

BLUE LIGHT REPORTS

November/December 2019

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

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

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**Financial Secretary- Treasurer**Justin Wallace

**President**Preston Ri'chard

Vice President
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**Recording Secretary**Guy Williams

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**Executive Board**Charlie Garrett
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David Butterworth
Jerry "Dale" Crabtree, Jr.
Justin Head
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# Business Manager's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As PIBF Co-Chairman, I am proud to announce an accrual increase for the Welders, Journeymen, and Helpers. *The Journeymen rate increased from \$205 to \$220, and the Helpers increased from \$136 to \$146 per credit. Additionally, retired members will enjoy a five percent increase in their monthly amount. After the pension raises were calculated, the fund is still at 110.8 percent!* To those of you that are looking forward to retirement, this accrual raise on 40 credit years means an additional \$600 for Journeymen and \$400 for Helpers per month. To put it in perspective, 13 years ago, the accruals were at \$75 and \$50 per credit.

By the time this report reaches you, summer will be a thing of the past, but the work outlook still looks promising going into 2020. We have been truly blessed for over a decade. Just like you, I am disappointed that our man-hours have not met our expectations this year. At the end of September, we have worked nearly 5.6 million man-hours with three more months until the year ends. Our union contractors are actively bidding several large diameter projects in Texas and Louisiana, and if successful, they could start in the last quarter of 2019. I wish every year could be record-setting, but that's just not reality. We need to continue our advocacy on the Action Network. Please, when you see an action, take a few seconds to fill it out and send it back. The relationships with the clients are working to our advantage, and the action you support could be your next project.

Our state-of-the-art Training Center and its knowledgeable staff can broaden your skill sets to afford you opportunities to work building trades until the work picks up. The UA has many jobs that they struggle to man with skilled craftsmen. Typically, our sister locals are looking for Tig Welders first and foremost, but Low Hydrogen Stick Rod Welders are needed as well. This training is open for Welders, Journeymen, and Helpers. I understand we all would rather pipeline. But when the work is slow, we need to be able to provide for our families, and the building trades are a great way to do so.

As of late, some of the members, out of desperation, have turned back to working nonunion. *Every 798 member takes an oath of obligation and makes a pledge to uphold that oath. If you can't be that person or honor your promise, then resign. PERIOD.* We can respect that. What we can't respect is you hiding and sneaking around working nonunion. That, my friends, is the true definition of a rat; it is not the pipeliner that never took the oath. Neither 798 nor the nonunion have respect for those that try to cheat and work both sides. Be bold, stand for something.

I want to remind everyone that your election ballot has mailed. Please do your part as a member and vote for your choice of candidates.

I want to wish everyone a great Thanksgiving, and an early Merry Christmas!

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

Fraternally,

Daniel C. Hendrix Business Manager



# Financial Secretary -Treasurer's Report

Brothers and Sisters,

2019 is rapidly coming to a close. If this year has taught us anything, it's that we must be prepared to fight for every mile of pipeline that we get to lay. There has been some good news recently on permits with a few projects. The Constitution Pipeline is 125 miles of 30" that had initially been granted the necessary FERC permit in 2014. However, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation then denied the project's Section 401 Water Quality Certification. In August of this year, FERC found that the NYSDEC failed to act in a timely manner. This puts the Constitution Pipeline back into play. Also, FERC approved the Tallgrass Cheyenne Connector Pipeline on September 19. The project was approved with a 2-1 vote, with the two Republicans voting in favor, and the lone Democrat voting against. This is the approximately 70 miles of 36" that Hanging H is set to do around Greeley, Colorado.

Precision Pipeline has begun work on the 88.5 miles of 24" near Hico, Texas, for Energy Transfer. This job was secured using the Market Recovery package. Price Gregory has also started construction on 19.2 miles of 20" near Sherrills Ford, North Carolina, that was also picked up with the Market Recovery. It is exciting to see our union contractors getting back into these markets that our nonunion competitors have had the lion's share of while we've been busy on the big projects. The Line 3 Replacement project received good news in September from the Minnesota Supreme Court. The Court denied the petitions for reconsideration of the project's Environmental Impact Study. The Public Utilities Commission then unanimously voted to ask the Commerce Department to conduct further analysis and report back within 60 days. This fight is not over, but progress is being made. Any time there are public meetings with these commissions, we have representation there. Thank you to all of you that answer the call when we ask for a turnout at these important meetings. Our Business Agents and Organizers always attend these public meetings, and I can tell you that they are always relieved when the membership turns out for support. It makes getting up and speaking on behalf of these projects a little easier with friendly faces in the room. It also shows the voting members of these commissions that we are just as engaged and passionate as the people who want to stop these projects. We've got to keep advocating, and I am grateful that our membership is all in.

Approximately 170 Local 798 members attended the September Membership Meeting. The union hall is where you get to hear the reports of the committees, appropriations of money, and business of Pipeliners Local Union 798. *This is where we do business, NOT on social media!* As I reported at the membership meeting, Local 798's finances continue to be in great shape. The cost basis of the Local 798 General Fund on August 31, 2019, was over \$123.5 million, and the cost basis of the Pipeliners Voluntary Fund was just over \$5 million. The pension, health and welfare, and 401(k) funds also continue to be in fantastic shape. As of July 31, 2019, the Pension Fund stood at \$1.284 billion, and the Health and Welfare Fund was at \$72 million. Today, the Pipeliners 401(k) Fund has a market value of \$319.3 million. Business Manager Danny Hendrix also reported the pension raises that were approved by the Board of Trustees. Retirees' pensions and active members' accrual rates have come a long way in the last several years. We are truly blessed in this regard.

As everyone is probably aware, this is an election year for Pipeliners Local 798. Ballots were mailed to all eligible Local 798 members on Wednesday, October 23, 2019. To be eligible to vote, you must be a member of the United Association and Local 798 in good standing for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the election (October 16, 2019). Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within one year immediately prior to the date of the election shall not be eligible to vote. There is an Election Notice posted on the website that you can refer to for all details pertaining to the election. If you are an eligible voter, take advantage of that fact and participate in the direction of your local union.

If there is ever anything that I can help you with, please don't hesitate to call on me. As always, I am proud to serve the membership of Pipeliners Local Union 798!

