back operation and the passing of his wife, it has been quite difficult. Special thanks to Darrell Turner, Johnny Gaudet, Terry Adams, and the staff of 798.

John Galvin says thank you to all his Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The gift they received during their family's recent medical issue was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Greg Robotka.

Homer Skaggs and Family thank everyone who gives to the Voluntary Fund. Homer is doing extremely well since his knee replacement surgery. A special thank you to Stanley Ingram and Wade Pilgreen.

Jason Wright wants to thank all 798 members who contributed to the Voluntary Fund. The check helped toward his medical expenses. Special thanks to John White, Ritchie Hayes, Rodney Talbott, Jeneice Jackson, and his Rockford family.

Richard and Klynn Sowell say thank you to the Voluntary Fund and to all the people who contribute to it. Also, thanks to everyone who called to check on Richard, with a special thanks for all the prayers while he was in the hospital. It is truly a blessing to belong to an organization like 798.

Gary and Cathy Pohlan write to thank you for your kindness. It has made all the difference.

Benjamin “Sandy” Kirkland wishes to thank the Voluntary Fund and everyone who contributes to it for the donation during his recent hospital stay. Special thanks to Brian Anderson.

Richard Wayne Coleman would like to thank the Voluntary Fund, and everyone who contributes to it for the gift he received after he fell into the ditch while working on the Price Gregory job in Cambridge, OH.

Beverly Maddox appreciates the gift she received. Thank you for your generous contributions to the Voluntary Fund. She is currently continuing treatment and therapy from an on the job injury last year, with hopes and prayers for a full recovery.

Vernon Tossie, Sr. expresses thanks for the donation from his Brothers and Sisters through the Voluntary Fund. His family greatly appreciates your help during their time of need when his wife ended up in the hospital for heart problems.

Ken “Doc” and Pauline Tawney are so thankful for the prayers and support after Ken had his stroke during Steward School. The funds helped their daughter to fly down. Ken's second stroke was worse than the first so he is still in rehab.

Jean Barbe thanks the Voluntary Fund for the gift she received. Also, thanks to each and every member of Local 798 for contributing to the Fund. She had been at home taking care of her mother and unable to go to work. A heartfelt thank you to Greg Russell.

Jeremy Padgett and Family extend their deepest thanks to all the faithful members of Local 798 who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. Thank you for your overwhelming generosity. Your love and support has made this difficult time in their lives a little easier to bear. Kelsie is healing from surgery and is currently undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatments. Please continue to remember her in your prayers. Special thanks to our dear friend Jeff Doyle.

Adam Stout and Family want to thank everyone who contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the generous gift received after devastating storms damaged their home. They are blessed to be members of such a great union family that supports its members in need. Special thanks to Kaylynn and Richard Sowell.

Chris and Carol Ackerman say there are no words to express the gratitude they have for the caring thoughts they received from Local 798 after the passing of their daughter, Sydney. You will never be forgotten for the thoughtfulness you’ve shown.

William and Sue Owen wish to thank everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. William is doing great after his eye surgery. Special thanks to Mitch and Joyce Leihr.

Pat and Allison Cunningham want to thank all of those who give to the Voluntary Fund. They received so many prayer and care calls when their daughter had her unexpected, emergency surgery. She is recovering very well! They especially want to thank Steve and Beth Bolden, and Tim Lester.

The Tracy Lester Family send their many thanks to those who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the check they received after Tracy's reconstructive inner ear surgery. His latest tests are showing a 70% improvement in that ear. Thanks again!
James Stephens and Kristie Clark would like to thank the Voluntary Fund for the generous financial help when their son was stillborn. They are heartbroken over losing Landen, but thank you for your thoughtfulness. Special thanks to Steve Birgy and Jesse Krumloff.

Dan Collier thanks the Voluntary Fund and all those who contribute to it for the help after his son’s accident. Special thanks to Chad Gilbert, Danny Hendrix, and Wade Pilgreen.

Chad and Lisa (Risk) Kossman would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the help they received after their son Zachary was in a serious car accident. Zachary’s cheek and jaw were fractured, and chin shattered, but he is doing much better now. Thank you for your prayers and well wishes. Special thanks to Alan Johnson.

