Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well, the contract has been negotiated and settled with a three percent raise on total package for each of the next three years. In addition to the three percent, we were also able to achieve some additional monies on per diem. The new contract is on our website and is now available for viewing, along with our new rates. Thanks to the entire negotiating committee for all their dedication and hard work. Special thanks to the UA Pipeline Department Director Tom Gross, International Representative David Barnett, Special Representative Mike Mikich and UA Attorney Ellen Boardman.

We just concluded the 2017 Steward School and although the attendance numbers were down due to the massive amount of work, I feel as if it was one of the best ones that we have had in several years. We had several UA officers in attendance including General Secretary Treasurer Patrick Kellett, Executive Vice-President Jim Moss, Special Representative Wendell Hibdon, and International Representative Darren Jones. We were blessed with warm, sunny weather for the whole week starting with the charity golf tournament on Monday. Tuesday, Lincoln Electric hosted a BBQ lunch at the Training Center and showcased all their latest and greatest equipment. Wednesday started the official opening day for the contract interpretation, and that evening the Ladies of 798 had their annual basket auction which raised close to $92,000 for their selected charities. Thursday morning, we concluded interpretations, and attorney Mike Shelton gave a presentation over injuries on the job and what to do when this situation arises. Thursday afternoon the PIBF gave their presentations, along with Trust Company of Oklahoma, our 401(k) people, and Arkansas Best Federal Credit Union. Thursday night we honored our members with 50-plus years with certificates of recognition at a sit-down dinner. It gives me great honor to recognize these individuals each year and this year was no exception.

At noon Friday Miller Electric hosted our crawfish boil and rolled out their pipeline equipment for members to see. Friday night the regular membership meeting was lively and well attended. A big heartfelt thanks to all our many vendors who donated door prizes and helped raise money for our scholarship fund: Lincoln Electric, Mathey Dearman, PSS, PFERD, Darby and many others. All of these vendors support our training facility year-round and we, in return, need to support their products.

I want to personally thank President Preston Richard, Inside Guard Dale Crabtree and all the appointed Inside Guards for their hard work and dedication to making sure that the whole week went well. Big thanks to all my Tulsa staff who made the whole week come off flawlessly behind the scenes with a zero-repair rate! On Wednesday morning of Steward School, we recognized those in the office who are retiring this year: Renee Taylor, Sheila Ledbetter and Jaimee Grisham for their years of service and dedication to the Local. I want to especially recognize Renee Taylor, who received an Honorary Local 798 Membership.

The work is in full swing and it is shaping up to be a banner year. We will need to add to our ranks to fulfill our obligation to provide labor to our fair contractors. If you know someone who would like to join our family, please direct them to our website and look for the tab labeled “Apply for Membership.” There is no need to call the office; this application process is the gateway to membership and the only way to get through the gate.

We recently had a PIBF trustees meeting and our pension funding is at 115 percent. Later in the year we will consider accrual raises along with raises for the already retired.

As we all return to the field, we must still double down our efforts as a group to advocate for future projects. Wade has worked diligently to provide a system that will make this easy to do on our Pipeline Action Network. Please do your part so we will continue to show the client the value we can add to their project by selecting union labor. As always, I am proud to say “I work for you, the greatest pipeliners in the world.”

Fraternally,

Daniel C. Hendrix
Business Manager
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to attend this year’s Steward School. I think it was an overwhelming success and thank you for your time and attention as we covered the new National Pipeline Contract. This document is the foundation of our relationship with the contractors and it is vitally important as members that we keep ourselves familiar with its contents. I would like to give a special thank you to our office staff for all the hard work and dedication they give each year in preparation for Steward School. It is not easy moving our “office” to the Renaissance, but our staff members make the transition seem effortless, because they are dedicated to our membership.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who attended the Steward’s Computer Class, and for your willingness to participate and gain new knowledge. This is the sixth year of the class, and I could not have imagined how far we have come with our online steward reports. It has truly streamlined our process in the office. We changed up the format of the class this year and introduced three additional instructors to the class. I would like to give a special thanks to Charles Yates, Jr., Chad Gilbert, and David Butterworth, for their assistance in teaching the class this year. I believe it is important to have different perspectives. I would like to encourage our members to go to our website and click on the tab “Steward’s Page & Forms” and view our instructional videos that give detailed information on how to fill out our steward reports. These instructional videos were made by Amber Vreeland, a member of our 798 Office staff, and I would like to also thank her for her assistance during the computer class.

We had another successful golf tournament this year! The George Lambert/Harry Faucett Scholarship Golf Tournament raised $31,870, which will help assist our members and their families pursue their higher educational goals. I would like to thank all our sponsors for their support of this worthy cause, and for their selfless dedication to our tournament. Many of our sponsors have given their time and money for several years; for this we will be forever grateful. I would like to thank Cathy Blackmore for her assistance in the planning and coordinating of the golf tournament. I do not know what our office would do without her!

I hope everyone took advantage of the presentation given by Jay Vincent as he covered our new Action Network Page. I discussed the Action Network during my last Blue Light Report and I hope everyone has taken the time to sign up. I truly believe this tool is the wave of the future. As a Local, we must make our voices heard and protect the livelihood of our families. I believe we are beginning to see the fruits of our labor, because the work outlook for the next three years is phenomenal. Although our prospects look great for future work, we must not grow complacent. We must show pride and integrity in our work and as a Local we must man our work! It is important to represent this great Local well by doing two important things: be on time, and be respectful of others on the right-of-way. This philosophy will help you succeed in your pipeline career.