Fraternally,

Justin Wallace

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

# Business Agent Reports





# Jerry Dale Crabtree, Jr.

By the time you read this report, you should have already received your election ballot in the mail. So, take the time to fill it out and get it returned. It was great seeing all the participation in the nominations process, and I encourage all our membership to make sure to participate in the voting process as well. It is always a pleasure to visit with everyone at our meetings. It was amazing to see all the passion and pride expressed by our membership at our September meeting.

Work is still very slow in my jurisdiction. I wish I had a more positive outlook to share, but for now that is about as honest as it gets. I appreciate all of you that have contacted me for work. Although I could not help you at the time, I enjoyed getting the opportunity to visit with you one-on-one.

Please remember that there is still plenty of building trades work out there to keep a person busy. Pick up the phone and call dispatch. Our work ethic and attitude are a direct reflection on our local as a whole, so be mindful at all times that we are a brotherhood of excellence.

I hope everyone will make plans to attend the December meeting. Our meetings are the best opportunity to gain knowledge, share opinions and ideas, and socialize with fellow Brothers and Sisters.

In closing, remember that I am here to serve YOU, so do not hesitate to call me at 918-991-5341. I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. May your families be blessed with good health and an abundance of love. God bless each one of you, and God bless this great local.

#### Pre-Jobs:

#### Double D Pipeline Services:

- Tuscumbia, AL. 1,000' of 6" new-lay. Gas Company: Russellville Gas Board. Job Steward: Jimmy L. Davis III. Special agreement rates.
- Tuscumbia, AL. Emergency call-out, various amounts of small inch pipe, and fabrication. Gas Company: Various gas companies. Job Steward: Jimmy L. Davis III.

#### Foltz Welding Ltd:

 Multiple States. Install fabrication at four stations and assist with a mainline nitrogen purge. Gas Company: Marathon Pipeline. Job Steward: Brent Harper.



AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT, WY 918-270-6736

# Justin Head

By the time you read this report, I hope that construction on the Cheyenne Connector project will be underway. Since my last report, we were waiting on a decision from FERC to grant a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. It was passed by a 2-1 vote in the last commission meeting on September 19. My last follow-up found that FERC had a few questions, and if they are answered in a timely manner, everything should be moving forward. Just a reminder, this is a Market Recovery job. Market Recovery is being utilized in areas where we have lost a strong foothold on the work. For Market Recovery to be successful, we must show up to these jobs with a positive attitude and show that we are more qualified and more productive.

I believe I still have a few smaller projects coming up in my jurisdiction. I have been working on getting contractors to bid work in New Mexico, particularly the Permian Basin. I believe once we have a contractor or two in the area, we can be competitive. I am fairly certain it will take Market Recovery wages to do so. Our contractors must compete with outfits that have been bedded down for years and have hands that are willing to work for sub-standard wages and no benefits. I've had some contractors bidding work in Nevada also. However, the Cheyenne Connector is going to be the only project I see coming up that will pull members from the wheel.

As a reminder, we do have another election coming up. You should have your ballots by the time you read this report. Voting is our voice, and to make your voice heard, fill it out and send it in. If you are unfamiliar with the candidates, talk to someone you trust that may know so you can make informed decisions. In closing, I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. As always, "Work Safe and Work Union."

#### Pre-Jobs:

#### Michels Pipeline:

- Casper, WY. Install metering and sampling equipment and piping for new Lateral for Enbridge. Superintendent: Matt Ross. Welder Foreman: Joel Mills. Station agreement paying high scale.
   6-10s. Approx. completion 11-20-19.
- Sheridan, WY. 1,800′ 8″ directional drills for Phillips 66. Superintendent: Ray Healy. Integrity Maintenance. 90% Rates. Approx. completion 9-13-19.

#### Hanging H Companies, LLC:

 Evanston, WY. 43, 20" Anomaly digs for Dominion Questar.
 Superintendent: Rick Melroy. Welder Foreman: Eddie Gumpert. Integrity Maintenance working 6-10s. Approx. completion 11-1-19.



AR, IA, KS, MN, MO, MT, NE, ND, OK, SD 918-606-9459

# Phillip Wallace

I write this Blue Light report after returning from a hearing at the Minnesota State Senate Building in St. Paul, Minnesota about the Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project, The Minnesota Public Utility Commission voted unanimously to include the Superior Lake Watershed into the Environmental Impact Study for the next 60 days. This was a decision by the PUC that puts the Line 3 closer to construction, providing many jobs that our members need so badly. Supporters outnumbered the opposition 10 to 1. Organized labor was well represented by all four crafts along with the group, Jobs for Minnesotans. There were also some contractor representatives lined up outside the State Senate Building several hours before the doors were open to the public. Thank you to the 798 members that took the time to show up in support of this battle for the jobs Line 3 will create. It makes a significant impact on the decisions the Minnesota Public Utility Commissioners make when the room is filled with unemployed pipeline workers. After the Minnesota Supreme Court rejected the protesters' request to stop this pipeline this past summer, we're getting closer to kickoff. The sad part of this battle is the fact that the opposition is not just fighting against this pipeline; they are against all pipelines. I can't imagine what life would be without pipelines for our everyday life.

The Integrity Maintenance work in my area is still going strong, with around 54 jobs currently underway since the first of October. Like I say in every Blue Light Report, these are good jobs that don't have more than one to four Welders and Helpers employed for three to six weeks. The Welders that do this work have to be well rounded and have to have in-service Low Hydrogen welding skills. You also must be able to fabricate from a blueprint and take field measurements. You will be required to fabricate, hydro or nitrogen test, weld stopples on the hot line, complete the tie in, and do bolt up and torque. This type of work is not for everybody, but the ones that do it may work on four or five different jobs per year but tend to stay busy.

It seems like every time I make a prediction for starting construction on these big projects, like the Line 3 and the Keystone XL, the environmentalists and the politicians shoot the permits down. So, I will say I expect these two projects to have our members working in 2020. If it doesn't come true, it will not be the fault of your Business Manager or the officers of this great Local Union 798. Contrary to the thoughts on social media that accuse this current administration of being responsible for their own shortcomings. It will be the politicians that take your jobs away from you and your family. So, make good choices when voting for 798 leadership and the leadership of our country.

This membership needs to pull together to survive what the future will bring to this local and this country. So never forget, United We Stand, Divided We Fall.

#### Pre-Jobs:

#### Intercon Construction, Inc.:

- Johnson, NE. 4.4 miles of 6" & 2.2 Miles of 4" for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Brandon Duffy. Welder Foreman: Patrick Welder. Steward: John Whitten.
- Kanopolis, KS. 24 Integrity Digs for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Carl Bubolz. Welder Foreman: George Kingsland. Steward: Clyde Smith, Jr.

