

Blue Light Reports

Volume LI, Number 4

www.local798.org



Huntington, WV



Logan, OH



Hamler, OH

FERC Meetings *Your Support Matters!*



Chelsea, MI



Moundsville, WV

Pipeliners Union 798
4823 S. 83rd E. Ave.
P.O. Box 470798
Tulsa, OK 74147-0798

PH: 918/622-1900
FAX: 918/627-9327

Please visit the
Local 798 Web Site at
www.local798.org
for updated pre-job
information

BUSINESS MANAGER
Daniel C. Hendrix

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY-
TREASURER**
Wade Pilgreen

PRESIDENT
Preston Richard

VICE PRESIDENT
Paul Davis

RECORDING SECRETARY
Guy Williams

INSIDE GUARD
Jerry "Dale" Crabtree, Jr.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Randy Mathis
Cody Pedigo
Troy Post

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Brian Anderson
W.F. (Buster) Chapman
Billy E. Hawkins

EXAMINING BOARD
Clark Eastwood
Mike Miller

BUSINESS AGENTS
David Butterworth
Chad Gilbert
Chris Lancaster
Black Schroeder
Rick Taylor
Darrell Turner
Phillip Wallace
Charles E. Yates, Jr.

798 ORGANIZERS
Ronnie Hill
Terry Langley
Jerry Ryan

DISPATCHER
Ricky Jones

Dispatch Office:
918/610-2761

Out Of Work List:
918/663-3200

Dispatch FAX:
918/610-2740

Jobline:
918/610-2745

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The work outlook for 2016 is finally starting to ramp up and should be in full swing by the time you receive this report. The Dakota Access, which is nearly 1,200 miles of 30" pipe, is finally getting underway. As you recall, this project received tremendous pushback from the fossil fuel opposition, but with your help calling the Corps of Engineers and writing letters, we are starting construction. Almost without exception, all pipeline projects are meeting resistance and we must continue to be diligent about having our voices heard in support of these projects.

Here at the 798 office, we are utilizing all the available tools: call and e-mail blasts, website notifications and Facebook posts to get the information to you about what action needs to be taken. Please help do your part as a member when requested without delay. As I have stated before, if we work in unison, we can accomplish our goals just as we did with the DOT issue over the welding rigs. We currently have several actions that need your attention. Please go to our website, local798.org, for more information. Let's not leave the heavy lifting to others.

Also, to the retired members, there is a great incentive for your help as well; more jobs equal more work, which equals more contributions into the pension fund. A strong pension fund makes future raises possible for both retired and active members. This battle over pipelines is not going away. We must have everyone's help to ensure that Americans win through our oil and pipeline advocacy.

Many of our long held traditions, customs, and policies, including R-O-W etiquette, have always been passed down from generation to generation by the **elders educating the newer members through verbal communication and example**. We, as elders, shouldn't expect the newer members to understand this code of conduct, if we are not willing to share this unwritten code that governs our expectations of what is becoming of a 798 member. Most behavior from new members that is perceived as disrespectful, discourteous or abrasive is unintentional and could have been avoided by better communication from the Welder Foreman, Job Steward or an elder member who can pass along the structure and principles of R-O-W behavior. **Blatant criticism of new members only ostracizes someone who has made a decision to be a 798 member.**

As a family, we must promote harmony and goodwill through assistance and education of what is to be expected. Let's all be mindful of our obligations to the family and each other; we will be stronger as an organization for it. We have a video on our website related to pipeline etiquette that was put together by Business Agent Black Schroeder. It is a very useful teaching tool for the newer members and those of us who just need a refresher. I encourage everyone to take just a few minutes out of your day this next week and watch this video, either for the first time or for the tenth. We can all strive to be better members and examples to our fellow workers.

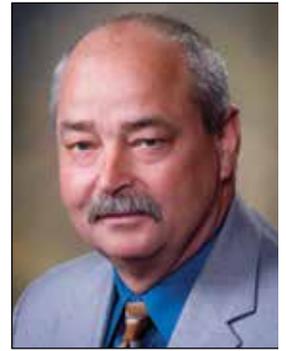
Wade and I are planning some job visits this summer. Currently we have a scheduled regional meeting in Wheeling, West Virginia on June 26, just as we have done the past two years. If you are working in that surrounding area, please make plans to attend. We would love to see you and hear how things are going. I also want to wish everyone a great July 4. Be safe and enjoy the holiday as we all remember how blessed we are to work and live in this great country.

As always, I am proud to say **"I work for you, the greatest Pipeliners in the world."**

Fraternally,



Daniel C. Hendrix
Business Manager





Brothers and Sisters,



I would like to begin my comments by thanking everyone who wrote letters, sent emails, made telephone calls and attended meetings in support of the Dakota Access Pipeline as well as several other projects. However, as you know, our work still continues. We need your help with several upcoming projects. I am asking all of our members to send letters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other regulatory agencies in support of our upcoming projects.

Please go to our website, www.local798.org, and click the link *Upcoming Pipeline Projects and Meetings*. From there, you can click on any project and be directed to form letters and additional information about the project. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of contacting these regulatory commission and government officials. This is our livelihood and future for our families. Environmental groups are highly organized and determined to prevent these projects; therefore, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to make our voices heard. Our efforts proved successful with the Dakota Access Pipeline, which is currently underway and will employ up to 700 members before it is completed. It is a reminder to all of us: UNITED WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The 39th United Association Convention will be held this August in San Diego, CA, and I am proud that 798 will be taking 62 delegates this year. Dale Crabtree has been selected as a Sergeant-in-Arms for this year's convention, and this appointment continues to prove my deep belief that our local has the most dedicated and talented workers in the industry. I feel confident that you have elected a great delegation to serve in the distinguished event.

Our election for 798 Officers will also be held this fall with nominations being accepted at the September meeting. I encourage anyone wanting to take an active role in our leadership process to participate in this year's election. In order to be considered for office, a member must be in good standing for two years. We need everyone to take part in the voting process because it is my strong belief that we all have the right and duty to express our opinions and make our voices heard.

I just want to remind everyone the 798 Member Handbook is available online at our website. I know we covered this information during Steward School, but this handbook can be used as a quick reference guide to a variety of questions you may have already encountered on the right-of-way during this work season.

Hopefully, everyone is aware that we had a three percent total wage package increase that went into effect May 30, 2016. Included in this total wage package was a 45 cent increase on health benefits, with the remaining amount allocated to hourly wages. These new wage and benefits charts are available on our website under the contract tab located on the homepage. These increases make our wage and benefits package one of the largest in the industry and are a reflection of our constant pursuit for excellence in our craft. We must continue to set the industry standard in our work ethic and our behavior on the jobsite and in the communities in which we work and reside. Each of you should be proud to carry the title of 798 Member. We must never forget that many have paved the way for our great local and we are now the members forging a path into the future for our families and generations to come.

On a final note, I recently was reading an article on The Motley Fool website (www.fool.com) regarding the Average American's Retirement Saving by Age and thought I would share some of this information. As we all know, during the so-called "Golden Years," you cannot have enough cash in your retirement account, and this article helps shed a little light on what you really need to do to enjoy those years comfortably. This article was based on the average U.S. household income of \$54,000, but you can easily adjust this data according to your income. They stated by age 35 you need to have at least the total of your salary in retirement savings; at age 40, two times your salary; at age 50, four times; at age 55, five times; at age 60, six times; and at age 67, eight times. 798 has put in place a great avenue for you to do this type of savings through the 401(k) retirement account, so keep this formula in mind as you take into account your contributions to your retirement plan. Below is a chart that shows what the average American has in retirement savings compared to where they actually need to be at a specific age.

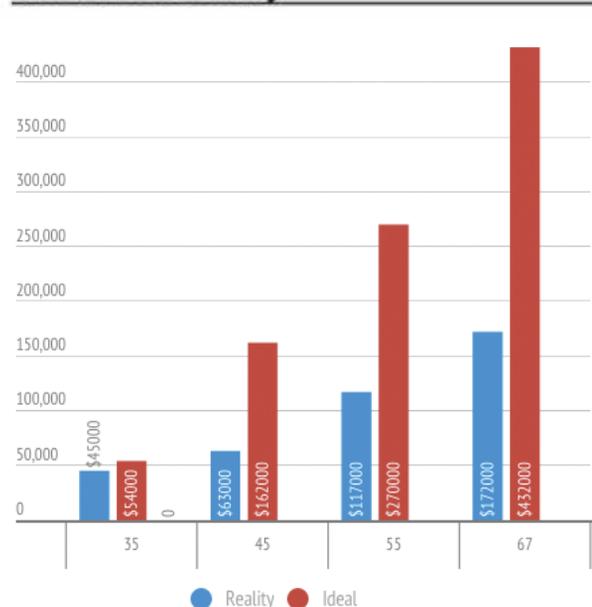
As always, I consider it a blessing to serve you. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call. I hope everyone has a prosperous and safe work season. Danny and I hope to have a few job visits this summer, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Wade Pilgreen
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

(Source: The Motley Fool, 2016. *The average american's retirement savings by age – And where so many go wrong.* Retrieved from <http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2015/10/03/the-average-americans-retirement-savings-by-ageand.aspx>).

Retirement Savings by Age: The Ideal vs. Reality





Jobline: 918-610-2745

CHARLES YATES, JR.

IN, MI, OH

918/270-6746

The work season is underway and many of you are headed to the Dakota Access Project. Godspeed and be safe.

Since my last report, I have completed 26 pre-jobs with integrity and maintenance being the largest percentage. Price Gregory has a strong presence with one mainline project and two big stations under construction. The forecast for the large diameter activity: Leach Express, Nexus, and Rover is anticipated for Spring 2017. I have attended the Leach Express meetings with many members in and around the area. Thank you. Your attendance is not only appreciated, but also effective. The gas companies that have these projects recognize our union support, which is beneficial to future projects as they will invite union contractors to be on the bid list. That being said, welcome to our two new contractors: Patriot Pipeline and RLA Utilities who I recently signed to our NPLA. Both are currently working 798 members on some small projects. I have also participated in conversations with several other contractors promoting the benefits of using 798 union labor.