By now many of you are aware that Rick Taylor is retiring and this was his last Steward School. Rick has truly been an asset to our Local for many years, and he will be missed. I would like to thank him for his many years of selfless dedication to our Local, and his willingness to put others above himself. He has always represented this Local with dignity and honor and acted in a professional manner. He is truly a great and kind man, and I will miss him greatly.

Jerry Ryan is also retiring this May, and I would like to express my gratitude for all his years of service to our great Local. Jerry attended many of the Dakota Access FERC meetings, and was instrumental in helping organize our efforts to gain approval for this project. Jerry is always willing to offer a helping hand when needed, and he has spent many hours at the Hall assisting Danny and me with various projects. Thank you, Jerry, for being a man of integrity, and for your willingness to help advance our great Local.

I would like to officially welcome Josalyn Johnson as the new Office Manager of Local 798. She has worked in the office since October 2010, and is currently pursuing her Bachelor’s Degree in administrative leadership from the University of Oklahoma. I know she will continue to serve our Local with integrity and honor. Please welcome her as she moves into a new role of service.

As always, I am humbled and proud to serve you. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Wade Pilgreen
Financial Secretary-Treasurer
PHILLIP W. WALLACE
AR, IA, KS, MN, MT, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD
918/270-6738

This Blue Light Report comes out after returning home from the 2017 Steward School. As always, this year’s Steward School was a success. The attendance was down some from the last couple of years due to the work season getting started so early. The contract session was very informative and educated everyone on how to be consistent in our work, across our jurisdiction.

We have a new three-year contract with a few changes and increases in wages and benefits. Everyone can see the new contract on the website now. Later you will receive an updated copy in the mail. Learn this National Pipeline Agreement that the 798 members before us fought so hard to get, guaranteeing a decent wage with health care and pension.

The Thursday night retiree banquet honoring the 50-plus-year members was the highlight of the entire week. These Welders, Journeymen, and Helpers, fought and worked hard so we can enjoy what this Local offers its members – the opportunity to make a very good living for our families. And now our leaders, Danny Hendrix, Wade Pilgreen, David Barnett, Jim Moss, and Tom Gross, work even harder to improve our wages, benefits, and working conditions so this great Local will be here for our young members and our children to have a way to support their families with the respect and dignity they deserve. Local 798 and its members are very blessed to have a job opportunities we have now and for years to come. Take advantage of it and man this work when we have it, it’s a great day because I have seen many rainy days in my time where there were no jobs to be had.

The time has come for some of Danny Hendrix’s staff to retire. I can’t say enough about Rick Taylor for what he has done for this Local. When Rick and I were hired by Danny to be Business Agents, I had never met Rick and his wife Denise, but it didn’t take long for me to get to know them as our Pipeline family. Rick did a great job for the Northeastern states with the Marcellus Shale boom that just keeps on giving. I have so much respect and dignity they deserve. Local 798 and its members are very blessed to have a job opportunities we have now and for years to come. Take advantage of it and man this work when we have it, it’s a great day because I have seen many rainy days in my time where there were no jobs to be had.

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heard; he had everyone’s heart pumping. Ellen Boardman did a great job with the job steward’s responsibilities. As always, thanks to the Pipeline Department: Tom Gross, David Barnett, and Mike Mikich.

The Ladies of 798 must have a magic wand. When you think they have maxed out, they turn it up a notch. The basket auction gets better and better every year; this year they raised over $90,000. The real heroes of the Steward School are you, the members who took off from work, showed up and participated. Without you, the Steward School and basket auction would not be successful. Thanks to all who attended.

It is looking like this year will be the best year we have had since 2008. It’s about time the members who are not working and are able to work, step up to the plate, go to work, and help themselves and this this Local union. Sometimes you have to give back, go make yourself a lot of money with two years’ pension credits, and even add some health care to boot. Thank you!

The 418 miles of 24” for Enterprise that went from Midland to Sealy, TX, had five union and nine non-union contractors bidding on it. There was a 15 percent reduction of wages, low scale benefits and per diem. It went to Pumpeco, Holloman, and Sprint. If I can be of assistance to anyone don’t hesitate to contact me.

Pre-Jobs:

Ace Pipeline Inc.:
- Reader, WV: 800’ of 16” and 24” station work. Superintendent: Jeff Wade. Welder Foreman: Corey Parry. Station fringes paying High-Scale. Working 5-10s. (Job Complete)

AGI Construction Inc.:
East Harwich, MA. 1.5 miles of 12” street work. Superintendent: Brian Minnis.


Alex E. Paris Contracting:
- Atlasburg, PA: 12” repair sleeve in Greene County PA. Superintendent: Dave Duncan. Welder Foreman Terry Sampsel. Integrity Management paying High-Scale. Working 5-10s.