#### Michels Pipeline:

Nickerson, NE. Farm Tap Relocates for Northern Natural Gas.
 Superintendent: Mike Westley. Welder Foreman: Isaiah Hamilton.
 Steward: Jackie Drywater.

#### Minnesota Limited, Inc.:

- Cunningham, KS. Replace Bullet Tanks and Piping for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Jason Sanders. Welder Foreman: Joshua Setzer. Steward: Zack Holmen.
- Earlville, IA. Station Upgrade for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Jason Sanders. Welder Foreman: Carl Jurgansen. Steward: Brian Straight.

#### Charps, LLC:

- Emerson, NE. 2 Miles of 6" for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Brandon Olson. Welder Foreman: Steven Downer. Steward: Thomas Langley.
- Hibbing, MN. TBS Demo and Rebuild for Northern Natural Gas.
   Superintendent: Matt Sandland. Welder Foreman: Richard Chancey.
   Steward: Shane Kramer.

#### United Piping, Inc.:

- Spirit Lake, IA. 7,017' of 6" HDD for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Heath Beckstrom. Welder Foreman: Cody Cooper. Steward: Andy Bacon.

#### Q3 Contracting:

- Sioux City, IA. 2,300' of 16" HDD for Mid America. Superintendent: Andrew Jeske. Welder Foreman: Levi Bottelson. Steward: Donavan Ouam.

#### Midwestern Contractors:

Ogden, IA. Station Upgrade for Northern Natural Gas.
 Superintendent: Ryan Kramarsic. Welder Foreman: David Pawloski.
 Steward: Guy Simms.



918-633-3435



## Black Schroeder

I have just returned from CRC in Houston, visiting the hands working for Price Gregory and Michels Pipeline. They are running procedures for Enterprise and Exxon Mobil. The word I got at CRC is that we have several contractors bidding the 600 miles of 36" for Enterprise in Texas that runs from Wink to Webster. There are seven spreads being bid, and they want to start in November. Hopefully, by the time you read this report, we will know if our contractors have been successful or not.

Most of the jobs in Texas are starting to wind down, and some are already complete. Michels picked up some directional drills around Houston, Texas, but at this time, I do not have a starting date. Rumors are going around about several other jobs that have gone to fair contractors, possibly starting sometime in languary

Again, my wife and I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all our 798 family, UA family, and our friends for the phone calls, text, cards, and most importantly all the prayers. Tuffy is on the road to recovery, and we are making forward steps every day that are all positive. We still have a long, hard road ahead of us, but with the help and love of the Lord and all of you, we are going to beat this. There are a lot of phone calls I never got a chance to return, and I do apologize. If you are trying to reach me, please leave a message or text me, I will get in touch with you as soon as I can. My cell phone number is 918-633-3435.

This is the last Blue Light report in 2019, so I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. May GOD BLESS!

#### Pre-Jobs:

#### Price Gregory International:

- CRC Houston, TX. Run procedures for Enterprise Pipeline. Superintendent: Kirk Kirkland. Welder Foreman: Jamie Hankins. Working 6-10s. Mainline rates. Job complete.

#### Precision Pipeline:

 Hico, TX. 88.5 miles of 24" Mainline for Energy Transfer (Lonestar Express II). Superintendent: Kevin Olerud. Welder Forman: Tim Gintz. Working 6-10s. Market Recovery Target Project. Started 9-23-19. Completion 12-25-19.

#### Michels Pipeline:

- CRC Houston, TX. Run procedures for Exxon Mobil HDD drills.
 Superintendent: Buddy Kevin. Welder Foreman: Lee Allen. Working
 6-10s. Market Recovery Target Project. Started 9-16-19. Completion:
 10-5-19.





# Charles Yates, Jr.

We are now in the last quarter of 2019. Pipeline work has been significantly slower than we've grown accustomed to in the last few years. Fortunately, the building trades sector has increased demand for a skilled workforce. Our Local 798 leadership has worked closely with our sister locals in fulfilling manpower needs in addition to our own pipeline projects. For example, one such relationship we have is with UA Local 776. Recently, I spent time with Local Union 776 representatives in Lima, Ohio, and toured their new training facility. Developing these bonds is crucial to organized labor within our industry. We appreciate that all our sister locals have opened their doors to allow our members opportunities to earn fair wages and benefits. These jobs require background checks and OSHA 10 certification as well as other certifications specific to the job description. Our dispatch office can assist with this process. Keep in mind, if you are hired out to any building trades work, you represent Local 798 and the United Association. Carry yourself respectfully as you are a quest in someone else's home. A good quest arrives on time, avoids gossip, has excellent attendance, lends a hand, and follows instructions. Always respect craft jurisdiction. This work has been a blessing for many. Let's all be thankful for it.

The annual Ohio/West Virginia Pipe Trades Conference in Roanoke, West Virginia, provided valuable connections and information. The Dilles Bottom, Ohio, cracker plant broke ground and is projected to be almost twice the size of the Shell Petro Chemical Complex currently under construction in western Pennsylvania. Dilles Bottom will be the second-largest facility in the United States. The TransCanada-Columbia Gas Buckeye Express project is still scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2020.

The best way to maximize your professional development is to attend regular membership meetings. Gathering in real time promotes the experience to share a common goal, network, and collaborate. At our September meeting, we accepted nominations for the December election. Details of the approved changes to our benefits package were also presented. We received significant pension increases, HRA will continue for 2020, and retirees will receive a five percent raise. Thank you to both Danny Hendrix and Justin Wallace for always having the best interest of the membership, especially when going into trustee meetings or negotiations.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all. In every season, your union works on your behalf, and its success depends on everyone making a conscious effort to preserve, protect, and participate. 2020 could shape up to be a great year if permits are granted to several projects. Please be diligent in using our Action Network. We must continue to advocate and fight for our work. Visit action.local798.org for an updated list of projects. Let's all stand together every day to remain UNION STRONG.

As always, if I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

#### Pre-Jobs:

#### Alex E. Paris Contracting Co., Inc.:

- Jefferson County, OH. 1.8 miles of 12" lateral and fabrication for Mark West. Superintendent: Andy Cilia. Welder Foreman: Robert Bell. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 10-15-19.