Chebon “Hog” and Alex Bear thank everyone who has donated to the Voluntary Fund. They send a special thank you to Eric Kennedy, Scott Napier, Ricky Duncan, and Preston Richard for all the help.

Brady Schreibvogel offers thanks to everyone who gives to the Voluntary Fund every week. It was greatly appreciated after the loss of his grandfather. It was a huge help with the cost of travel and missing work. Special thanks to Guy S. Williams.

Kathleen “Taffi” Reidl appreciates the help she received after her mother spent 24 days in the hospital. It makes her feel great to be a part of a family who is there for each other during a time of need. Special thanks to Dave Loyd, Justin Wallace, and Wade Pilgreen.

Mark and Amanda Richmond would like to personally thank each of their Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The money they received, all the phone calls, texts, and much needed prayers were greatly appreciated. They give special thanks to Justin and Charlssey Fromme, Danny and Norma Kay Hendrix, Wade Pilgreen, Jeff Werder, Kurt Cofano and their 798 Family.

Larry Messick appreciates the assistance received from the Voluntary Fund, and would like to thank all of the Brothers and Sisters who contribute. A special thanks to Russell Hawkes and Wade Pilgreen.

Basil Long thanks all of the 798 Brothers and Sisters who donate to the Voluntary Fund and sends a special thank you to Mike Green, Henry Jewel, Ryan Burke, Todd Bradshaw, Bill and Sharon Ross, Tim Robinson, Billy Chenhall, and Richard Joeris.

Jeff Bergkamp says thank you to all who contribute to the 798 Voluntary Fund. The check he received was very helpful and appreciated. A special thanks to Kent Jewell and Cole Hauskap for staying with him around the clock in the hospital, for taking care of his rig, and picking up his family from the airport. There is nothing greater than to be a part of the 798 family.

Clay and Shannon Lafaye appreciate all the Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the help received after surgery. The help was greatly appreciated. A very special thanks to the Rivera family: Juan, Esther, Manual, Juan Carlos, and Karina.

Pam and Squirrel Bird write to express their gratitude for the help of the Voluntary Fund they received after Pam’s surgery. Many thanks to Danny Hendrix, Wade Pilgreen, Wayne Causey, and every 798 member who finds it in their hearts to contribute to the Voluntary Fund.

The Family of Jim O’Mara is grateful for your Adopt A Family donation to Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 562. As you know, the Adopt A Family Program was very near and dear to Jim’s heart. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM

Russell B. Moses, Sr., 93 year-old Retired Welder of E. Stroudsburg, PA passed away April 16, 2015.

Charles E. Pearce, 94 year-old Retired Welder of E. Stroudsburg, PA passed away April 25, 2015.


Horace V. White, 80 year-old Retired Welder of Senatobia, MS passed away May 5, 2015.

Andrew S. Robinson, 49 year-old Helper of Cadiz, OH passed away May 7, 2015.

Jerry L. Gump, 75 year-old Retired Welder of Clendenin, WV passed away May 18, 2015.

Floyd V. Cockrell, 93 year-old Retired Welder of Wharton, TX passed away May 19, 2015.

Billy F. Harvey, 92 year-old Retired Journeyman of Gainesville, TX passed away May 28, 2015.

John L. Back, Welder, Farson, WY

Thomas W. Causey, Welder, Lake Cormorant, MS

Jeff W. Crabtree, Welder, Dodridge, AR

Kayla M. Foreman, Helper, Vinton, LA

Warren W. Hall, Helper, Clendenin, WV

Monte D. Himschoot, Helper, Searcy, AR

Willie J. King, Jr., Helper, Kershaw, SC

Stephen A. Mitts, Journeyman Spacer, Hominy, OK

Rebecca B. Netterstrom, Helper, Panama City, FL

Jimmy D. Noblitt, Welder, Clinton, IN

Constance A. Pavoliniti, Helper, Lufkin, TX

Arthur E. Pickens, Helper, Greybull, WY

David E. Root, Welder, Bald Knob, AR

James R. Russum, Welder, Flowery Branch, GA

Martin G. Steele, Welder, Bradford, AR

Vivian Stephens, Helper, Oologah, OK

Theresa L. Treese, Helper, Branson, MO

Roger C. Van Fossan, Helper, Laurelville, OH

Jane A. Veach, Helper, Panama City, FL

Russell J. Wierema, Welder, La Salle, CO

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Brothers and Sisters, due to limited spacing, SHORT & PERSONAL items are published as space permits. We try to print some in each category, and will get to yours as soon as possible. All items must be submitted in writing.
Working for the members of Local 798 is one the greatest honors of my life. I have been working at the Training Center for 7 years and have been a member for 40 years. Having been a 798'er all my life, I have known good times and bad, just like the rest of you. We are truly living in some of the greatest days of Local 798 history. We never dreamed the abundance of work could last this long. We continue to live the dream while hoping the next generation will taste the blessings we currently enjoy.