Part of how we sell ourselves and what we offer contractors is an available, skilled workforce on the ready with a phone call. Work has just started to pick up and surprisingly we're having trouble getting helpers to accept jobs. We must man our work. We must have a stronger work ethic than the non-union hands. Always arrive to the job on time and be ready to work. Be prepared to find your Steward first thing and sign up with a valid driver's license, Social Security card, and union card reflecting current dues paid.

Next on my agenda is the DUG East conference in Pittsburgh at the end of June. Then the regional meeting in Wheeling, WV, on Sunday, June 26, where we will be available for questions and conversation. As always, if I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Pre-Jobs:

Big Inch:

Cecil, OH. Replace 8 anomalies on 22" pipe approximate 600'. Panhandle Eastern Pipeline. Superintendent: Jim Shepler. Welder Foreman: Ryan Usry. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 6/17/16.

Contractor Rentals:

– Alexandria, OH. 6.75 miles of 10 lift and lay replacement. Marathon Petroleum Company. Superintendent: Mark Dickerson. Welder Foreman: Scott Napier. Working 5-10s. Approximate completion 10/15/16.

– Celina, OH. 2"-22" two station installations. Marathon Petroleum Company. Superintendent: Jeff Lykes. Welder Foreman: Russell O'Brien. Working 5-10s. Approximate completion 9/30/16.

Geeding:

– Cleveland, OH. 2000' of 12" reroute. Buckeye. Superintendent: Jason Bruno. Welder Foreman: Lucas Hahn. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 7/1/16.

– Various counties in Indiana. Buckeye. Superintendent: Dusty Lickteig. Welder Foreman: Andy Gnade. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 7/31/16.

Henkels & McCoy:

– Mantua, OH. 2860' of 12" HDD. Buckeye. Superintendent: Richard Imes. Welder Foreman: Sonny Brewer. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 6/17/16.

– Wakeman, OH. Anomaly digs and maintenance in OH and MI. Buckeye. Superintendent: James Croft. Welder Foreman: Steve Baker. Working 5-10s. Approximate completion 12/31/16.

– Lima, OH. 20 anomaly digs, 8" and 10" pipe. Buckeye. Superintendent: James Croft. Welder Foreman: Jerry Jennings. Working 6-10s. Job Complete.



– Rosebush, MI. Take up and relay of 750' and install 800' of 16", 22", 26" with an additional 60' of 22". Consumers Energy. Superintendent: Gordon Donnelly. Welder Foreman: Dan Paulowski. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 7/29/16.

Meade:

– Wolcott, IN. 6' of 16" maintenance. Vectren. Superintendent: Paul Naber. Welder Foreman: Bob Rose. Working 5-8s. Approximate completion 5/6/16.

– Maumee, OH. 20" cut tee and install above ground valve. TransCanada. Superintendent: Ben Considine. Welder Foreman: Robert Rose. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 6/22/16.

Minnesota Limited:

– Mooresville, IN. 12" maintenance 15 miles retro fit and hydro test with FAB. Vectren. Superintendent: Greg Frazier. Welder Foreman: Francisco Sarrazola. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 12/31/16.

– Bemidji, MN. Remove pig signals at station locations (one in Minnesota and three in Michigan). TransCanada. Superintendent: Dan Carlin. Welder Foreman: Michael Johnson. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 7/7/16.

Patriot Pipeline:

Zanesville, OH. Shop maintenance. Superintendent: Ted Waller. Welder Foreman: Mike Waller. Working 5-8s. Approximate completion 6/3/16.

PJ Steel:

Six Lakes, MI. 2.1 miles of 16" new lay with pig trap. Mich-Con. Superintendent: George Lewis. Welder Foreman: Thomas Shaw. Working 5-10s. Approximate completion 8/6/16.

Price Gregory:

– Ashville, OH. Construction of 45,000 HP compressor station. QPS Engineering. Superintendent: Larry Wright. Welder Foreman: Dennis Sharpe. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 11/9/16.

– Washington Court House, OH. Construction of 27,000 HP compressor station. QPS Engineering. Superintendent: Darryl Ditterline. Welder Foreman: Andy Hess. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 11/9/16.

– Dover, OH. 42 miles of 16" and 8.25 miles of 8" new lay. Marathon Petroleum Company. Superintendent: Rex Green/Russell York. Welder Foreman: Jeff Doyle. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 9/30/16.

RLA Utilities:

Alexandria, KY. Replace 6 mitered joints-12 meters and 11.3 miles of hydro test. Duke Energy. Superintendent: Scott Moody. Welder Foreman: Randy Wyatt. Working 5-8s. Approximate completion 9/1/16.

Roberts:

– Huntington, IN. 5-8" anomaly digs. Buckeye. Superintendent: Bobby Westraer. Welder Foreman: Tommy Childs. Working 5-10s. Approximate completion 7/8/16.

– Salem, OH. 2-10" integrity digs. Buckeye. Superintendent: Bobby Westraer. Welder Foreman: James Owens. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

– Marysville, MI. 36" casing extension. Enbridge. Superintendent: Bobby Westraer. Welder Foreman: Mike Boyett. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 5/28/16.

UPI:

Marshall, MI. 2"-36" various maintenance blanket. Enbridge. Superintendent: Joel Bailer. Welder Foreman: Peter Kangas. Working 6-10s. Approximate completion 12/31/16.

VEC:

Toledo, OH/Hubbard, OH. 1"-24" FAB and installation on Ohio meter station. Columbia Gas. Superintendent: Rob White. Welder Foreman: David Vasconi. Working 5-10s. Approximate completion 8/11/16.

CHRIS LANCASTER

KY, NC, SC, TN

918/270-6735

As I am writing this report the work is finally getting a solid start. I have pre-jobbed several jobs in KY and NC, as well as all the other work going on throughout the country. We are beginning to have trouble manning some of this work so I encourage you to help out in manning these jobs. I understand some of the work is better than others, but all this work is Union work and has to be manned or someone else will be doing these jobs. With all the jobs starting, we are going to have another great year even though it got off to a slow start.

Danny and Wade are going to hold another regional meeting in Wheeling, WV, on June 26 at 1 p.m. at the WesBanco Arena. This meeting will help everyone stay in touch with all that is going on. I know many members could not attend the Steward School which makes this a great opportunity for those who can make it. I know it will be a good meeting as well as a good time getting to visit with everyone. I am looking forward to seeing those who can attend.

We are beginning to start to run low on manpower on some of these jobs. If you



know of a welder, helper or journeyman you feel would will make a good union member, have them go to the Local 798 website and fill out an application. This will get them on the list for consideration.

I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous work season. I hope to see you at the meeting in June.

Pre-Jobs:

Appalachian Pipeline:

Raeford, NC. 15.9 miles of 8" and 8.6 miles of 12" Replacement. Welder Foreman: Rusty Wallace. Superintendent: Bobby Rose. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 9-31-16.

B&G Pipeline:

Nashville, TN. 3000' of 12" HDD plus fab. Welder Foreman: Frankie Wilbanks. Superintendent: Samuel Wilson. Working 6-10s. Special Agreement. Approx. completion 9-10-16.

Dana, NC. Various fab and station work. Welder Foreman: Naamann Warren. Superintendent: Thomas Born. Working 6-10s. Special Agreement. Approx. completion 7-16-16.

Anderson, SC. 4-8 and 10" Launchers and receivers. Welder Foreman: Nathen Ferguson. Superintendent: Tim Himschoot. Working 6-10s. Special Agreement. Approx. completion 6-18-16.

Foltz Welding:

Patoka, Ill. 24' Anomaly digs. Welder Foreman: James Adams. Superintendent: Hank Hull. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 6-30-16.

PHILLIP W. WALLACE

AR, IA, KS, MN, MT, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD

918/270-6738

The work in the Midwest area has kicked off for a great 2016 work season. The Integrity Maintenance or sleeving work has started to move some in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The sleeving work in North Dakota will start mid-summer. The Dakota Access Pipeline has kicked off with 10 spreads. Precision has Spread 1 and a Lateral of the 30" in Illinois. This is LU 597's work and they are laying pipe now, in early June. The other eight spreads in Illinois, Iowa, South and North Dakota have pre-jobs and are testing welders now. They will be laying pipe the second week of June. The DAPL has been a battle with the environmentalists who want to stop all pipelines.

We have won this battle with 798 members who called or came to the meetings when called on. Thanks to all your help and thanks to all the union crafts that participated. The DAPL is underway and now we turn our attention to the Sandpiper, Line 3 Replacement, Rover Pipeline, the Leach Project, and many others that we are fighting for every day. With union members help, we will win these battles also. Thanks for all of the letters, emails, phone calls, and for showing up. This proves, United We Stand and Divided We Fall.

New Pre-jobs

Charps Welding:

Clearbrook, MN. Integrity Digs for Enbridge. Spreadman: Pete Dremmel. Welder Foreman: Tyler Rogstad. Steward: Troy Richoux.

Michels Pipeline:

Harrisburg, SD. Spread 4 for DAPL. 127 miles of 30" Mechanized. Spreadman: Nick Walters. Welder Foreman: Shannon Jackson. Pipeman: Phil Starbuck. Steward: Jerry Dale Crabtree.

Huron, SD. Spread 5 for DAPL. 124 miles of 30" Mechanized. Spreadman: Billy Rogers. Welder Foreman: Carl Overstreet. Pipeman: Justin Cobb. Steward: Paul Davis.

Linton, ND. Spread 6 for DAPL. 128 miles of 30" Mechanized. Spreadman: Johnny Kroner. Welder Foreman: Kent Jewell. Pipeman: Sam Jack. Steward: David Hickman.