#### Charps, LLC:

- Manistee, MI. Maintenance on 176 miles of (10", 12", 16") pipe for Major Pipeline. Superintendent: Daniel Bendickson. Welder Foreman: Tanner Dremmel. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10-1-19.
- Ithaca, MI. 16 miles of 6" with 2 HDD's for Major Pipeline. Superintendent: Pete O'Toole. Welder Foreman: Steven Downer. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

#### Foltz Welding Ltd.:

- Gibson County, IN. 20" Wabash River tie-ins for Marathon Pipeline.
   Superintendent: Jeff Huffman. Welder Foreman: James Adams.
   Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- St. Joseph County, IN. 1.3 miles of 12" and 450' of 12" for NiSource. Superintendent: Joe Pennington. Welder Foreman: Oliver Frazier. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 10-3-19.

#### Geeding Construction, Inc.:

 Toledo, OH. 10" cut-outs Buckeye. Superintendent: Greg Geeding. Welder Foreman: Steve Miller. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

#### Henkels & McCoy, Inc.:

- Northville, MI. Hydrostatic test of 5.4 miles of 16" for Consumers Energy. Superintendent: Gordon Donnelly. Welder Foreman: Gary Mullin. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10-20-19.
- Northville, MI. Replace high pressure PLD for Consumers Energy.
   Superintendent: Greg Skerig. Welder Foreman: Steve Birgy.
   Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10-26-19.

#### Michels Pipeline:

- Bessemer, MI. 16" integrity digs for Northern Natural.
   Superintendent: Scott Battisti. Welder Foreman: Scott Willey.
   Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10-4-19.
- Canton, OH. Approximately 2,200' of 36" for Enbridge.
   Superintendent: Gordon Cameron. Welder Foreman: James Bellinghausen. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 11-23-19.

#### Minnesota Limited, Inc.:

- Detroit, MI. 10" tie-ins on the Detroit River for Kinder Morgan. Superintendent: Dwayne Carlson. Welder Foreman: Jerad Lene. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Crystal Falls, MI. Take-up and relay approx. 2,000' of 36" for TransCanada. Superintendent: Greg Merschman. Welder Foreman: Jason Slaby. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10-19-19.
- Shelbyville, IN. Station installation, various pipe sizes 6"-16" for Vectren. Superintendent: Presto Steenbergen. Welder Foreman: Cody Dye. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10-10-19.
- Evansville, IN. Maintenance work on various pipe sizes for Vectren. Superintendent: Greg Frazier. Welder Foreman: Jim Tyson. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10-31-19.

#### M.J. Electric, LLC:

- Iron Mountain, MI. Instrumentation work on meter station for Semco Energy. Superintendent: Richard Usimaki. Working 4-10s. Approx. completion 11-16-19.

#### NPL Construction Co.:

- South Roanoke, IN. 20" and 6" station repair for NIPSCO. Superintendent: Nick Sturwold. Welder Foreman: Jay Lindley. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Decatur, IN. Set and hook-up heater in station for NIPSCO.
   Superintendent: Nick Sturwold. Welder Foreman: Mark Antczak.
   Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 10-6-19.

#### R.L. Morris & Sons:

 - Kalkaska, MI. 24" integrity work for DTE. Superintendent: Tyler Morris. Welder Foreman: Blaine Cecil. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 10-1-19.

#### The State Group Industrial USA Limited:

 Lima, OH. 40' of ½" instrumentation tubing for Geeding Construction. Superintendent: Guy Carlson. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

#### United Piping, Inc.:

- Shelby Township, MI. Gas bolt-ups and inspection on 20" pipeline for

WE Energy. Superintendent: Joel Bailer. Welder Foreman: Tommy Morgan. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

- Marquette, MI. Metering station fabrication plus hot taps for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Tim Darif. Welder Foreman: Jason Gillenwater. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-2-19.



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

# David Butterworth



I am writing this report after visiting jobs in the Wheeling, West Virginia, area. The jobs I visited were on small and medium-sized gathering line work. On projects like this, our fair contractors are competing against the nonunion from the bidding process until the completion. We must recognize how important productivity and safety are to gain our contractors a competitive edge. On all jobs visited, the clients are happy and are going to continue to award us the work if we continue performing better than the competition. The big named projects are currently stalled due to radical environmentalism. It's crucial for us to gain the gathering line market share by showcasing our exemplary work ethic and professionalism.

I mentioned the big named projects and will expand on what I'm hearing about them. The Mountain Valley Pipeline spreads in West Virginia are much further along than the MVP spreads in Virginia. Only five miles of pipe were laid this year in Virginia. Most of the pipe is laid in West Virginia, but the tie-in crews are waiting on wetland permits so they can continue. I don't think any more MVP mainline will be laid in Virginia in 2019.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline recently received word that the United States Supreme Court will hear Dominion's argument, which states that the U.S. Forest Service does have the authority to grant permits that allow the pipeline to cross the Appalachian Trail. The argument will be heard in the spring, and a ruling could be handed down by June 2020. This is great news for Dominion, Local 798, and the pipeline industry as a whole.

Once again, I traveled to Richmond, Virginia, to attend and speak at a Virginia Water Board hearing related to the MVP. The Virginia Water Board ruled the same way they did in February. Much to the disappointment of the environmentalists in attendance, they reiterated they have no authority to revoke the MVP permits. The environmentalists are not giving up in their attempt to stop the MVP, and I don't think they ever will. We must not give up our fight and do whatever we can to get the project built. If you have a chance to attend town hall meetings, then you need to attend. If you have an opportunity to sign petitions via the Action Network, then you need to sign them. Your jobs and your livelihoods literally depend on it.

I also attended the Ohio/West Virginia Pipe Trades Conference with Charlie Yates. At this conference, we reinforced current relationships and formed new ones with many of the building trades locals in our respective jurisdictions. At this time, the building trades have plenty of work, and we need to upgrade our skills so we can help them man the jobs. There are times when we don't get the opportunity to work on building trades jobs. We need to seize the moment showing up for work on time, sober, and willing to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. If we can do that, we can ride out the hard times and receive benefits when doing so.

In closing, we have an election coming up, and I challenge everyone to get out and vote in this election. It's your right, and it's your obligation as a union member.

#### Pre-Jobs:

#### Napp-Grecco Company:

- Conowingo, MD. Station pump removals and removal of 30" mainline pump piping. Superintendent: Anthony Russomano. Welder Foreman: Josh Nichols. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s.