Apex Pipeline Services:

Blond Brothers. Inc.:
Burrillville, RI. Prefab and Install 6 meter stations 1” to 16”. Superintendent: James Comeau. Welder Foreman: Ed Stockwell, Jr. Station fringes paying High-Scale. Working 5-10s. (Job postponed due to permits)

Henkels & McCoy, Inc.:

Kirila Contractors Inc.:

LMC Industrial Contractors:
Slaten Island, NY. 16” and 24” Tie-in Temporary M&R skid (Phase 1). Superintendent: Jim Ziegler. Welder Foreman: Mike Adams. Station fringes paying High-Scale. Working 5-10s. (Job Complete)

Michels Pipeline:

Mid-Ohio Contracting Inc.:

Olis Eastern Services LLC:

Precision Pipeline LLC.:

Quest Construction Inc.:
New Martinsville, WV. 7 meter set well pad installs 8” and under. Superintendent: Buck Fitzwater. Welder Foreman: Matt Delik. Special Agreement fringes paying High-Scale. Working 5-10s. (Job Complete)

Rockford Corporation:

Trumbull Corp.:

U.S. Pipeline Inc.:

U.S. Trinity Energy Services LLC:

Union Pipeline Inc.:
B&G Pipeline: Appalachian Pipeline:


Welded Construction LP:


Latex Construction:


- Big Inch:


Charles Yates, Jr.

IN, MI, OH
918/270-6746

Much has transpired the past few months. Our work season got an early start this year. We have three major projects totaling 1,016 miles kicking-off in the central region. The mammoth Rover project consists of 713 miles of 24", 30", 36", and 42" with a large majority of 42" dual lay. The Rover additionally includes installation of four new mainline stations, six new supply compressor stations, and associated meter stations. The LEACH Express is comprised of 160 miles of 36" and the Utopia has 145 miles of 12" divided into two spreads. Please keep in mind that the Nexus project is still on the horizon and set to go this summer with hands needed for 255 miles of big-inch pipe. It is our obligation to fill these orders and get out there and man our work. I spent most of my time at Steward School working alongside Ricky Jones and the entire dispatch team helping to fill orders. This experience was enlightening to say the least. The early work season combined with these projects has kept our dispatch office covered. May I extend my most sincere thank you to our dispatch team for a commendable job. Your dedication has not gone unnoticed.

Many of you are making the most of this work boom by trying to get a book for someone. Please use the office number provided and leave a detailed message. Some days it is truly impossible to return every call. Members and contractors are a priority at this time. You may also notice many travelers and soon-to-be-members on the ROW. These individuals have taken a leap of faith trying to better themselves and the future of their families. Remember, we all had our first day and our first job. Be welcoming. Take the time to teach. To quote Jim Moss, “If you want a good union member you have to treat them like a good union member.” Let’s set an example and use proper ROW etiquette as presented by Black Schroeder each year at Steward School. If you are unfamiliar with this description, it can be found on our Local 798 web site.

Congratulations to all those who have announced their retirement plans. Best wishes for much happiness. A special farewell is also extended to Brother Rick Taylor. Working with you has meant a great deal to me.

As soon as my schedule allows, I’ll load up and get on the road. I’m looking forward to the summer job visits. “For everything there is a season, a time to work, a time to play…” Now is the time to work.

Pre-Jobs:


APEX Pipeline Services:


Associated Pipeline:

- Lancaster, OH. 44.4 miles of 36" (LEACH) for Columbia Pipeline/TransCanada. Superintendent: James Silva. Welder Foreman: Johnny Johnson. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10/1/17.

- Malta, OH. 44.3 miles of 36" (LEACH) for Columbia Pipeline/TransCanada. Superintendent: Mark Nail. Welder Foreman: Charlie Beddingfield. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10/1/17.

Big Inch:


Chaps, LLC:

- Howell, MI. 42" x 30" block valve installation for Vector. Superintendent:

Contractor Rentals:

Foltz Welding:

Geeding:

Henkels and McCoy:

InfraSource Construction:

Meade:

Michels:

Mid-Ohio:

Minnesota Limited:

Precision Pipeline:
- Canton, OH. 69.7 miles of 42” (ROVER) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Brad Moser. Welder Foreman: Jimmy Dick. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 11/1/17.
- Clarington, OH. 16.7 miles of 42”, 4.3 miles of 24” in Ohio and 34 miles of 36” in West Virginia, 6 miles of 24” in Doddridge County West Virginia (ROVER) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Joe Parrish. Welder Foreman: Billy Hawkins. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 11/1/17.

- Clarington, OH. 9.7 miles of 42” and 17.9 miles of 36” (ROVER) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Chad Thompson. Welder Foreman: Steven Morris. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 11/1/17.
- East Orville, OH. 89 miles of 42” (ROVER) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Jim Cunningham. Welder Foreman: Neal Crabtree. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 11/1/17.
- Mansfield, OH. 111.4 miles of 42” (ROVER) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Kevin Olenrud. Welder Foreman: Tim Gintz. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 11/1/17.

Price Gregory:
- Ashland, KY. Installation of 60” casing on Ohio River HDD for Columbia Pipeline/TransCanada. Superintendent: Gary Pellham. Welder Foreman: Jerry Jennings. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 4/15/17.
- Caldwell, OH. 27.6 miles of 36” (LEACH) for Columbia Pipeline/TransCanada. Superintendent: Greg Newcomb. Welder Foreman: Carl Trawick until Stan Campbell arrives. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10/1/17.