These are exciting times here in Dispatch at Pipeliners Local Union 798! We are having a steady flow of work coming in, mostly to PA, OH, and WV right now. There are a few small jobs on the sleevling work in the north central region. The month of May we dispatched 145 Welders, 37 Journeyman, and 256 Helpers.

We are continually interested in new ways to better serve the membership.

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I was reading an article where a political organization suggested the people should read to their children while at the laundromat. They said the idea is designed to “close the word gap between low income and affluent kids.” Maybe I am missing something here, because sometimes I do. But in my opinion it would seem to be a lot better to close the income gap. Push for higher wages with benefits so working people can afford a washer and dryer, and even a home to put it in. Maybe a father could make enough money that his wife didn’t have to work full time to pay the bills, and they could actually read to their children at home. To me that’s the American Dream, not sitting in a hot, crowded, and noisy laundromat trying to read to your children. I don’t think that’s too much to ask.

This just goes to show how out of touch politicians are with working people in America on both sides of the aisle. Or is it that they are aware, but they put these feel good responses up to get our minds off the real problem, which is income inequality. It’s a classic sleight of hand trick, while telling you to pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.

Some will argue that raising the minimum wage will increase prices. Well, the minimum wage has not been raised since 2009, but prices have risen sharply while wages lag behind, and even go down. This is nothing short of a war on middle class American working families while Corporate America continues to fill their pockets. The minimum wage term should be changed to a living wage so that it’s not about how little you can pay people, but how much you have to pay people in order that they may have a certain standard of life. If the minimum wage goes up so do other wages, including ours so we stand to benefit also. That’s why Corporate America spends millions yearly on politicians so it will not cut into their obscene profits.

Since the 1% cannot elect anyone, they must divide the 99% and they have done a spectacular job at doing that with separate issues. What we have today is a case of supporting the lesser of two evils and in doing that we still end up with an evil. That should never be acceptable, or be an option. Both Parties have moved away from the center and to the extreme right or left, and cater to only a handful of activists with a loud voice. If we intend to survive as a middle class we must become activists also. We have to demand that the wants and needs of working people be addressed, without giving up other liberties that we hold dear. The only way to do this is to become involved: voice your opinion in letters, phone calls, and public meetings, or start our own organization and demand that these people work for us, not their current corporate masters. Our political system must return to the center and stop embracing extremism. These politicians have to learn if they want our support they are going to have to do what’s right for American working families.

I think that we can all agree that every working man and woman deserves a living wage. That all Americans should pay their fair share of taxes, not just the working people while the rich get a free ride. Every family that works should be able to afford to send their children to college if they desire without having to mortgage their home. All people who work should have access to health care. And we should bring an end to lop-sided trade agreements like the TPP that will only send more jobs out of the country and further erode our standard of living.

We also must demand that we take care of our own people; our veterans, our sick, our homeless before we even consider taking care of noncitizens. And all this without sacrificing our civil liberties.

While we fight amongst ourselves, the 1% is laughing all the way to the bank. Wages are going down in the non-union sector now since the oil price went down. Non-union welders call daily wanting a job and it was reported that some are being required to pay 500 to 1000 dollars to get a test and if they bust they lose their money. Those guys’ problems are self-inflicted though; all they have to do is join us and everyone can make a decent living. Division equals defeat every time and they are seeing it in their world today. The only answer is to organize, not only in the field, but in the political arena. Become activists, each and every one of us.

As always if you have non-union activity to report, or a member jumping the fence don’t hesitate to call. If I do not answer I may be on the phone or not have a signal. Please leave a message and I will call you back.

Fraternally, Ronnie M. Hill
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