#### Otis Eastern Service, Inc.:

- Blossburg, PA. Install 6.5 miles of 12", 10", 8" and 6" new-lay. Superintendent: Danny Cox. Welder Foreman: Dave Marsh. Special Agreement fringes paying Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.
- Leesburg, VA. 2,100' of 30" replacement and fab install. Superintendent: Brad Moline. Welder Foreman: Brad Hall. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.
- Glen Dale, WV. 19,980' each of 12", 10" and 4" new-lay. Superintendent: Matt Holley. Welder Foreman: Ryan Copley. Special Agreement fringes paying Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.
- Hagerstown, MD. 3 miles of 30" hydro-testing. Superintendent: Matt Holley. Welder Foreman: Anthony Stone. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.

#### Overcash, LLC:

 New Martinsville, WV. 3.52 miles of 24" new lay. Superintendent: Dewayne Collins. Welder Foreman: Doug Boulet. Mainline rates. Working 5-12s.

#### Precision Pipeline:

Rocky Mount, VA. Plate 42" ends for Winter stabilization.
 Superintendent: Kevin Olerud. Welder Foreman: David Salzgeber.
 Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.

#### U.S. Pipeline, Inc.:

New Martinsville, WV. Replace and relocate 3-36" MLV's.
 Superintendent: Cliff Sinclair. Welder Foreman: Shannon Jackson.
 Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.



KY, NC, SC, TN 918-270-6735

## Chris Lancaster

I am writing this report after returning home from North Carolina pre-jobbing two Price Gregory jobs. The work in North Carolina is better than usual this year. We haven't been successful in getting a large share of the North Carolina market in the past few years, so this is positive. Our signatory contractors are starting to be successful in obtaining more and more work in North Carolina. I still have a few more jobs in the area I haven't pre-jobbed but expect to do so soon

The work in other areas of my jurisdiction has slowed this year, but there are some good jobs going out for bid now. These jobs are in Tennessee and Kentucky and should start in early spring. However, building trades jobs are still going strong. So, if you need work, contact me or the Dispatch office and see what is available.

As everyone is aware, the Local 798 election will be coming up soon, and a lot of great candidates are running for office. I want to thank those who are running for office. It's good to see the interest our members have in serving the membership of our great union. I encourage everyone to vote.

The December meeting is coming up soon, and I hope to see you there. Attending membership meetings is an excellent way for members to stay informed on current affairs. It also helps keep the union strong with member participation. I want to wish a safe and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and their families. Also, please keep our troops that are away from home in your prayers. It is a pleasure serving a great membership like Local 798. Please call if I can be of assistance. Hope to see you soon.

#### Pre-Jobs:

#### Price-Gregory International:

- Sherrills Ford, NC. 19.28 miles of 20". Welder Foreman: Jeffery Doyle. Superintendent: Russell York. Working 6-10s under Market Strategy. Approx. completion 12-31-19.

- Greenville, NC. 19.48 miles of 12". Welder Foreman: David Dickerson. Superintendent: Doug Gregory. Working 6-10s. Special agreement. Approx. completion 11-2-19.
- Salemburg, NC. 21.8 miles of 12" and 9.8 miles of 6". Welder Foreman: Rod Kelley. Superintendent: Jim Parker. Working 6-10s. Special agreement. Approx. completion 11-15-19.

Appalachian Pipeline Contractors, LLP:

 Ramseur, NC. 5.1 miles of 12". Welder Foreman: Johnny Ray Warren. Superintendent: Ben Brown. Working 6-10s. Special agreement. Approx. completion 11-1-19.

**B&G Pipeline Company:** 

- Statesville, NC. 2.5 miles of 8". Welder Foreman: Jerimiah Bennett. Superintendent: Samuel Wilson. Working 6-10s. Mainline rates. Approx. completion 11-11-19.
- Forrest City, NC. Four 12" fabrications. Welder Foreman: Naaman Warren. Superintendent: Thomas Born. Working 6-10s. Mainline rates. Approx. completion 10-26-19.
- Mill Springs, NC. 1,400' of 12" Take up and relay. Welder Foreman: Jamie Helmns. Superintendent: Matt Brantley. Working 6-10s. Mainline rates.

# TAKE ACTION TODAY

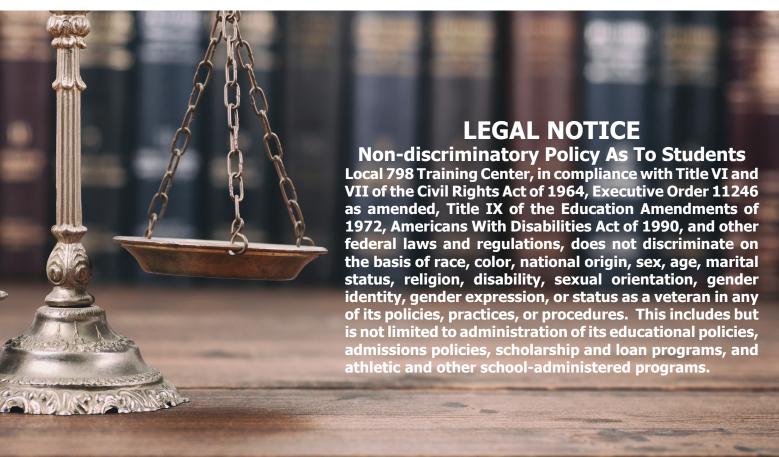
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# Local 798 2019 Union Officer Mail Ballot Election and Candidates

- 1. The General President has directed that the election for officers be conducted by mail ballot. There will be no manual balloting.
- 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 Tri Star Graphics. Tri Star Graphics is located at 75 Sealy Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550.
- 3. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible Local 798 members on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at their most recent permanent address on file with the Local Union ("primary address") as of Friday, October 11, 2019.
- 4. No Local 798 member shall be eligible to vote in the election unless they have 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 Wednesday, October 16, 2019. Thus, if a member is not eligible as described above as of Wednesday, October 16, 2019, they 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, they 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, Oklahoma, U.S. Post Office box printed on the outer return envelope by 9 a.m. CST on Thursday, December 12, 2019. 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 12, 2019, 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 13, 2019, starting at 7 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 Monday, January 13, 2020, and will be counted on Thursday, February 13, 2020, 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 Friday, February 14, 2020, at the Local Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, starting at 7 p.m. CST.

#### Local 798 Election Committee

Farron Hollabaugh Chairman (918) 244-0648 Chris Waeckerle **Secretary** (918) 837-0440

Joe Hurt **Member** (225) 931-2143

#### 2019 Union Officer Election Candidates

President
Preston (Prez) Richard
K.B. (Sonny) Brewer, Sr.