R.L. Coolset:
- Lansing, MI. 11,000’ of 8” take up and relay for Wolverine. Superintendent: Kevin Scully. Welder Foreman: David Pawloski. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

R.L. Morris and Sons:

U.S. Pipeline:
- Dennison, OH. 37.34 miles of 42” (ROVER) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Jason West. Welder Foreman: Heath Cowan. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 9/1/17.
- St. Clairsville, OH. 32. 3 miles of 42” (ROVER) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Wayne Fontenot. Welder Foreman: Brent Harper. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 7/31/17.

VEC:
- Defiance, OH. 2 Rover meter stations (2”-24”) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Todd Straussburg. Welder Foreman: Michael Bennington. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 7/1/17.
- Powhatan Point, OH. Two Rover meter stations (2”-16”) for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Jeff Oldroyd. Welder Foreman: Jeffery “Bouche” Mooney. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 6/10/17.

Welded:

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CHAD GILBERT
AZ, CO, NV, NM, UT, WY
918/270-6736

Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing my report while on the road returning to my office from the 2017 Steward School. It was a wonderful time and enjoyed by everyone who could make it. Hopefully, those who had to stay in the field or were unable to make the trip, can be present next year. You were missed. I am very thankful we have such great members and leaders. Danny and Wade, as always, were very informative, answered everyone’s questions and listened to the concerns of members. Each year they do a tremendous job honoring our retirees. This year was no exception.

Norma Kay and the Ladies of 798 do an outstanding job with their charity projects. The auction is always a highlight and a fantastic opportunity to give. Those who give will always receive, and 798 members and spouses no doubt have given their time and money to worthy causes. They are to be commended.
Michel’s superintendent Trevor Payne has been awarded the Pipe Line Contractor’s Association’s PLCA 2016 Safety Award for leading Michel’s hard work and dedication to safety on TransCanada’s Reliable Optimization of Keystone Capacity Project (ROKC). This is the highest safety award in the nation presented to pipeline contractors who are dedicated to safety and quality of their pipeline projects.

In 2016, Michels completed 112,068 safe workhours and 1,804,680 kilometers toward the ROKC project. TransCanada’s total hours and kilometers for the project was 152,678 work hours/2,295.997 kilometers.

“It is a privilege and honor to have the extraordinary accomplishments of this project recognized,” said Payne. “With that being said, I would like to mention that none of this would have been possible without everyone that is associated with the ROKC.”

TransCanada Pipe Line (TCPL) and Michel’s have huge resources from Calgary to Houston and everywhere in between, said Payne. “Their involvement and the many departments they have to make it all happen from upper management, Safety, QC, construction managers, operations and our foremen down to payroll and all the vendors and sub-contractors, make it all run like a well-oiled machine.”

Payne expressed gratitude for the dedication of the many union members who worked on the project, including “all the labor, Teamsters and operator locals that span from South Dakota to Kansas and across to Illinois, including Pipeliners Local 798, and all the business agents that send us the highest quality craftsmen to tackle a difficult job safely and on schedule.”

“Everyone and anyone involved has their name attached to this award as well,” said Payne. “It takes all of us to achieve and the craftsmanship and dedication to safety needs to be recognized.”
Since Local 798’s founding in 1949, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that pipelines across the country are constructed and maintained safely and efficiently so that Americans can continue living productive lives fueled by domestically sourced energy. A small, yet loud, fraction of the population seems determined to stop our progress by protesting the production of abundant energy, whether it is oil or natural gas. We will not sit quietly as they attempt to halt progress.

We launched the Local 798 American Action Network to provide a platform for our members and supporters to learn about critical projects, mobilize, and take supportive action. I am happy to report that nearly 1,169 members have joined the Action Network and are advocating for pipeline projects. One of the most exciting aspects of the Action Network is that it integrates all forms of contact, online and off, in one place. For example, most projects featured on the website have a petition that users can easily sign. Using this tool, we recently collected over 923 petitions to send to Governor Wolf of Pennsylvania urging him to support the Atlantic Sunrise Expansion Project. We have also tallied approximately 843 petitions in support of Rover Pipeline and 606 for Nexus Pipeline, among others. This is exactly the kind of advocacy we need to promote these critical projects. Great job everyone!

Whether we like it or not, social media is the central platform for many opposition groups. It is critical that we embrace these outlets as well. The Local 798 Action Network makes this simple. By utilizing the Action Network, the Local 798 social media presence is the strongest it has ever been – and it’s getting stronger every day. Over 15,000 people “like” the Local 798 Facebook page, and nearly 11,000 have “liked” Facebook posts we have shared. This is very important to how we get the job done on the ground, as your social activity has a great influence over friends or family who may be ignorant about our projects and the benefits of pipelines.

I see tremendous potential in our Twitter presence, as well. If you have a Twitter account, follow us! Twitter is an effective tool for sharing short messages, project updates and petitions. We post project updates, industry news or action opportunities every day.

If you haven’t already, take a moment to join the Action Network. Explore the opportunities to stand with Local 798 and make your voice heard.

Together, we will continue to be the most effective stewards for advancing pipeline construction and sharing the tremendous benefits that result – millions of Union jobs, billions of dollars in revenue for the regions these facilities intersect and further steps towards American energy independence.
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.