Minnesota Limited:

Keene, ND. Well hook ups and gathering lines for Hess. Spreadman: James Redman. Welder Foreman: Ryan Swartz. Steward: Cory Hiller.

Thief River Falls, MN. Integrity Replacements for Enbridge. Spreadman: Dusty Schaff. Welder Foreman: Tommy Yaklin. Steward: Levi Novacek.

Precision Pipeline:

Burlington, IA. Spread 2 for DAPL. 161 miles of 30" Mechanized. Spreadman: Brad Mosier. Welder Foreman: Jimmy Dick. Pipeman: Lucky Hughes. Steward: Cecil Hime.

Litchfield, IL. Spread 3 for DAPL. 162 miles of 30" Mechanized. Spreadman: Kevin Olerud. Welder Foreman: Tim Gintz. Pipeman: Dino Shelton. Steward: Todd Hartle.

Waford City, ND. Spreads 7 & 8 for DAPL. 183 miles of 30" Mechanized. Spreadman: Jake Brunig. Welder Foreman: Raymond Johnson. Pipeman: Matt



Cowart. Steward: Kenny Glaze.

Williston, ND. Spread 9 for DAPL. 23 miles of 12", 55 miles of 20", and 50 miles of 24" Stick Rod. Spreadman: Chad Ward. Welder Foreman: Andy Hunt. Pipeman: William Jones. Steward: Justin Teague.

CHAD GILBERT

AZ, CO, NV, NM, UT, WY

918/270-6736

With the work starting to break, it is great to see our members beginning to get good job opportunities. The Integrity work in Colorado is starting to pick up. The contractors in the area are planning on a big 2017 and 2018 in the West. Hopefully, if this work materializes and continues to grow, there will be more employment opportunities for our members in the Western jurisdiction. We have worked hard over the last few years to organize and secure market share in the West. When the work returns, we will be prepared to gain our share of the market.

We have put time and effort into showing the gas companies our members are top quality, highly trained and skilled in the industry. Our members work smart and safely, which makes for a productive job with less cost overall. I have observed many non-union jobs which drag on and charge the client for revisions that should have been included in the bid. I believe the clients are waking up to these practices and are looking for more proficiency in their projects. This will lead to more projects being done with the best contractors, and we all know that is union contractors.

If you are traveling to and from the job, be careful, and always remember your safety on the job is, and always will be, the priority. Work with safety in mind and remember you are your Brothers' and Sisters' keeper. If you see unsafe conditions, speak up!

If you have questions and/or concerns, please call.

Pre-Jobs:

Michels:

Brighton, CO. Blanket Maintenance Integrity for Xcel Energy. Welder Foreman: Chris Jost. Superintendent: Chris Case. Working 5-8s, Integrity Scale 90%. Completion Date 12/31/2016.

Snelson:

Henderson, CO. Blanket Maintenance Integrity for Xcel Energy. Welder Foreman: Jimmy Slavens. Superintendent: Hank Sullivent. Working 5-8s, Integrity Scale 90%. Completion Date 12/31/2016.



RICK TAYLOR

CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV

918/270-6739

There have been several FERC and town hall meetings in my region for Environmental Impact Studies: the Atlantic Coast Dominion Project in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina; the Atlantic Sunrise-Williams Project in Pennsylvania; and the Leach Express in West Virginia and Ohio for Columbia Pipeline Group. These are just a few of the important jobs for our local union and members in 2017. If you get a call blast and emails from the union hall to attend these meetings in your area, please try your best to attend and express your support. I would like to say I appreciate the members who have been able to come out and support these projects.

The work outlook has been good so far as the smaller projects are keeping members working and getting their hours in. It's not the bigger projects as we thought would be going at this time, however, what we have is keeping the man hours up. It's also good to see that our members are helping man the smaller projects. The jobs that we have are still in-line with what has been going on for the past couple of years. We still have the Sunoco Mariner East work coming later this year which consists of 350+ miles of 20" and 16", pending permits.

I have been getting a lot of phone calls from non-book people wanting a helper job and from non-union welders looking for work, stating they have friends in 798 who gave them my phone number. Local 798 has an application process. What you should tell your friends is to go to the 798 web site and fill out an application. This is the correct way to apply for membership. We will get to them in a timely manner when they are needed.

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

Pre-Jobs:

Apex Pipeline Services:

Clendenin, WV. 5 miles of 24" steel New Lay for Columbia Pipeline Group. Welder Foreman: Jason Smith. Superintendent: Bob Keaton. Working 5-10s.
Reader, WV. Install Slug Catcher for ICON Midstream. Welder Foreman: Jeff



Yoak. Superintendent: Roman McKown. Working 5-10s. Mainline Rates.

Henkels & McCoy:

Owings Mills, MD. Facility Modifications and 30" & 36" DOT Replacements. Welder Foreman: Gary Mullin. Superintendent: Gary Seidel. Working 6-10s. Mainline Rates.

Infrasource Construction:

– Locust Grove, VA. 15,500' of 12" steel New Lay for Columbia Gas of Virginia. Welder Foreman: Boyd Catching. Superintendent: Jeramie Brown. Working 6-10s. Special Agreement.
– Front Royal, Virginia. 10,560' of steel pipeline New Lay for Washington Gas & Light. Welder Foreman: Jay Wyatt. Superintendent: Jason Nash. Working 6-10s. Mainline Rates.

Minnesota Limited, LLC.:

Waynesburg, PA. Fabrication and installation of launcher & receiver. Welder Foreman: Terry Sampsel. Superintendent: Aaron Shrontz. Working 6-10s. Mainline Rates.

Otis Eastern Services:

– Odenton, MD. 19,500' of 24" pipe New Lay for BG&E. Welder Foreman: Roy Dry. Superintendent: Butch Niedermaier. Working 6-10s. Mainline Rates.
– Owings Mills, MD. 9 miles of 26" installation New Lay for Columbia Pipeline Group. Welder Foreman: Daniel Jones. Superintendent: Danny Cox. Working 6-10s. Mainline Rates.
– Brandywine, MD. 8 miles of 20" installation New Lay for PSEG Keys Energy Center, LLC. Welder Foreman: Ryan Copley. Superintendent: Rod Tyson. Working 6-10s. Mainline Rates.
– Moundsville, WV. Installation of interconnects and associated assemblies for Spectra Energy. Welder Foreman: Billy Dufford. Superintendent: Earl McDonald. Working 6-10s. Maintenance Work with Mainline Rates.

Patriot Pipeline, LLC.:

Ellenboro, WV. 180' of 8" pipe New Lay for Well Pad for EQT. Welder Foreman: Mike Waller. Superintendent: Ted Waller. Working 5-10s. Special Agreement with Mainline Rates.

Pete Gould & Sons:

West Union, WV. 33,174' of 20" pipe New Lay for EQT. Welder Foreman: John Starkey. Superintendent: James Gould. Working 5-10s. Mainline Rates.

Price Gregory International:

Washington, PA. 25.2 miles of 36"; 1,500' of 16"; 516' of 16" pipe New Lay for Columbia Pipeline Group. Welder Foreman: Jeremy Padgett. Superintendent: Todd Burlson. Working 6-10s. Mainline Rates.

BLACK SCHROEDER

TX

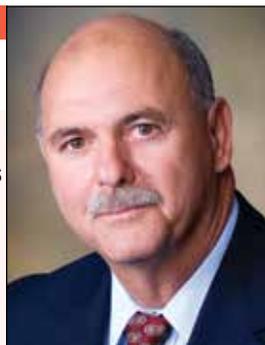
918/270-6743

Thanks to Danny, Wade, the UA Pipeline Dept. and the rest of the UA negotiating committee for such a great job. With the raise on our checks it put our wages and benefits second to none in the construction industry. In the low scale states, the Journeymen are making \$53.60 on the check with a \$26.59 benefit package. The Helper in low scale states is making \$23.75 on the check and an \$18.73 benefit package.

Here is how far we have come in a short time. In 2006 high scale Journeymen wages were \$38.90 on the check and \$15.70 benefits; a Helper was \$16.80 on the check and \$11.37 for benefits. The low scale wages in 2006 for a Journeyman was \$27.32 on the check and \$7.55 benefits; the Helper made \$11.07 on the check and \$7.55 for benefits. Right now, the low scale rate for Journeymen is \$40.20 on the check and \$22.87 benefits; a Helper is \$17.81 on the check and \$14.93 benefits. From 2001 to 2009 the Journeyman pension credit was \$75 per credit and the Helper was \$50. In 2010, the Journeymen went to \$113; the Helper went to \$76; and the retirees got a 10 percent increase on their pension. Now we are at \$160 for Journeymen; \$106 for Helpers; and retirees have had a 41 percent increase on their pension and several 13th checks. We are way over 100 percent funded and most likely looking at another raise in 2016. If you are lucky enough to work 2,200 man hours, you are getting \$320 credit per year as Journeymen and \$212 if you are a Helper. How could it get any better than that?

The drilling in Texas has almost come to a complete standstill. If you are driving around the Eagle Ford Shale, it looks like ghost towns down there. When they quit drilling wells, the gathering lines came to a standstill also. Those welders who were doing that small work are now out trying to find jobs. The real truth is the work has gotten cheaper so wages and conditions have taken another hit in the non-union world.

Brothers and Sisters, we have some Union Impersonators in Local 798 who don't belong here. They go work on union jobs, get our health care, our pension, conditions, and wages, but as soon as they are unemployed they go to work non-union. It is embarrassing and a disgrace to Local 798. If you are a loyal union member, they are



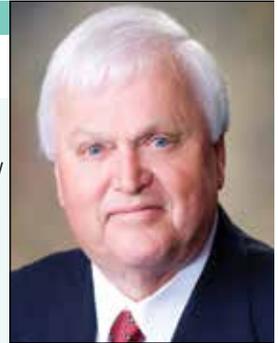
hurting you and your families. We have recently found out some of them have hired out as Welder Foremen and Stewards. If you are inspecting on a job where this is going on or know some of these Union Impersonators in Texas, **PLEASE** contact me or Ronnie Hill. Let's put a stop to this disgrace.