**Vice President** Scooter Folk Paul Davis **Business Manager** Keith Knox Nicholas (Nicky) Broussard Danny Hendrix **Financial Secretary- Treasurer**Justin Wallace

**Recording Secretary**Guy S. Williams
Eric Knight

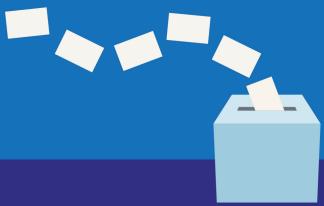
Inside Guard Shannon V. Jackson Josh McGee Michael Layrock Daniel McDavid

Cassidy Croley Chris Fizer Pete Ashby, Jr. Randy Mathis Bobby D. Smith Rick Thomas Ed Coker Jeff Taylor Kale McManus Matt Ingram David N. Hall Troy Post Brett H. Mason Cody D. Pedigo Jeffery Tigert

**Executive Board** 

Finance Committee
Jimmy Dick
Michael Hatch
Jerry Haynes
Steve Birgy
Guy Simms
Jason E. Knight

Examining Board
Clark Eastwood
Mike Miller
Tyler "Moe" Simms
David B. Davis
Frank Bowker
Anthony Webster





DISPATCHReport

By Ricky Jones

1,545 Welders236 Journeymen1,955 Helpers

I have been looking back over past Blue Light reports from 1974 to 1976, and I have found some very interesting information. I could copy and paste some of the 1974 reports, and you would not be able to tell the difference. The irony is unbelievable. Whether 1975 or 2019, there is very little difference between then and now. In 1974, we were seven years down the road from the biggest year ever. In 1968 when we hit 12 million man-hours, then work began to drop off, just as it has in 2019. We went from 9.5 million man-hours in 1969 and dwindled down to 3 million man-hours in 1974. Then Alaska kicked off and man-hours more than doubled with 6.3 million in 1975 and 7.9 million in 1976. I say this to remind everyone that the people who came before us did not have a bed of roses getting what they had and what they have provided for us. And if you think Local 798 did not have as many members as now, you are wrong!

In January 1975, we had 2,322 Welders on the books (as compared to 2,433 now), and we had large numbers who were working building trades. We also had permit problems the previous year. A law to push through the Alaska pipeline was voted on November 12, 1973, by the House then also passed by the Senate. President Nixon signed it into law on November 16, 1973, and a federal right-of-way was granted on January 3, 1974. This was followed by contracts signed with the contractors for construction on January 23, 1974. From January through September of 2019, pipeline work alone has accumulated 5,574,294 man-hours. We need to remember that these are good times -- maybe not the best of times, but definitely not the worst of times. We do have opportunities! Pipeline work has always been political, and it is crucial for us to sign petitions on the Action Network for our future.

There is an abundance of good-paying building trades jobs available with overtime involved until the pipeline picks up again. Come to the Local 798 Training Center and work on uphill welding. The more UA Certifications you have, the more you can pick and choose where you work and how much you make.

Stainless Welders are at the top, then Combo Carb Welders, and at the bottom are straight-up Low Hydrogen Stick Welders. Another skill I see demand for is Schedule 10 Stainless Welders.

Fifteen years ago, people could make a good living welding bell hole only. Beginning about 2007, you had to start taking a bell hole test and a branch. After the work in the Northeast grew big, you had to be able to make a downhill test set on a 45. After that, there was a major surge in the use of Low Hydrogen rods on our mainline work, and we had few people who were ready to test with Low Hydrogen. Now the numbers of Welders who are proficient in these types of welding are large and doing well. However, to be successful and excel in this industry, you need to add Heliarc welding to your skillset. Good jobs for good Heliarc Welders are available consistently.

Local 798 has an excellent Training Center offering everything you need to learn. Training Director Farron Hollabaugh has added stalls to help handle the demand of members coming in. (Please place a courtesy call to the Training Center in advance.) I have heard people say that finding the funds for a room is a challenge. Young men are lined up to come to the private welding schools here in Tulsa, and it costs \$25,000 right off the top to receive training. We have better facilities and equipment and

more opportunities than the private schools ever will, and all you need to do is pay for your room and board. January 2, 2020 is an excellent time to get started on training. By the time you get this, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us. There is still time to get to Tulsa and update certifications and get additional UA certifications. Plan to come to Tulsa and treat the Local 798 Training Center as a college. You can leave with skills that can never be taken from you. The big plus is that you can do it for far less than anyone attending one of these private welding schools or a junior college near your home.

You should have your election ballot by now. Fill it out and get your vote in. Do not delay! Also, plan to attend the December meeting. There is always something to be learned.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



ORGANIZING Report

918-284-6862

I hope this report finds everyone doing well. It was nice visiting with members during the September meeting, where we had nominations for officers for the upcoming election. I would like to congratulate all the candidates and wish each of you good luck in your endeavors. There is no greater honor than serving the members of this great local union.

I have been spending a lot of time recently in central, south, and west Texas, checking on work in various areas. Several gas companies have contacted me, and some have shown an interest in using union labor for their projects. Hopefully, some of these will see the benefits of using a signatory contractor so their jobs can be the most productive and of the highest quality offered. It's a well-known fact that our contractors provide all this and more. Organization and structure are of the utmost importance to finish a project safely and on time. When you couple that with the skill and devotion of Local 798 Pipeliners, there can never be any competition. Those are the qualities that will ensure that we continue to recover market share. Always remember when you go to a job, you aren't just representing yourself but also Local 798. Be the best of the best to help our contractors be competitive against the nonunion sector.

There are still a lot of people willing to sell their labor for substandard wages with no benefits, and that creates a huge problem. As long as some people do this, there will always be a struggle. Hopefully, a lot of these people wake up soon and realize they should be paid a fair wage. Some are simply uninformed about the benefits of union labor. Others fall prey to rumors and false statements or propaganda designed to turn them away from what would benefit them. Each of us should try in every way possible to explain to these unorganized workers not only the benefits of organized labor to themselves but our craft as a whole. It's much bigger than any one of us, and we should all endeavor to promote unionism and prosperity for all workers.

We can somewhat understand the mindset of the unorganized, basically because they are uneducated

about the benefits of unionism. The puzzling part is when a person who has been organized and knows all these things turns their back on it to help the very people we struggle against. To me, there is nothing worse than going out and helping a nonunion company conduct business in direct competition to us. There is no excuse for this. Hopefully, anyone who has done this or is doing it now will have a change of heart and realize the damage they are inflicting.