Samantha Jae Christensen is the daughter of Grant and Devon Christensen and the granddaughter of Grant Sample. She graduated from Jefferson City High School in May 2014. She currently attends the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, studying strategic communication with an emphasis in art direction.

She currently serves as the president of Mizzou Collegiate Scholars (MCS), an honors society that provides service opportunities within the city of Columbia to Mizzou students. She volunteers regularly through MCS and through the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center located on the MU campus. She briefly studied abroad in Europe in January 2016 and has been accepted to participate in a Global Service opportunity in Peru through the MU Office of Service-Learning this summer. Currently she works as a Student Marketing Assistant for the MU Cambio Center and helps organize its annual Cambio de Colores Conference.

This summer she would like to either participate in the Global Service opportunity in Peru, or work as an advertising or marketing intern in a city besides Columbia. Long term, she wants to pursue a career in which she can creatively use her graphic design and/or video production skills, preferably in the field of advertising or strategic communications.

Aimee Elliott graduated summa cum laude from the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) with a Bachelor of Science degree in speech-language pathology. She continued her graduate studies at ULM to obtain a Master of Science degree in the same field, where she currently holds a 4.0 GPA. Aimee was a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS), the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and the National Student Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) throughout her undergraduate career. Furthermore, she was nominated by instructors within the Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) department to serve as the NSSLHA officer while attending graduate school. Aimee contributed much of her time volunteering to serve the community in affiliation with ULM’s SLP program by helping to plan and organize events for clients who attend ULM’s Kitty DeGree Speech and Hearing Center, as well as promoting wellness regarding speech, language, and hearing, in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and various health fairs. Her plans are to dedicate her time to working as an SLP in the medical field, specifically with the adult population, to help them with their communicative, cognitive, and/or swallowing needs to improve their quality of life. She aims specifically with the adult population, to help them with their communicative, cognitive, and/or swallowing needs to improve their quality of life. She aims

Corey Johnson is the son of James Johnson, Local 798 Journeyman Spacer, and Cynthia Johnson. He is also the grandson of the late Jerry Anderson, Local 798 Welder, and brother of Harley Johnson, Local 798 Helper. Corey was initiated in Local 798 in August 2013 as a Helper. He is currently attending Duquesne University School of Law, where he is a member of the Corporate Law Society and the Sports and Entertainment Law Society. He is pursuing a corporate law or business law concentration. In 2016, he graduated from West Virginia University cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in finance. While attending West Virginia University, he was a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and was consistently on the Dean’s List.

Hannah Merrell is the daughter of Spencer Merrell, a 40-year Welder member, and the granddaughter of Vernon Merrell, a 58-year Welder member. She attended Searcy High School where she graduated in 2013 with honors and was actively involved in various honor societies. She is a senior at Arkansas State University studying elementary education. During her time at ASU she has maintained a 3.6 GPA and been active in the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Teacher Education Program, and the children’s ministry at her church. After graduation in May, she plans to begin a career as a certified K-6 teacher.

Violet Newell is the 21-year-old daughter of Cheryl and Carlton Newell, a 29-year Helper member, from Stephenville, TX. She is a senior social work major at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. Violet’s hobbies include reading and writing. She is the risk management officer for Tarleton’s Student Social Work Association. She is also a member of Sigma Alpha Pi National Honor Society of Leadership and Success, and the Zeta chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society. Violet plans to earn her master’s degree in social work after graduation. She then desires to work with individuals and families in a counseling position.
President's Leadership Class. She is also an active member in SOSU's Stu-Roll for receiving a 4.0 GPA. Olivia is currently a member of the 2016-2017 Honor Society.

Hannah White is currently an undergraduate student attending Emmanuel College in Boston, MA. She plans on majoring in English: Writing and Literature and going on to graduate school to obtain a doctoral degree in literature. She hopes to become a professor of literature at a university and publish her own works.

Harry Faucett, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Winner

Tyler L. Childs is the son of Welder member Tommy Childs and Helper member Natalie Childs. Throughout his undergraduate career at Henderson State University, he participated in various clubs and organizations including Biology Club, Spanish Club, Chemistry Club, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, and Student Government Association. He was honored to be selected to be a part of Alpha Chi Honor Society, Alpha Mu Gamma Foreign Language Honor Society, and Heart & Key Service Organization. He held various positions throughout his years at HSU, including All-Greek Council representative, vice president of Honors Hall Council, campus ambassador (tour guide), and various positions within his fraternity (junior marshal, vice president of recruitment, vice president of programming, and president). He spent most of his time volunteering and participating in community service events with the Arkadelphia Humane Society, Perrit Elementary School, Arkadelphia Boys and Girls Club, and Arkansas Children's Hospital. He was involved in two research projects, one of which was published for the discovery of the first documented reports of endocrinology, and dermatology. He lives with his fiancé, Katy, and their 2-year-old son, Sawyer. His hardworking parents are his biggest role models and always inspire him to stay dedicated and fulfill his dreams.
Short Term Disability Benefits
The short-term disability benefit is payable as described in the Health and Welfare Summary Plan Description Booklet if you become Totally Disabled because of an accident or illness which occurs while covered by the Plan. To receive benefits, written notice of total disability must be submitted to PIBF within 90 days of the first day of disability. You are “Totally Disabled” when you are unable to perform any type of work because of injury or illness. However, the plan has exclusions listed in the Summary Plan Description booklet that can be found on our website at www.pibf.org, or you may also contact the Fund office for this information. If you qualify, you may receive a weekly $250 disability benefit for a maximum period of 26 weeks per disability. You can receive this benefit in addition to any workman’s compensation benefits you may be receiving.