Looking forward to seeing everyone who will be attending the Regional Meeting in Wheeling, WV on June 26. If I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

DARRELL TURNER

AL, FL, GA, LA, MS

918/270-6737



Brothers and Sisters, on paper we have as much unionized pipeline construction on the books (in the South) as I have seen in many, many years. It is mostly large diameter and totals approximately 700 miles. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is holding up mega projects throughout the country, including several in my jurisdiction.

The Corps' power lies in the hands of 36 U.S. districts and 11 divisions as determined by federal law. However, without specific approval by the United States Congress in permitting issuance, the "Godfathers" are the Secretary of the Army and the Chief Engineer of the Corps of Engineers. Generally, the buck stops or starts with them.

The original mission of the Corps of Engineers was the regulation of America's navigable waters, which included opening channels for shipping and flood control. The federal agency began its general regulation in 1890. By 1899 the Clean Water Act and The Rivers and Harbors Act had commissioned the Corps to issue formal determinations based on broad powers. The mission statement also declared that applicants were due timely decisions for receiving permits. Today, the Corps promises that reducing unnecessary paperwork and delays is a top goal and consideration. Every manager up to the Chief Engineer's desk will tell you that unnecessary regulation and minimal federal governmental intrusion is the order of the day.

Specific to pipeline construction and our pocketbooks, the following Federal Acts are a portion of the federal code that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administers prior to our contractors (any petitioner) getting the authority to proceed. The Acts are generally listed in numerical order from inception. It is obvious by my having read the Corps code book from cover to cover, that politicians have been in charge of our industry since pipelines were built of wood.

- The Clean Water Act of 1899, amended at least 14 times.
- The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, amended.
- The Federal Power Act of 1920 (Later became FERC) amended, allows the Corps to supersede FERC.
- The Outer Continental Shelf Act of 1953, amended several times.
- The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, amended numerous times.
- The Department of Transportation Act of 1966, amended numerous times.
- The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, amended several times.
- The National Environmental Act of 1969, amended.
- The Migratory Marine Game Fish Act of 1970, amended.
- The Marine Protection Act of 1972, amended.
- The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, amended.
- The Marine Mammal Act of 1972, amended.
- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1972, amended.
- The Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act of 1974.
- The Endangered Species Act of 1974, amended numerous times.
- The Deepwater Ports Act of 1974, amended.
- The National Fishing Act of 1974.

Presently, we have several large projects under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will be constructed entirely in my jurisdiction once the permitting is satisfied. Noted is the fact that FERC has been satisfied for each project. The Dalton Express Pipeline is 111 miles of 16", 20", 24", and 30" pipeline, exclusively constructed in Georgia, and awaits permits. This job consists of two spreads. The Sable Trail in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, is primarily 36" and owned by Spectra Energy, Duke Energy, and Nexra Energy. This project awaits start on 362 miles and a new compressor station. Nexis FPL will construct 65 miles of 36" and 13.1 miles of heavy wall 24" once given the go-ahead. The Hillabee Expansion for Williams Transco in loops total 21 miles of 42" and 48" pipe in Alabama. The job awaits Corps permits. The Maurepas Pipeline project in Louisiana has been waiting on Corps permits since August, 2015. The job consists of 105 miles of 6", 12", 24", and an undetermined footage of 1".

I have several small jobs in various stages of completion, and Precision Pipeline is progressing nicely on their job for Trunkline.

Out for bid in my jurisdiction: Boardwalk has 25 miles of 16", Bayou Bridge has 160 miles of 30", and Enterprise will bid 65 miles of 10" in July. Texas Eastern has 16 miles of 36" coming up in Louisiana with an expected September start, and Atlanta Gas Light

has two projects totaling about 35 miles of 16". Bids tendered on the first loop.

I want to thank the vast majority of our membership that does the right thing each and every day. My hat's off to you. If I can help you in any way, please call. I'm as close as my phone.

DAVID BUTTERWORTH

CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV
918/270-6745

I am writing this Blue Light Report while on the road in New York. The work in my and Rick's area has picked up considerably in the last month. I have been getting a lot of phone calls and emails from people wanting to secure a book in Local 798. If this opportunity comes your way, please do not take it lightly. Union membership is something you should take pride in and give everything you have in order to keep Local Union 798 on the right track. You are the future and if you do not grab hold of the responsibilities placed in front of you, we will most likely falter. Those of us who have decided to make a career out of this business take membership in this great local union to heart. The generations before us understood what a great and important privilege it is to be a 798 member. It would be a shame for another generation to fail to do the same. To Welder Foremen and Stewards who are in charge of deeming a new member fit for duty, please think it through when you sign that eight-day letter. Your name will forever be associated with the members you approve.

I also have continued to attend environmental meetings in Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia. Next week Rick, Terry, and I will be attending the Atlantic Sunrise project's FERC DEIS Public meetings in various locations throughout Pennsylvania. I have been getting some positive information from gas company representatives about next year's scheduled work. EQT's Mountain Valley Pipeline and Dominion's Atlantic Coast projects will be good, long jobs for our members, but will also take hard work and



maximum effort because of the rough terrain in which they will be laid. Let's continue to do our best to help the gas companies get these projects going, and do our part by voicing our opinions to anyone who will listen about how pipelines are unsurpassed in transporting the gas we need to literally, "keep the lights on."

In closing, I would like to say that I am currently getting quite a few jobs lasting one week to a month in duration. I would like to personally thank all the members who have stepped up and taken these jobs and helped our local union man our work. These jobs might not have much glory, but they play an integral part in providing man hours to the hall. If you have helped us out on projects like these recently or in the past, I want to thank you once again. If I can help anyone in any way please don't hesitate to call, and I will continue to keep you, the membership, foremost in mind.

Pre-Jobs:

Charp's Welding and Fabrication:

Erie County, NY. 12" Integrity digs. Superintendent: DJ Omang. Welder Foreman: Jamie Barstad (LU 15). Integrity Management fringes with high scale wages and per diem.

Durr Mechanical:

Cheshire, CT. Installation of 1- 16" pig launcher and 1- 10" pig launcher. Superintendent: Tim Kennedy. Welder Foreman: Gary Buchan. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.

LMC Industrial:

New Kensington, PA. 20" regulation and valve assembly. Superintendent: Matt Rizzieri. Welder Foreman: Chuck Oldroyd Jr. Station Rates. Working 6-10s.

Michels Corporation:

Williston, VT. 30 miles of 12" and 3 miles of 16". Superintendent: Carl Bubolz. Welder Foreman: Russ Shurpitt (LU 601). Special Agreement fringes with high scale wages and per diem. Working 6-10s.

Trumbull Corporation:

Monaca, PA. 6,600' of 12" poly new-lay. Superintendent: Matt Holley. Welder Foreman: Jeff Taylor. Special Agreement fringes with high-scale wages and per diem. Working 5-10s.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular Monthly Membership Dues

All active and retired Members -- Journeymen Welders, Journeymen Spacers and Helpers -- must pay monthly dues in order to maintain membership in Local 798 and the United Association (UA). Failure to pay dues in a timely manner will result in a Suspension and an eventual Expulsion from the Local. The rules for suspension and expulsion from membership for non-payment of dues are set forth in the UA Constitution. Once a Member reaches 50 (fifty) years of continuous membership, he is no longer required to pay monthly dues. Contact the Pipeliners Local Union 798 office for specific monthly dues rates, or for more information about dues.

Suspension for Non-Payment of Monthly Dues

A Member owing more than three (3) months' dues will automatically be Suspended from membership and assessed a \$50 reinstatement fee. The Local makes every effort to notify Members of a potential suspension. Members are contacted by phone, email, and regular U.S. Mail. Ultimately, it is the Member's responsibility to keep track of his/her payments for monthly dues. Members should be aware that the UA Constitution does not require the Local to provide notice of a forthcoming suspension and the non-provision of such notice cannot and will not prevent an automatic suspension.

Once a Member is suspended, he cannot vote on any union business, and is no longer eligible for the UA Burial Benefit until his account is brought up to date. A suspended Member may return to good standing and his suspension be lifted immediately by the payment of all back dues through the current month together with the \$50 reinstatement fee. A Member must wait ninety (90) days from the date of payment of the \$50 reinstatement fee to be eligible once again for the UA Burial Benefit.

Local 798 Handbook, 2016, pages 14-15.

Expulsion for Non-Payment of Monthly Dues

Any Member who does not pay monthly dues for a period of six (6) months will be Expelled. The Local makes every effort to notify Members of a potential expulsion. Members are contacted by phone, email, and regular U.S. Mail. As stated above, however, the Local is not required to provide notice of a forthcoming expulsion and the non-provision of such notice will not prevent an automatic expulsion. If a Member is Expelled, he must pay a new initiation fee before reinitiating. Expelled Members who wish to reinitiate should contact the Pipeliners Local Union 798 office for details.

Ways to Pay Your Monthly Dues

Monthly dues can be paid online at www.local798.org, by mail, via phone, or in person at the Local 798 office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We accept checks, money orders, and credit/debit card payments through the mail. We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or American Express debit or credit cards online and via phone. Cash is only accepted at the Local 798 office. Once you pay, you will be mailed a receipt and dues stamps to place on the back of your current membership card.

If paying online, once you click "submit", a message should appear that says "Payment Successful." A successful payment is posted to your Local 798 record immediately. If a message appears that says "Payment Processed," you should verify that your payment was posted by checking your dues paid through date. If your payment was not posted, your payment was not successful. Unsuccessful payments can occur for a variety of reasons including a declined Debit/Credit Card and poor reception on your cell phone or laptop computer. Contact the Local 798 office immediately if you have questions regarding an online payment.

Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarships Awarded

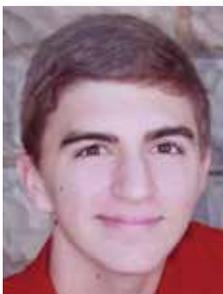
The Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program is pleased to announce the following winners. These students successfully completed the scholarship program requirements and were selected as the highest-ranking applicants. The recipients were chosen by an independent evaluator that scored the applicants 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.

Taylor Brumley is a sophomore at Louisiana Tech University majoring in Fashion Merchandising. She is the daughter of Ed Brumley, a 40-year Welder member of Local 798, and granddaughter of the late Elton Brumley, a 66-year Welder member. She is also the niece of Welder member Ray Brumley. Taylor is highly involved in the fashion merchandising industry as well as on-campus activities. She helped coordinate three region-wide events in the past year, including a fashion show and dinner. She plans to graduate with her Bachelor's degree in Fashion Merchandising in the fall of 2017. After graduation, she plans to continue to contribute to the fashion merchandising industry.



Dylan Cain is the grandson of Larry Cain and the great-grandson of the late Dale Cain, who both served Local Union 798. He graduated from Stockton High School in Stockton, MO. He was class valedictorian, graduating with honors and a 4.2 GPA. In high school, he served as vice president of the Park Board for the City of Stockton, president of the National Honor Society, Scholar Bowl Team Captain, a Senior Representative in Student Council, captain of the History Bowl Team, Leadership Team member in the Spanish Club, and was also a member of Math Team and the Future Teachers of America.



He is currently enrolled at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he is an honors student with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy. After his first semester, he made the Dean's List with a GPA of 3.94. In college, he actively participates in the Mizzou Democrats Club and is on the university's quiz bowl team. Currently, he has been working as a campaign operative for a Missouri state treasurer's campaign. His specialization on the campaign is rural outreach. After finishing his undergraduate education, he plans on attending law school and potentially running for public office.

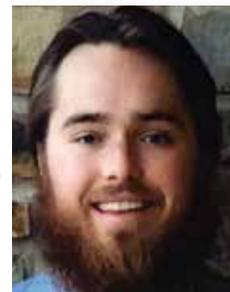
Phaedra Fouts is the daughter of Rodney and Shannon Fouts and the granddaughter of Scott Bruner, an 18-year member of Local 798. Phaedra graduated valedictorian of her class from Edmond Memorial High School in 2013 as a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, and Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society. She was highly involved in high school as a DECA member and an



Oklahoma State Officer for Youth in Government. Phaedra was both a varsity cheerleader and Oklahoma All-State cheerleader in high school, and went on to cheer for Oral Roberts University (ORU).

Currently, she is pursuing her bachelor's degree at ORU as a double major in Accounting and Spanish. Phaedra has maintained a 3.75 GPA and is an active member of the ORU Accounting Society. Outside of school, she volunteers at the Laura Dester Children's Center where she organizes events for and spends time with children whose families are unable to take care of them. Phaedra will participate in her first accounting internship with Ernst & Young this summer and plans to obtain CPA licensure after graduation.

Cole Hendrix Forrest is the grandson of Doyle Hendrix who served Local Union 798 as a Helper, Welder, Business Agent, and Financial Secretary-Treasurer. Cole's uncle, Danny, and younger brother, Luke, are also members of this fine organization. Cole was initiated into Local 798 in August 2013 and thoroughly enjoyed his work as a Welder's Helper. Cole is extremely proud of his heritage in Local Union 798.



Cole is currently a senior at Oklahoma State University. He is pursuing a major in Management Information Systems. He holds a 3.6 GPA while also actively participating in numerous student organizations on campus. Cole has been named to the Dean's List five times and the President's Honor Roll this last semester. He is a founding father of the Epsilon Psi chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity at Oklahoma State, and has served on its judicial board and held the office of Vice President of Programs. Last year, Cole was voted by his fraternity brothers as "Mr. Sig Tau." Cole also volunteers in the community, organizes many philanthropic ventures, donates blood regularly, plays intramural sports and participates in fundraising activities. Upon graduation, Cole will start his career with International Paper in Campti, LA.

Kayla Fox is the daughter of Welder member Bryan Fox. She is currently seeking her Master of Arts in History at Utah State University (USU), where she is a Graduate Assistant while maintaining a 3.7 GPA. At USU, she has assisted with the Utah State History conference as a room captain and frequently copy-edits papers for other students. Besides taking classes, she has taken two internships for class credit: an editing internship last spring and a museum internship this semester. Once she finishes her M.A., she would like to gain some work experience utilizing the skills she has obtained as a history graduate student (reading, writing, analyzing, museum work, and editing) at a museum or a community college. Eventually, she would like to get her doctorate and be a professor.



Prior to entering graduate school, Kayla earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Philosophy from Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). While at SFA, she was accepted into SFA's School of Honors in her first semester and graduated with the designation of University Scholar in addition to magna cum laude. She was also accepted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Alpha Theta, and Phi Eta Sigma. She served as secretary of the Eta Sigma chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) for one year and vice president of the Yoseikan Budo club for two years. Kayla also started a Philosophy club and served as its first president. From October 2011 until she graduated in May 2014, she worked as a history tutor. In addition, she worked as a Latin and English/Writing tutor during her last year as an undergraduate. She also worked as reader/scribe, note taker, and typist for SFA's Disability Services from September 2012

until graduating. In fall 2013, she was an SFA 101 teaching assistant and worked as a student instructor for a history course in spring 2014.

Bailey Hollabaugh is the son of Mary and Farron Hollabaugh, a 38-year member of Local 798 and the Director of Education at the Local 798 Training Center. Bailey graduated from Vinita High School in 2013. During high school, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, served as Student Council Class President, and was a National Honor Society member. In the fall of 2013, he started at the University of Oklahoma as a Philosophy major with a Pre-Law focus. Besides maintaining a 3.6 GPA, he has held a legal internship at a prominent Oklahoma law firm, the Law Offices of Roderick H. Polston, for more than a year. Bailey has been involved in numerous on-campus activities and organizations including Camp Crimson, OU Students for Social Justice, and the Society of Undergraduate Philosophers.



During his three years at OU, Bailey has finished all of his Philosophy major requirements with the exception of upper-division electives, making him eligible for the University of Oklahoma College of Law Early Entry Program. The Early Entry Program would allow Bailey to start law school in the fall of 2016 without an undergraduate degree. Upon completion of his first year of law school, all of his upper-division electives would be satisfied and he would be awarded a degree. He is in the process of applying for this program now, and if not accepted, he plans to study abroad until beginning law school. Following graduation from law school, he plans to pursue a career as an attorney in the Oklahoma City area. While it can be challenging to commit to practicing a specific type of law before going to law school, Bailey has always been interested in aspects of the law surrounding worker's rights.

Meaghan Morgan is the daughter of Kurt and Angela Morgan and the granddaughter of Elvin Loggins, a Local 798 member for more than 40 years. She attended Hudson High School in Lufkin, TX, where she graduated as salutatorian of her class. Throughout high school, she was very involved in various organizations around campus, first as a member and eventually as an officer. These organizations included the drill team, choir, Student Council, and National Honor Society. She received an Exemplary Award her senior year for community service as well as awards for her art and singing at the state level. She is currently a student at Texas A&M University, majoring in kinesiology. Future plans include attending graduate school to become a physical therapist.



Ryan Michael Ogg graduated from Pryor High School in 2015 in the top ten percent of his class with a 3.92 GPA. He is the son of the late Gilmer "Chuck" Ogg, a 12-year Journeyman Spacer member of Local 798, and Beverly Ogg. Ryan is the youngest of three boys. He was very involved in sports in high school, playing football, basketball and soccer. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and State Honor Society. In 2014, he received his Eagle Scout designation in the Boy Scouts of America.



Ryan is currently a freshman at Oklahoma State University studying Construction Management Technology. He plans on graduating in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Ryan was on the Dean's Honor Roll his first semester with a 3.8 GPA, and he was awarded the President's

Leadership Council Scholarship. He is also involved with the Construction Management Society.

Jordan Pennington is the granddaughter of Vickie and Steve Robbins, a 42-year member of Local 798. In 2015 she graduated second in her class from Acorn High School in Mena, AR. In high school she was a member of FCCLA, National Honor Society, and was a member of the Acorn cheer squad, serving as co-captain her senior year. Jordan won numerous academic awards throughout elementary, middle school and high school, but the one for which she is proudest is the Bausch & Lomb Science award. She is currently attending the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith (UAFS) where she is planning to enter the BSN program. Since attending UAFS, Jordan has been on the Dean's List and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi. Right now her plans for her degree are flexible as she waits to see all the different options available. Her passion, however, is to work with members of the military and their families



Jackie Schultheiss is the daughter of Sherri and Daniel Lambert, a Local 798 Welder member. She attended Bayfield High School in Bayfield, CO, where she actively participated in church, band, choir, spring musicals, and the dance team. In high school, she was president of Future Business Leaders of America, public relations officer of Student Council, a member of National Honor Society, and homecoming queen. After graduating with honors in 2014, she moved to Indian Harbour Beach, FL, to attend Eastern Florida State College. She is currently studying for her associate's degree and plans on beginning massage therapy school in the fall. She is an avid dancer and still finds time to work three jobs.



Harry Faucett, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Winner

Jennifer Austin graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Kentucky University with a major in Occupational Science. She was 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 spent many hours volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House in Lexington, KY, and contributing her time to the development of multiple programs to raise money for other charities. She is currently in the Occupational Therapy Master's Program at EKU where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Her future plans are to work with children with disabilities to help them reach developmental milestones to prepare them for a successful future in independent living. Eventually, she would like to open her own pediatric outpatient clinic in an underserved rural area. Currently, she is an active member of Pi Theta Epsilon Honor Society as well as the Student Association of Occupational Therapy. She spends her free time providing daily care for two twin children. Jennifer is the daughter of Lynne Marsh, step-daughter of Welder Helper member Brett Johnson, and a good family friend of Welder Foreman Dave Ferguson.



NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION
FOR
LOCAL 798 OFFICERS

This Notice provides important information regarding the nomination process for the upcoming Local 798 2016 Officer Election. If you have any questions about this notice, please contact an Election Committee Member listed below.

NOMINATIONS

1. A meeting to nominate candidates for office will be held on Friday, September 9, 2016 starting at 7:00 p.m. (CDT), at the Local 798 Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
2. Nominations will be accepted for the following offices:

President	Business Manager	Executive Board (4 positions)
Vice President	Financial Secretary-Treasurer	Finance Committee (3 positions)
Recording Secretary	Inside Guard	Examining Board (2 positions)
3. No member shall run for more than one office. The term of office shall be in accordance with the United Association Constitution.
4. No Local 798 member shall be eligible to be nominated for office in Local 798 unless he has been a member in good standing of the United Association and Local 798 for at least a period of two (2) years immediately prior to the election. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of two (2) years immediately prior to the date of the election shall not be eligible to be nominated for office in Local 798. The "date of the election" for purposes of determining eligibility to run for office is October 26, 2016. Thus, if a member is not eligible as described above as of October 26, 2016, he will not be eligible to run for office.
5. Nominations for officers 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 to the specified office. Such written notice may be delivered by hand, mail, or facsimile to the Union Office, or by email to nominations@local98.org. Written notice must be received by the Local Union in Tulsa, Oklahoma no later than 4:30 p.m. (CDT) on the day of nominations, Friday, September 9, 2016. (Please note that the email address for nominations will be activated on July 1, 2016 and deactivated at 4:30 p.m. (CDT) on Friday, September 9, 2016.) The names of all candidates received by this deadline will be announced at the nominations meeting.
6. Under Section 504 of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act ("LMRDA"), a member who has been convicted of certain crimes may not hold union office 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.
7. The Election Committee will conduct a candidate's meeting on Saturday, September 10, 2016. 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. (CDT).

MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

1. The General President has directed that the election for officers be conducted by mail ballot. There will be no manual balloting.
2. Election Services United, Corp. (ESU) shall administer the election. ESU is headquartered at 672 Dogwood Avenue, Ste. 395, Franklin Square, NY 11010. The ESU representative conducting the Local 798 election is Sandee Tovin. ESU has advised that it will utilize the services of East River Mail to conduct the mailing. East River Mail is located at 41-12 38th St., Long Island City, NY 11101.
3. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible Local 798 members on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at their most recent permanent address on file with the Local Union ("primary address") as of Friday, October 14, 2016.
4. No Local 798 member shall be eligible to vote in the election unless he has been a member of the United Association and Local 798 in good standing for at least a period of one (1) year immediately prior to the date of the election. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of one (1) year immediately prior to the date of the election shall not be eligible to vote. The "date of the election" for purposes of determining eligibility to vote is October 26, 2016. Thus, if a member is not eligible as described above as of October 26, 2016, he will not be eligible to vote.
5. Members who do not receive a ballot, or who need a "duplicate" ballot must contact ESU directly at 1-800-971-3960. Thus, for example, if a member does not receive a ballot at the address provided to Local 798, or is no longer receiving mail at that address, he may request a duplicate ballot from ESU. Members must call personally to obtain a duplicate ballot; they may not have another individual call for them. The member will be asked to provide identifying membership information (such as book number or social security number) to obtain a duplicate ballot. ESU will provide the member with a confirmation number.
6. To be counted, ballots must be returned to the Tulsa, OK U.S. post office box printed on the outer return envelope by 9:00 a.m. (CST) on Thursday, December 8, 2016. Any ballot that is returned to the post office later than this date and time will not be counted. Ballots will be counted on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma starting at 9:30 a.m. (CST).
7. The results of the election will be announced at the Regular Membership Meeting on Friday, December 9, 2016 starting at 7:00 p.m. (CST) at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
8. In the event there is a tie vote in an officer election and a run-off election is necessary, a mail ballot election will be conducted for only those offices for which there is a tie vote. Ballots will be mailed on January 5, 2017 and will be counted on February 9, 2017 at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, starting at 9:30 a.m. (CST). The results of any run-off election will be announced at a Special Membership meeting to be held on February 10, 2017 at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, starting at 7:00 p.m. (CST).

Local 798 Election Committee

Chris Waeckerle	Farron Hollabaugh	Glen Lewis
Chairman	Secretary	Member
(918) 837-0440	(918) 244-0648	(254) 918-1490

I want to wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July! I hope everyone has a good one wherever you are this year. Hopefully, everyone who wants a job has one by now.

At the time of this writing, we have 838 Welders, 148 Journeymen, and 790 Helpers on the Out-of-Work List. This number will drop again when we get our next Steward Reports next week and should be even lower by the time you get this Blue Light. Here in dispatch, we are staying caught up on Steward Reports and production information. With the emailing of reports, things are caught up in a much more efficient and timely manner.

Remember: when you get laid-off or terminated for any reason, be sure to call and put your name back on the Out-of-Work List at (918) 663-3200. The quicker you get on the list, the quicker you get out. This must be done inside of five business days to return to the old Out-of-Work date, if you are under the 300, 450 or 600-hour rule.



Dispatch Report

By Ricky Jones

If the web page shows we have jobs unfilled and you are on the wheel, call in! Jobs not filled by the previous night's Jobline can be filled by anyone on the wheel. If you bid on a job on the Jobline but did not get it, there could still be an opportunity elsewhere that may interest you. Often members wish they had bid on more jobs and are willing to take that "third" and "fourth" choice later.

Welder Foremen: If you are having trouble finding Welders, Journeymen or Helpers, and you or your Business Agent cannot come up with anyone, call us. We will run it on the Jobline and get someone started that way.

We are hoping to add to dispatch by providing a way for our members to bid online and not have to use the phone prompt - making it quicker and easier to bid on jobs. This is in the testing phase. We will let the membership know more before we launch the actual program.

Meeting Notice September 9, 2016

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 9, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Nominations for Officers.

See the Nomination and Election notice included in this issue of the Blue Light Reports.

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 9, 2016. 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.

UNION HITCHHIKER

Have you ever driven down the road and run upon a hitchhiker? Most of the time, their thumb is giving a clear message:

"If you furnish the car, the gas, the time, and do the driving, I'll ride with you. But if you think I'm going to pitch in for the gas, you're out of your mind. By the way, if you have an accident and I'm hurt, I'll sue you for all you got."

We have hitchhikers in our Union too. In one way or another they're saying: "If you supply the protection of a contract, negotiate that contract, protect me at work, get me fair and decent wages, health benefits, and hours of work, I'll ride. But you're crazy if you think I'm going to get involved and help you make this a better place to work. And by the way, if anything happens that irritates me, you'll hear from me".

Think about it – Are you just thumbing a free ride? Or can you do a little more to help us all out?

PIBF NEWS Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund Robert "Bob" Kime, Director

401(k) Employee Contribution Rates

The Pipeline Industry 401(k) Fund *Voluntary Employee Salary Reduction Agreement* form allows the employee to choose an amount to be withheld from the weekly pay check in even amounts from \$.00 to \$12 per hour. The form has been revised to allow hourly withholding from \$.00 to \$15 per hour. This will allow a member working 1,200 hours to contribute \$18,000 (1,200 X \$15 = \$18,000). The reporting system at PIBF and the Trust Co of Oklahoma monitors members' voluntary contributions and provides notice when members are nearing the maximum contribution amount of \$18,000 for 2016 (an additional \$6,000 can be contributed by those over 50 years old), however, the Fund staff would like all members to monitor their contributions and stop withholding at \$18,000 or \$24,000 if over age 50. This is especially important when members work for more than one contractor during the year. The change is effective immediately, and the revised form can be printed from the PIBF website at www.pibf.org under the 401(k) tab.

Forfeited Service

Forfeited service is defined as "any years previously credited to a participant that the participant loses because the participant does not continue to work in the industry and terminates in the plan before becoming vested in the plan." Under section 2.15 of

the Pipeline Industry Pension Plan, a participant can have the lost years reinstated if the participant earns the number of years of credited service equal to the number of years that the employee did not work or worked less than 400 hours.

Accrual Rate After A Break In Service

After a participant has had two (2) consecutive one year breaks in service, his/her accrued benefit rate shall be calculated based on the dollar rate specified for the last day of the plan year in which he/she incurred the second one year break in service. A participant can repair the break by working. Section 4.01B of the Pipeline Industry Pension Plan states that "If the service exceeds the period of the break, then his/her pre-break credits will be updated. If a participant has multiple breaks in service, the most recent pre-break credits will be repaired first."

Pre-paying Medical Expenses

The Fund office is getting reports from members that medical providers are asking for the deductible portion or the co-insurance of the office visit fee or medical procedure fee before services will be performed. The Fund staff recommends that if you pay in advance, compare your advance payment to the member's balance due on the Explanation of Benefits form (EOB) that the fund office provides after the PIBF makes payment. The medical provider may owe you a refund.

918-280-4800 – www.pibf.org

Thank You

Kevin "Cole" Conway would like to thank everyone for the gift he recently received from the Voluntary Fund. The money will help while he recovers from back surgery. He is beyond grateful for every single Brother and Sister who donates to the fund every week. Special thanks to Luke Leonard.

Guy S. Williams and Family send a heartfelt thank you to the Voluntary Fund for the generous donation, and to their many friends for the cards, letters and prayers while he was down after back surgery and then hernia surgery. Thank you to the many Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund.

Michael and Kimberly Hawkins express their gratitude for the gift received from the Voluntary Fund after Kim's shoulder surgery. Special thanks to Donald and Chrissy Hawkins.

Gary and Rosemarie King write to thank the members of Local 798 for being so caring of their Brothers and Sisters. The financial assistance they received from the Voluntary Fund was a blessing. A special thanks to Wade Pilgreen, Danny Hendrix and Ricky Jones.