If anyone has information concerning nonunion jobs or any union members that have elected to help the competition, please let me know. This cannot be tolerated. Not only have they turned their backs on everything we believe in, but they have broken their pleage to each one of us.

I'm hoping to see a big turnout for the December meeting and look forward to visiting with all of you. If I can be of any help to anyone, please don't hesitate to call any time. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Fraternally, Ronnie M. Hill



The Officers and Staff of Pipeliners Local Union 798, the Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund, and the Local 798 Training Center wish you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season.

Our offices will close in observance of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.









# 2020-2022 Membership Cards

At the end of the year, we will begin mailing 2020-2022 membership cards. You must pay membership dues into the 2020 year for your membership card to be mailed. Membership cards will only be mailed to the address that you have on file.

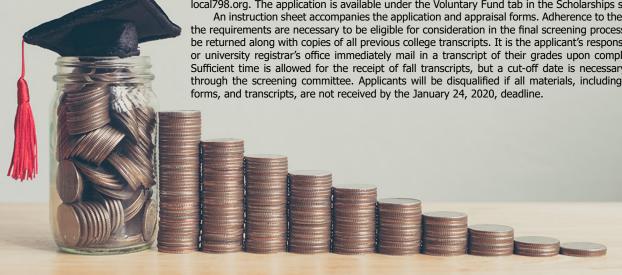
## Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program

In January 2020, following the conclusion of the fall 2019 semester, the Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program will award ten general scholarships of \$3,000 each. A screening committee will select the winners from the qualifying applicants. Any Local 798 member or his/her immediate family (spouse, child, or grandchild), who has graduated from high school and is currently attending at least the first semester of an accredited college, may apply. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible.

The Voluntary Fund has sponsored the Scholarship Program since 1969. The Scholarship Fund owes its success to the generous contributions of the Local 798 membership. Thanks to all of you for your continued support. The Harry Faucett, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$7,500, will also be awarded. It has been funded by Voluntary Fund donations, memorial donations in honor of Harry Faucett, and through the generous contributions and sponsorships at the annual golf tournament. This scholarship is awarded to the highest-ranking applicant meeting the qualifications for the Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program. Only applicants who have maintained a minimum 3.2 GPA in their collegelevel coursework will be considered for this award.

Application forms for the 2019-2020 Scholarship Program are now available for students enrolled in the fall semester. Written requests should be addressed to Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program, PO Box 470798, Tulsa, OK 74147-0798. Applications may also be downloaded online from the Local Union 798 website at www. local798.org. The application is available under the Voluntary Fund tab in the Scholarships section.

An instruction sheet accompanies the application and appraisal forms. Adherence to the rules and compliance with the requirements are necessary to be eligible for consideration in the final screening process. Completed forms should be returned along with copies of all previous college transcripts. It is the applicant's responsibility to have their college or university registrar's office immediately mail in a transcript of their grades upon completion of the fall semester. Sufficient time is allowed for the receipt of fall transcripts, but a cut-off date is necessary to process all applicants through the screening committee. Applicants will be disqualified if all materials, including the application, appraisal





# Meeting Notice December 13, 2019

The Regular December Membership Meeting will be held at the Pipeliners Local Union 798 Union Hall, 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145, on Friday, December 13, 2019, beginning at 7 p.m.

> Special Business: Announcement of the results of the 2019 Union Officer Election. See the Election Notice included in this issue of the Blue Light.

#### **Ladies of 798 Hospitality**

The Ladies of 798 Hospitality will be held at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel, 6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133, on Friday, December 13, 2019, beginning at 6 p.m.

#### **Hotel Accommodations**

The Renaissance Tulsa Hotel has graciously offered a discounted room rate of \$97/night. To make reservations, call (918) 307-2600. Make sure you indicate you are with Pipeliners Local Union 798.

# **Meeting Notice**

January 10, 2020

The Regular January Membership Meeting will be held at the Pipeliners Local Union 798 Union Hall, 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145, on Friday, January 10, 2020, beginning at 7 p.m.

Special Business: Installation of Officers

#### **Ladies of 798 Hospitality**

The Ladies of 798 Hospitality will be held at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel, 6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133, on Friday, January 10, 2020, beginning at 6 p.m.

#### **Hotel Accommodations**

The Renaissance Tulsa Hotel has graciously offered a discounted room rate of \$97/night. To make reservations, call (918) 307-2600. Make sure you indicate you are with Pipeliners Local Union 798.





Renée Vause
Director

### IMPORTANT PLAN CHANGES

The Board of Trustees of Pipeline Industry Pension Fund (PIPF) and Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund (PIBF) met on September 4, 2019, and approved plan changes. These important pension plan and health and welfare plan changes will affect active participants, spouses, children, and retirees. The PIBF office recently sent a document titled <u>Summary of Material Plan Modifications</u> dated <u>September 2019</u>, which outlines all the recent changes. Several highlighted changes include:

- Increase the PIPF accrual rate retroactive for all Journeyman participants' past years to \$220 provided the participant does not have a break in service of two years or more and increase the Helper rate for all Helper participants to \$146 provided the participant does not have a break in service of two years or more. This benefit increase is retroactive for anyone retiring January 1, 2019, or later. Future year accrual rates will be \$220 for Journeymen and \$146 for Helpers.
- PIPF retired participant members or widows who retired prior to January 1, 2019, and are in pay status on December 31, 2018, will receive a 5% increase effective January 1, 2019.
- Effective for the 2020 plan year, PIBF will no longer have an open enrollment period for adult children age 19-26. If your adult child was enrolled for the 2019 plan year during the open enrollment process, their eligibility will be automatically extended to the end of the month in which they turn 26. If you have an adult child that is not currently enrolled, you can add the dependent as of a current date by filling out a new census card and mailing it to our office. Forms can be found on our website at www.pibf.org. Existing eligibility rules apply, and a copy of the dependent's birth certificate, if not already on file, is needed to establish the parent/child relationship.
- The Trustees have again approved the continuance of the PIBF Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for 2020.
  The HRA benefit will continue to be \$4,000 per year for active members for single or family coverage. Active members on COBRA will continue to be \$4,000 per year for single or family coverage. Separate coverage for spouses and children who are on COBRA is \$2,000 per year. The HRA amount for a retired member with covered dependents is \$4,000 per year and single retired members, and retired widows is \$2,000 per year. The HRA filing deadline for 2019 is April 15, 2020.