COBRA Coverage
If you receive a COBRA notice from PIBF, the notice provides details for continuing your health insurance. If you receive a notice but have returned to work, you should consider paying the COBRA premium because the contractor has 30 days to remit hours reports to the Fund office. If you have not purchased COBRA and the hours have not been posted, your records with Blue Cross and Blue Shield and with CVS will show your coverage has lapsed. If you return to work and elect to pay COBRA, the COBRA premiums will be moved to a future month or be refunded to you for the months you gain active coverage. Paying COBRA guarantees you will have uninterrupted health coverage.

Death Benefits
PIBF pays death benefits to the person(s) listed on the PIBF census card. The 401(k) plan pays benefits of deceased members to the person(s) listed on the 401(k) beneficiary form. If no beneficiaries are listed, the PIBF and 401(k) Plans pay benefits to family members in accordance with the provisions of the plans. The ordering of benefits is as follows if the member has not designated a beneficiary:

If no valid Beneficiary has been designated, the Beneficiary will be deemed to be the Employee’s Surviving Spouse, or if none, the Employee’s Surviving child(ren); or if none, the Employee’s surviving parent(s); or if none, the Employee’s surviving sibling(s); or if none, the Employee’s estate.
I am writing this report after attending the 2017 Local 798 Steward School. It was certainly good seeing old friends and making new ones. As always it was a very good Steward School; very informative and a lot of good questions answered about our contract. The Steward School is the best thing we can have, and it’s one of the main reasons we maintain peace and harmony on the ROW.

Business Manager Danny Hendrix, Financial Secretary Wade Pilgreen, and all the Local 798 Business Agents did a fantastic job presenting and clarifying the contract. In addition, we also heard from our UA Representatives, Brothers Pat Kellet, Jim Moss, Tom Gross, David Barnett and Mike Mikich, along with many other speakers. I think this Steward School went as smooth and orderly as any I have attended. So, special thanks to Inside Guard Jerry Dale Crabtree and all the Inside Guards working with him. These members did a fantastic and very professional job.

I would like to say thank you to all our sponsors and vendors who not only showed up in support, but donated their time, money, and products to help make all this possible.

The Ladies of 798 did a great job, as usual, raising money for various charities with raffles and the annual basket auction. It has been written that “to whom much is given, much will be required” and the men and women at this Steward School showed they were more than willing to give something back. The basket auction alone raised $91,575 in about three hours for charity. This speaks volumes about the people associated with Pipeliners Local Union 798. We have been blessed with good work and the skill to perform it. Those men and women stepped up and gave unselfishly to help those in need and less fortunate than themselves. It makes me very proud to be associated with such a great group of people.

The non-union side continues to pay low wages and have deplorable working conditions. Many non-union welders and helpers have had enough of these abuses and have decided to stand up and seek union representation.

We have a lot of good work and need good qualified people to man this work. So, there will be some new people coming onboard from the non-union side. Many of these people don’t know anyone and aren’t familiar with our customs and work etiquette, but they are willing to learn. It is our responsibility as union members to welcome these members with open arms into this family. Show them the respect they deserve for standing up to the non-union side, teach them and mentor them in our ways. If you encounter a new member shake their hand, introduce yourself and make them welcome. Always create a positive image of Local 798 and organized labor so NO man or woman can ever go away and say they were treated unfairly or alienated on one of our jobs. After all that’s what we stand for, that all men and women in our industry will make a living wage with benefits and be treated with dignity and respect.

We represent pipeline Welders, Journeymen and Helpers, and our doors must always remain open to those who share the same skill and vision that we do. If we turn our back on other pipeliners who seek union representation, then we cease being a union and become more of a club. The more good hands we take from the non-union side, the harder it is for them to compete. Because as those hands take a positive message back to those still on the other side, the stronger we become and the weaker the non-union side becomes. My vision is to see all non-union workers become members of Local 798, because if that were to happen, the non-union sector would cease to exist. If that were to happen we would all be making good wages and benefits and all pipeline jobs would be union, whether it be in the Northeast or South Texas. So, if you encounter a new member, show them what true unity is all about, because we are all pipeliners. We are all Brothers and Sisters, whether our book is 30 years old or 30 days old, and we all take the same oath of obligation.

If you haven’t joined the Local 798 Action Network Site, please do that as soon as possible. It allows us to get our word out and become advocates for new work. It’s a very powerful tool and is simple to use from your phone. You can see all about it on our website and your help is needed.

If I can help anyone in any way, please do not hesitate to call. If I don’t answer please leave a message. I may be on the phone or in a no-service area. Sometimes it doesn’t show a missed call, but normally I will receive a message and will call you back as soon as possible.

If anyone has information on non-union activity please make me aware of it. It’s a big country and several sets of eyes are better than one. I hope everyone has a prosperous and safe work year, and it’s a pleasure and honor to work with and for each one of you.