Jack and Kellie Fluitt write to thank all the contributors to the Voluntary Fund for the gift they received after the flooding of their home. Your thoughtfulness and caring are so appreciated! Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Wade Pilgreen, Michael Shively and Jason Carlson.

W. Mike Johnston would like to take the time to thank every member who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. The money came when he really needed it. Special thanks to Bryan S. Fox.

Robert and Donna Pugh thank each person who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the help they received after their house was broken into. A special thanks to Darrell Turner and Jimmy Cook.

Richard and Janet Hayes want to thank everyone who donates to the Voluntary Fund for the generous gift. Special thanks to Richie Hayes.

Casey and Kristen Irvine send their heartfelt thanks to all their Brothers and Sisters in Local 798. They know the Voluntary Fund is given selflessly each week by hardworking, thoughtful, and generous members. It really touched their hearts to know you all cared enough to think of them and ease the financial strain of the stressful series of events they experienced. Special thanks to Mike Donahue and Jimmy "Scooter" Folk.

Tim Griggs and Family would like to thank all the members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the help they received after his surgery. Special thanks to Frank Bowker, Billy Hawkins, and Brandon Littleton.

Travis and Mary Crabtree thank everyone for the love and support they received after the unexpected passing of his mother, June Crabtree. They extend a special thank you to Wade Pilgreen, Bruce Weeks, Black Schroeder, and Danny Hendrix. It is an honor to be a member of such a great organization.

Tom Mason thanks the Brothers and Sisters of Local 798 and Greg Russell for the generous contribution following his recent knee surgery. He and his family greatly appreciate it.

Sidney and Karen Pendleton want to thank the Voluntary Fund for the help and support they received. A special thank you to Danny Hendrix, Wade Pilgreen, Sam Sandbothe, Preston Richard, and Skip Todd.

Cathy Blackmore would like to thank the anonymous donor for the donation made in her name to Akdar Shrine Hospital for patient transportation. It was an honor receiving the acknowledgement. It is her honor and privilege to work at Local 798.

Neb and Veronica Headings give a big thank you to the Brothers and Sisters of Local 798 who donate to the Voluntary Fund. The Voluntary Fund gift they received was greatly appreciated after Neb had his rotator cuff/labrum tear repair surgery. Special thanks to Chad Todd.

Raymond and Grace Christmas thank the Voluntary Fund for the check they received to cover the damage from the flood at Caddo Lake. The money will help with the loss they had. Special thanks to Ervin Cole, Wade Pilgreen and Danny Hendrix.

Bob and Donna McCray say thank you for the help they received from the Voluntary Fund after complications from gallbladder surgery. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Wade Pilgreen, Tommy Collins, Preston Richard, and Gary and Bev Graham.

Koty Russell would like to thank the Voluntary Fund for the gift he received. Special thanks to Wade Pilgreen, Danny Hendrix, Bobby Taylor, Darrell Turner, and all the 798 members who give to the Voluntary Fund.

Brad Nevill writes to say thank you for being such a blessing to him. He thanks the Voluntary Fund, PIBF, Local 798 staff and officers, and all his Local 798 Brothers and Sisters.

Ralph Suter greatly appreciates the gift he received. A special thank you to Don and Betty Armstrong for the support they gave when his daughter passed away.

Michael and Kim Durham thank each and every person who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The check they received in their time of need was much appreciated!

Alex and Hog Bear would like to thank the Brothers and Sisters of 798 for their help after the unexpected passing of their father Nathaniel Nez, former 798 Welder. They give a special thank you to Chad Gilbert, Wade Pilgreen, Preston Richard, Steven Gillmore, Tim Adrian, Jeremy Hudson, and Ted Poole. They are eternally grateful for all your help and kind phone calls. They are immensely grateful to be part of the 798 family.

Jessie and Carla Dunn say thanks for the help they received after his accident. Special thanks to Leroy McDougal and everyone who has donated to the Voluntary Fund. Also, thank you to the people at Southern Pipeline.

Susan McCallon writes to say thank you for the contribution, which is helping her until she can get back to work. The 798 family is very generous.

Carl "Lynn" and Mary Landreth thank everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. The money was a great blessing in

this time of sickness, surgery, and hospital stay. They especially thank Brothers Rick (Bugs) Hemmer, Rodger Hastings, Ricky Morgan, Scott Thrasher, Ray Crabtree, and Phillip Wallace for their caring and special friendship.

James B. Henderson, Jr. would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every member of Local 798 and the generosity of the Voluntary Fund. Although we all hope to never need the support from the Voluntary Fund, it is a heartfelt emotion to know that Local 798 members continue to take care of their own.

Shannon and Diane Johnston express their thanks to the Voluntary Fund for the generous gift they received after his surgery. A special thank you to David Layton, Ray Crabtree, J. and to all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund.

Brian Sprouse would like to thank everyone who gives to the Voluntary Fund.

Darlene Wolfe wants to thank the Voluntary Fund for the gift she received after the passing of her close sister. Special thanks to Jimmy Dodd and Debbie Plaster.

Dempsey and Valarie Wells deeply appreciate your kindness, thoughts, and prayers during their time of sorrow at the loss of Valarie's father. Her father was a strong union man, retiring from United Auto Workers. A special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Wade Pilgreen, Allen Johnson and to all the Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund.

Janie Hawkins writes to say thank you for the gift she received from the Voluntary Fund. The money has helped in the cleanup of her welding business after the flood in early March. She would like to thank Don and Crissy Hawkins, and all the Brothers and Sisters of Local 798 for their help.

Otis "Johnny" and Carla Mason have been so fortunate to receive the gift from the Voluntary Fund. It will be a blessing toward medical bills from Carla's recent hospitalization and illness. They are grateful for the care and thoughtfulness of this Local Union. Special thanks to Tim Adrian and Bob Taylor.

Marion and Ellen Thomas want to thank everyone who donates to the Voluntary Fund for the gift they received. It was a blessing and much needed for the bills incurred from Marion's surgery and hospital stay. Special thanks to Roy Doshier, Holmer Smith, Danny Hendrix and Wade Pilgreen.

The Family of Betty Jo Bixler thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers at Betty's passing. God gives them comfort in the form of family and friends.

Rick and Cookie Thomas thank all who donate to the Voluntary Fund for the gift they received. Your gift is greatly appreciated, along with your thoughtful words of encouragement and your prayers at the passing of their son. It means so much to their family at this trying time.

Richard Hastings and Family appreciate everything everyone has done for them after their daughter passed away. Thank you so much for the help they received. Special thanks to the men on the Mid-Ohio job in Washington, PA.

Bruce and Susan Beresford would like to thank all those who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. It is such an honor and

blessing to be part of a caring and grateful union. Thank you for the gift in their time of need. It was greatly appreciated.

Mike and Cindy Miller greatly appreciate the generous gift they received to assist them with medical expenses. 798 Pipeliners are the most compassionate and kind group of people they are privileged to know and be a part of.

Joe Gaines thanks all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The gift is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Stan Campbell, Greg Newcomb, Mike Miller and everyone on the Price Gregory job in Louisiana.

Joyce Leihl writes to thank the 798 members for the beautiful funeral spray, cards, phone calls and Voluntary Fund. Words cannot express the love that has been shown her and her family after Mitch "Groovy Man" passed away. If anyone would like to share a memory with her, please send to mitchleihl@msn.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Sam C. McElroy, 74-year-old Retired Welder of Navasota, TX, passed away April 7, 2016.

John H. Bingaman, 89-year-old Retired Welder of Yale, OK, passed away April 12, 2016.

Phyllis M. Hooks, 57-year-old Retired Helper of Crescent, OK, passed away April 21, 2016.

Dennis G. Durham, 72-year-old Retired Helper of Garvin, OK, passed away April 25, 2016.

James C. Mallory, 89-year-old Retired Welder of Red Level, AL, passed away May 1, 2016.

James Milton "Runt" Henderson, 94-year-old Retired Welder of Broken Arrow, OK, passed away May 7, 2016.

Boyd L. Minnis, 89-year-old Retired Welder of Ellsworth, ME, passed away May 7, 2016.

Raymond D. Cozzi, 77-year-old Retired Helper of Renovo, PA, passed away May 9, 2016.

Henry Mitch "Groovy Man" Leihl, 61-year-old Retired Welder of Collinston, LA, passed away May 9, 2016.

Roy G. Williams, 64-year-old Retired Welder of Broken Bow, OK, passed away May 10, 2016.

Robert "Jay" Hill, 68-year-old Helper of Cleveland, OK, passed away May 23, 2016.

RETIREMENTS

Russell C. Carra, Helper, Tulsa, OK

Karen E. Davis, Helper, Hurt, VA

Richard W. Elson, II, Journeyman Spacer, Crystal Falls, MI

Charles B. Griggs, Helper, Lawrenceburg, TN

Davy L. Middleton, Helper, Litchfield, IL

Billy W. Tyler, Journeyman Spacer, Clifton, LA

Diana T. White, Helper, Scotts Hill, TN

SWAP & SELL

Welder Caps regular style \$8 each or reversible for \$10, plus COD and Shipping. Peggy Taylor (205) 926-5885.

4 Welding Machines for Sale: Call Tom Shaw at (989) 967-3350:

- **2010 Lincoln Vantage 300.** 2,223 hours, Kubota diesel engine, with a remote and welding leads. \$7,000.

- **2006 Lincoln 300D** with welding leads, Perkins diesel engine. Nice machine. \$4,500.

- **69 Lincoln 200 amp Redface.** Wired for hi rev. \$3,500

- **69 Lincoln 200 amp Redface.** Original, runs good. \$3,000

2001 Mountain Aire. 36' with two slides, Corian counter top, oak cupboards, window awnings, queen bed, plenty of storage, rear dining, oak table with four chairs. \$11,000. Call Tom Shaw at (989) 967-3350.

Chums Leather Work. Custom leather arm bands, suspenders, belts, holsters, journals, knife scabbards and much more! Contact Craig Chumley at (682) 459-4035 or www.chumsleatherwork.net.