Fraternally, Ronnie M. Hill

(918) 284-6862

Steward School has come and gone. The Dispatch Office was unable to attend this year. We had such a wave of orders that it was impractical to shut down and move our computers and phones.

We averaged over 30 Welders and 90 Helpers a day through the week, as well as several Journeymen a day. You will see the number of people on the list at the end of this letter. The numbers are very low. The Helpers on the list have been there 30 days or less. The Journeymen are way down also. You need to be checking with Wade Pilgreen if you have begun accumulating hours for your Journeymen’s book.

We are working travelers and selling books. It is important to man the work. The Welder list is still unusually large considering. The welding tests have been reasonable everywhere so far.

ORGANIZING REPORT

Take advantage of the opportunity at hand. All of the Business Agents have been a great help in manning this overflow of work!

Abundance!

Out-of-Work Roster Voice Mail (918) 663-3200

Position on Out-of-Work List (918) 610-2746

Jobline (918) 610-2745

Numbers on the wheel as of this writing:

Welders 549
Journeymen 37
Helpers 328

Abundance!
Thank You

Thomas J. Mitchell writes to thank all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. He is grateful for the contribution he received during a stressful time for his family. He is moved by the concern and care that has been shown to him. A special thanks to Jeremy Peters and Anthony Carswell for all their support.

June Morrison says thank you for the Voluntary Fund check she received during her family's loss.

Josh and Makayla Kelly would like to thank each one of their Brothers and Sisters for the gift from the Voluntary Fund. It was much appreciated after the truck accident.

Cody Raleigh thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. The help was greatly appreciated and makes him proud to be a member of Local 798. Special thanks to Kenny Sweetin, Jerry Wilkinson and Keith McDonald. Thanks to everyone who has texted, called, and lent a hand while he was recovering from foot surgery.

Michael and Kimberly Hawkins say thank you to everyone who was responsible for sending them a gift during Michael's recent illness. The help was greatly appreciated.

Seth James and Family would like to thank everyone who gives to the Voluntary Fund. The help received after their son's surgery was a huge blessing. They greatly appreciate their hardworking Brothers and Sisters.

Shaun Peek and Family are grateful for the Voluntary Fund check they received in their time of need. They cannot express the deep level of appreciation they have for their Local 798 family.

Dennis and Veronica Jackson take this opportunity to thank the Voluntary Fund and the members for the gift they received during Veronica's sudden illness. She is at home and expected to make a full recovery. Special thanks to Brent Harper, Todd Hartle, Charlie Yates, Jr., Wade Pilgreen, Danny Hendrix, and all the hands on the U.S. Pipeline job in St. Clairesville, OH.

Wendy Armstrong says thank you for the Bible she received in memory of her husband, Bernard Armstrong. The phone calls, cards and visits are truly appreciated. Bernie was proud to be a member of such a great union.

Frank and Nina Watt give their thanks to all who work so hard and give so freely to the Voluntary Fund. The gift was greatly appreciated! Special thanks to John Bradford, Wade Pilgreen, and Danny Hendrix.

Joe Gaines wants to thank all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the help he received after having surgery. Special thanks to Stan and Mike.

Dana Scott and Family would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the help they received after his knee replacement. They appreciate this Local and how it helps its members.

Dencil Truman sends his thanks to the generous families who donate to the Voluntary Fund for the gift he received during his wife’s cancer diagnosis. A special thank you to Rick Taylor.

Cheryl Moore says thank you to all her Brothers and Sisters who give to the Voluntary Fund. An extra thank you to Sam Jacks and Wade Pilgreen.

Mike Smith would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the check he received after his surgery. Special thanks to Josh and Zack Dodson.

Donna Usry deeply appreciates the care and concern she received after the passing of her husband, Edell Usry. She also says thank you for the beautiful Bible and cards that were sent in his memory. She will cherish them always. Also, a big thank you to Mark Usery for the contribution he made to the Voluntary Fund in memory of Edell.

John and Peggy Williams want to thank all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the check they received when Peggy had her kidney removed. The recovery is slow, but she is improving every day. Special thanks to Ricky Jones, Danny Hendrix and Wade Pilgreen.

Michael and Robin Fessenden, in memory of Kathryn Green, would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. The gift they received was greatly appreciated. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Brandon Ricketts and Family wish to thank everyone for the Voluntary Fund gift they received. It will help more than you know, and they greatly appreciate it!

Richard Johnson and Family thank all the Brothers and Sisters for the help they received in their time of need. Treva has made the list for a lung transplant at Oshners in New Orleans, LA. They are just waiting on the phone call. Your prayers are appreciated.

Don and Linda Armstrong would like to thank the Voluntary Fund for the help they received during their time of loss.

Gene Bunn and Family say thank you to everyone for the check received during his illness. He has been retired 14 years and is blessed this organization still cares for its members after all that time. He is proud to be a member of Local 798. Special thanks to Wayne Causey and Black Schroeder.

James Allen expresses his heartfelt gratitude to the Brothers and Sisters who faithfully support the Voluntary Fund for the help he received after his recent unexpected heart procedure.

Pat Cunningham and Family would like to say thank you for the check they received after their daughter’s recent foot surgery. She is healing and getting better every day. They especially thank Ronnie Evans, Benny Qualls, Lorenzo Trujillo, Patty Trujillo, Josh Smith, and all the other Brothers and Sisters who contribute and have helped during their time of need.

Glenda Sonnier sends her thanks to all who give to the Voluntary Fund, with a special thank you to Ricky and Devon Gallagher, and all of her coworkers on the Price Gregory job in Ocala, FL. She sincerely appreciates those who came to the hospital to check on her.

Stanley Chapman writes to say thank you to the Voluntary Fund and everyone who contributes each week. The funds he received after his back surgery were greatly appreciated. A very special thanks to Dana Scott.

George Stephens, Jr. says thank you so much for the generous check he recently received from the Voluntary Fund. Thanks to all who contribute. A special thanks to William Choate.

Neb Headings expresses his sincere thanks to the Voluntary Fund for the donation he received after his recent shoulder surgery. A special thanks to John Knight and all the 798 Brothers and Sisters who contribute to it.

Jimmy and Debbie Bellew would like to thank everyone who donates to the Voluntary Fund for the help they received after Debbie’s stay in the hospital. Special thanks to Black Schroeder, Charlie Beddingfield, and Richie Hays.

Karl Kindle appreciates the help he received recently when he was unable to work. Special thanks to Doug Roman, Nick Sample, John White, and Guy Sims.

Rodger Roberts and Family send their deepest appreciation to all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The contribution from the Voluntary Fund was greatly appreciated after his surgery and hospital stay.

Joe Rombo thanks his Brothers and Sisters for the gift he received from the Voluntary Fund.

IN MEMORIAM

W.F. “Ferrell” Williams, 74-year-old Retired Welder of Tenaha, TX, passed away January 19, 2017.


J.L. Freeman, 75-year-old Retired Journeyman Spacer of Shawnee, OK, passed away on February 9, 2017.


Richard Ethington, 89-year-old Retired Welder of Shirley, AR, passed away on February 18, 2017.

Carl B. Cornett, 88-year-old Retired Welder of Odessa, TX, passed away on February 27, 2017.

Charles Short, 86-year-old Retired Welder of Minden, LA, passed away on February 28, 2017.


J.W. Cox, 82-year-old Retired Helper of Quitman, MS, passed away March 30, 2017.

Fan quits try spinning it with air @ 40psi.

**Welder Hats** - Tall/Short Crown, Reversible and Non-Reversible. Custom Caps. Licensed fabrics available. $12-$14 each plus shipping. FR Digital Camouflage Non-Reversible - $15 plus shipping. Embroidery $1 per letter. Call or text Carol at (970) 420-0199 or e-mail: CJW19290@AOL.COM. CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

**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.

2016 F-350 4-Wheel Drive Quad Cab. 6.0 Liter Diesel with 165,360 miles. Motor has been bulletproofed. Bed-helper friendly.

2002 Lincoln 300 D Welding Machine. 6,260 hours. Dually pickup bed with it. Welding leads, rheostat box and cord, cutting hose, hand torch, gauges. $30,000. Call Wayne (662) 820-4292. Pictures can be sent.

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


**The Hood Fan** ... it cools and defogs. Easy install. $33 pp. Contact (801) 634-9063 (if your

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**Featured Personnel**

**Rebecca Mages** came to Local 798 in June 2016 after working in Collections and Call Center Management. She lives in Broken Arrow, OK, with her husband of 25 years, and two beautiful daughters, Gayle (a senior in Oklahoma State University’s pre-veterinary program) and Amanda (a senior at Broken Arrow High School). Rebecca’s job responsibilities include the Voluntary Fund and membership services including processing new initiates, class changes, transfers, honorable/military withdrawals, and resignations. She considers herself very blessed to work for such a fantastic organization with wonderful coworkers and members.

**Jennifer Sanders-Musick** began her career at Local 798 in the Dispatch office in June of 2016. She lives in Bixby, OK, with her beautiful daughter, Bailey, and their fur babies - Buddy, Bruno, and Call. Jennifer enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her family and friends going camping, fishing and hunting. She also enjoys and has a strong passion for helping others. Jennifer feels blessed to have the opportunity to work for Local 798 and is very excited about getting to know each and every one of you.

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**Featured Personnel**
798 Featured Products

**CAPS**
- Knitted Cap – Black
  - Item #102 / $6.00
- Camo Summer Cap
  - Item #101-C / $14.00
- Charcoal Gray Cap w/ Pic of Welder
  - Item #101-W / $17.00

**T-SHIRTS**
- Remember the Sacrifice Short Sleeved T-Shirt
  - Item #115-D / $12.00 (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL)
- Navy Polo Shirt
  - Item #117-P / $29.00 (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL)
- White T-Shirt w/ Embroidery Logo
  - Item #115-C / $12.00 (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL)

**JACKETS**
- Navy Hoodie with Zipper
  - Item #116-Z / $33.00 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)
- Pullover Windshirt w/ Pockets Bone Color
  - Item #207 / $57.00 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)
- Local 798 Carhartt Navy Blue Jacket with Hood
  - Item #140 / $77.00 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)

**MISCELLANEOUS**
- Local 798 Logo Knife
  - Item #139 / $5.00
- 798 Trailer Hitch Cover
  - Item #131 / $3.00
- Cordless Charger
  - Item #105 / $10.00

More products available online at www.local798.org and by calling (918) 622-1900