Welder Hats - Tall/Short Crown, Reversible and Non-Reversible. NFL, Disney, Hot Wheels, Coke, Farmall, John Deere, and NASCAR licensed fabrics available. \$12.00 - \$14.00 each plus shipping. FR Digital Camouflage Non-Reversible - \$15.00 plus shipping. Embroidery

\$1.00 per letter. Call or text Carol at (970) 420-0199 or e-mail: cjw19290@aol.com.

FOR SALE: Lincoln Classic 300D Perkins welder. It is in new condition with only 220 hours on the machine. The remote is included. Asking \$11,500. **Mathey Dearman pipe beveler.** 4'-8' with long barrel torch. It has been used very little. Asking \$1,500. Contact Jerry Anderson (208) 680-2699.

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.

Training Center Thank You

A special thank you to Rob, Chris, Jake and Michael at P.S.S. for their sponsorship and continued support at the 798 Training Center and Steward School.

PSS COMPANIES



FIND EVEN MORE SAFETY OPTIONS @

AIRGAS.com

Wherever you are, whenever you need it, access our Safety Collection online.

MORE than 30,000 options to keep you safe head to toe

- Hand Protection
- Head, Eye and Face Protection
- Hearing Protection
- Footwear
- Protective Workwear
- Respiratory Protection

MORE than 13,900 options to protect your turf

- First Aid Products
- Area Protection
- Facility Supplies
- Environmental Supplies
- Spill Control and Containment

MORE than 6,000 options to keep you from getting bent out of shape

- Fall Protection
- Anti-Fatigue Matting
- Personal Ergonomics

MORE than 1,340 options to gauge your safety

- Gas Detectors and Sensors
- Sampling Tubes and Pumps
- Confined Space Kits



SHOP NOW at Airgas.com/safety

798 Account number
0001606543

Shelia Ledbetter came to work for Pipeliners Local Union 798 on November 15, 1984, as an Administrative Assistant. She has helped or worked in every area of the office, but has continuously helped with members initiating, changing their classifications and those wanting to transfer into or out of the Local.

Shelia and her husband of 36 years, Joel, reside in Coweta, OK. They love to travel and spend their spare time with their two daughters, son-in-law and grandson.

Shelia feels very blessed to be a part of Local 798. Not only does she have the privilege to work for the membership, but also to be a part of the union's extended family.

Featured Personnel



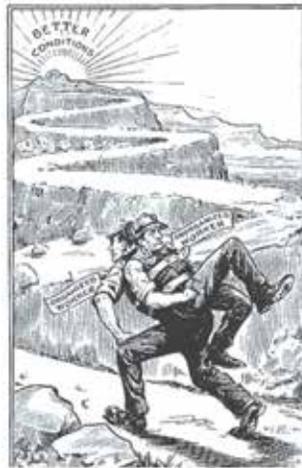
Liz Rogers joined the Local 798 staff in 2005 to edit the Blue Light and manage the Local's website. Today, she handles monthly membership dues for more than 6,000 Local 798 members. Liz earned a master's degree in speech communication with an emphasis on organizational communication from Oklahoma State University in 1986. She also holds a bachelor's degree in communication with an emphasis on public relations from the University of Central Oklahoma. Before joining the staff at Local 798, she worked in the communication field for a variety of companies and organizations in the areas of sales, marketing, publishing, and non-profit management. Liz resides adjacent to her family's farm in Tiawah, OK, with her husband, Ron, and son, Will. She appreciates the opportunity to work with a great group of people at Local 798 and is grateful for the generous benefits the Local offers its employees.

Featured Personnel



I am writing this report from West Texas where several non-union jobs are underway. The conditions here are horrible to say the least. The dust is so bad that sometimes there is zero visibility going down the highway, and it can be observed as far as 15 miles away with no water trucks at all. Safety seems to be nonexistent as well. As if this isn't bad enough, they continue to drop wages. One contractor here has paid welders a lower rate to rig up and only raised their wages after they passed their test. Even then the higher rate was less than what our helper's total package is. It's amazing that they are still working under these conditions and at such low pay. I am curious to see just how low they will go before they say "enough is enough." At this rate, in about two more years, they will be getting script and shopping at the company store. I actually saw a guy post on the internet that he would pay half his first full check to anyone who could get him a test, that's assuming he makes said test.

I have talked with several non-union welders, and most are reasonable and realize that union is the way to go but many are reluctant to take that first step. There are still some who are totally unreasonable and can't seem to understand simple economics. I had one tell me he was not going to pay someone for a job through dues. Let's take a look at his theory. We pay \$29 a month in dues. This guy doesn't and he thinks he is ahead. But figure the total package for a 798 Welder against what he is making. He loses \$42 an hour vs \$29 a month. Now multiply that by 60 hours and then by four weeks and tell me who is paying who to work. That's not even considering the 15 pipe jacks he had piled on his truck that he paid for plus buying his mud board, water can, umbrella, etc. This guy may have been a good welder, I can't say anything about that, but mathematics was definitely not his strong suit. I asked him about his plans for retirement after he said he had to work because he had too many bills. He says he has all that taken care of but could never say how or what his plan was. I would say he might start trying to pick out a dry overpass somewhere with a shopping cart. They all want to blame it on the work being slow and that's their excuse for putting up with such things. Well the work isn't as good as it was say two or three years ago, but the work isn't slow by any means. Those of you like myself who were pipelining in the 1980s know what I'm talking about.



ORGANIZING R E P O R T

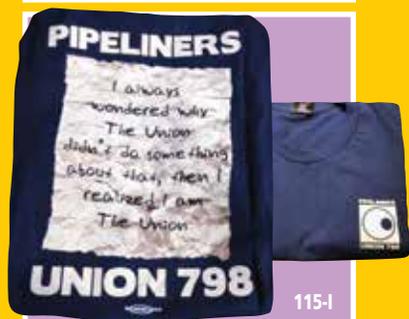
With that said all this does come at a price, not only to the gas companies but to the general public as well. There is a lot to the old saying, "Skilled labor isn't cheap, and cheap labor isn't skilled." The production is low and repair rates are high even with some jobs having little to no inspection. You can sit in the local cafe at night and hear foremen openly brag about what all they get away with and getting inspectors overruled and in some cases even run off. There is certainly a double standard when it comes to union and non-union jobs on the right-of-way. It seems that anything in Texas is fair game with no oversight whatsoever. It's amazing to me that some of these clients would assume such liability and actually create a danger to the public by allowing such shoddy workmanship to continue, especially when it's common knowledge.

On the bright side we just got a \$2 raise on our checks. That's the big difference: we continue to move forward, and they move in the opposite direction. It's such an honor to not only belong to, but to work for such a great organization that cares about working people. It's also an honor to be among a group of men and women who are not afraid to take that first step; who are willing to stand up against anyone who would deny them a decent wage and the security of a decent retirement. This Local Union and all its members are what has shaped the pipeline industry since the very beginning. We have always given a day's work for a day's pay, and all we ever expected in return was to be treated fairly and justly compensated. I think anyone who works for a living deserves that, and hopefully these people working on the other side will realize it soon enough.

It appears that the work is going good, and I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous work year. If anyone has any information or can help in any way in our organizing efforts, please don't hesitate to call. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. I am in a lot of no-service areas and also on the phone a lot so if I don't answer, please leave a message and I will call you back as soon as possible. Also, if there is anything that I can do to help anyone feel free to call as well.

Fraternally, Ronnie M. Hill

(918) 284-6862



Featured Products

CAPS

- 101-C** – Camo Summer Cap. \$14.00
- 101-B** – Navy / Tan Summer Cap. \$14.00
- 101-W** – Charcoal Gray Cap w / pic of Welder. \$16.00
- 201** – Pipeliners Blue Flame Hat. \$13.00

T-SHIRTS

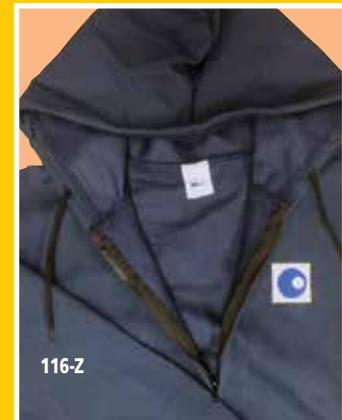
- 115-B** – Safety Short-Sleeved Pocket T-Shirt. \$14.00 (S, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)
- 115-E** – American Labor T-Shirt. \$12.00 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)
- 115-I** – I Am Union T-Shirt. \$10.00 (S, M, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)
- 117-P** – Navy Polo Shirt. \$29.00 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)

JACKETS

- 116** – Navy Logo Hoodie. \$33.00 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)
- 116-Z** – Navy Logo Hoodie w / zipper. \$33.00 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)
- 207** – Pullover Windshirt w / pockets. Bone Color. \$60.00 (S, L, XL, 2XL, 4XL)

MISCELLANEOUS

- 105** – Cordless Charger. \$10.00
- 137** – 798 Lapel Pin. \$4.50
- 139** – Local 798 Logo Knife. \$5.00





4823 S. 83rd E. Ave.
P.O. Box 470798
Tulsa, OK 74147-0798

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WICHITA, KS
PERMIT NO. 23

SET YOUR SIGHTS ON A BETTER AUTO LOAN



Loans for All Your Needs

Take advantage of this same great offer on any of the following!

Boats - ATVs - Motorcycles - Campers - RVs - Trailers

Apply online at ABFCU.org or call us today!
479-649-2060 or 800-227-8968



**ARKANSAS BEST
FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION**



Federally insured
by NCUA

*Annual Percentage Rate is based on your credit qualifications. Membership eligibility is required. A 20% down payment and enrollment in ABFCU's automated payments is necessary to obtain the lowest rate. Interest will continue to accrue during deferral period. Offer good on vehicles not already financed with ABFCU. Offer is subject to change and may be withdrawn at any time.