#### **IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER**

Pension benefit increases are approved only when the actuarial consultants have confirmed that the Pipeline Industry Pension Fund is in a sound financial position, and any improvement will not jeopardize the long-term goals of the plan. Participants/retirees/beneficiaries should not assume that the same or similar benefit will be approved in any future years.

## Featured Personnel



Wendi Taylor has been with PIBF 15 years and is the Assistant to the Controller/Pensions. Wendi and her husband, Michael, have been married 24 years and have two daughters, Shelby (22) and Sheridan (18), along with two beautiful grandbabies, Emerson (2) and Waylon (7 months). Wendi enjoys spending time in the pool with friends and family, watching football, and of course, spending time with her grandbabies, which includes traveling to see them while their daddy is working

on the pipeline. Wendi would like the membership to know that "I feel very blessed to be a part of such an amazing local union! Local 798 and PIBF is such a great family to be a part of. I take my role in helping our retired members very personally and have developed great working relationships with many of our members. I take great pride in helping our membership! I want to say thank you to all the hard-working members of 798; without them, we wouldn't be here!"



Denny L. Huggins is the Dependent Records Coordinator, working with Death Benefit, HRA, Census Records, and Dependent Eligibility. Denny joined PIBF 13 years ago in 2006. He and his wife, Keisha, have been married nine years and have two children, Malachi (5) and Maizy (1). Denny enjoys following/rooting for the OKC Thunder, working on his home, and spending time with his family. "Working in the maintenance department

and then in the offices for PIBF has given me the chance to get to know many members and their families. I enjoy and take pride in helping the members understand their benefits and make the best decisions for themselves and their families. I would like to thank the membership for becoming members of LU 798 and giving everyone here at PIBF the opportunity to serve such an incredible organization."





# Short & Personal

# THANK YOU

**Kenny Willingham and Family** appreciate the gift they received from the Voluntary Fund; it helped everything. It's an honor to belong to such a great organization.

**Pudden and Donna Usry** thank the Voluntary Fund for the gift received after Pudden had a heart attack and stints put in while working in Lincoln, NE. He's fine now and back to work. Special thanks to the Michels crew in Lincoln for all their support during Pudden's hospitalization and time off work, and also to Wayne Causey.

**Mike and Verlinda Poor** say thanks to those who generously donate to the Voluntary Fund. It is much appreciated. Thank you to all for the phone calls and visits. Special thanks to Rick Friars, Henry Jewell, and Bill Richards.

**Ryan West and Family** thank you for the support shown to their family during a difficult time. The collection taken up was not necessary but was very much appreciated.

**Jason and Molly Moore** say thank you for the financial support and encouragement. They are grateful for their pipeline family.

**Mike Strickland** thanks the Voluntary Fund and all who contribute to it. The help he received due to his eye surgeries was appreciated. Special thanks to Phillip Wallace, Justin Wallace, and Kipp Flemister.

*Earnest Outz* thanks the Voluntary Fund, and all who donate, for the assistance he received following his wife's back surgery. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you all, and God bless.

**Duane and Tabitha Carpenter** thank each of you that donate to the Voluntary Fund. The check Duane received after his injury and surgery was appreciated. They respect the members who contribute to the fund when they can. God bless our local. Special thanks to Brian Fox.

**Gary and Madelyn Loyd** thank all their 798 family, especially all that contribute to the Voluntary Fund. Special thanks to Tyler Simms for thinking of them. Much thanks to Danny Hendrix for continuing to keep the union strong.

**Kathy and Gary Burkhalter** say thank you for the Voluntary Fund check they received. It was helpful during her extended hospital stay. Thank you, Brothers and Sisters.

**Joe W. Gaines and Family** thank you for the prayers, concern, and assistance given after their son, Joseph, fractured his femur playing football. They are so blessed to be a part of this wonderful union. Joseph is on the road to recovery and already walking without crutches. Special thanks to Zack Crymes and everyone that contributes to the Voluntary Fund.

**Racket and Autumn McGuire** send their gratitude to all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Charles Yates, Jr., and Randy Williams, for making this happen during a trying time. It is a privilege to be a part of such a great local.

Etta Rush and Family thank all the pipeline families who came to Howard's funeral, sent the beautiful flowers and uplifting cards, and for all the phone calls they've received. It meant so much to the family. Thank you for the beautiful bible and flowers from the staff. Howard had just received Voluntary Fund assistance right before he passed away. He was very appreciative for the help, and it was the first time he had accepted help. Howard loved the union and all that it stands for. He always worked for the betterment of the union, and it was his life. Thank you all for everything.

**Bobby Tyson** thanks Danny Hendrix and everyone that donates to the Voluntary Fund for the aid he received. May the good Lord bless you.

*Frank and Sue Young* say thank you and bless you to all the Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. They are so thankful to belong to such a great union like 798. Special thanks to Greg and Debbie Rose.

**Bobby Binion's Family** thanks all 798 Brothers and Sisters that make contributions to the Voluntary Fund weekly. They sincerely appreciate the help.

**Rodney Tullos** thanks everyone who gives to the Voluntary Fund for the help he received during his hospital stay. It was much appreciated.

**Darren and Jamie Patterson** express their gratitude to Local 798 and the Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the gift they received. Special thanks to Raymond Johnson, Bill Lemon, and everyone working on the MVP Spread C for Precision Pipeline.

*Charles McCormic* thanks the Voluntary Fund for the assistance he received. It was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Fuzzy Glaze and Steve Birgy.

**Trevor Karle** thanks his Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the money he received after being injured in an accident working 1,700 miles from home. It made all the difference in getting back home to recover. He would like to thank the local and our founders for establishing this great integrity-based fund that lends a hand to the membership in need. Special thanks to Steve Birgy for being an excellent steward and for looking out for his wellbeing during his 16-day hospital stay.

**Casey Irvine** thanks all the Brothers and Sisters in Pipeliners Local 798 for the Voluntary Fund that is given each week selflessly by hardworking, thoughtful, generous members. We don't get to pick when our loved one's pass, and of course it's always when we are far away. This makes it a little easier to say our goodbyes. Special thanks to Steve Harford.

**Jerred and Rebecca Robertson** announce the birth of their son, Paxton Wade, on June 22, 2019. They thank their 798 Brothers and Sisters for their contributions to the Voluntary Fund from which they received a donation to help with Paxton's medical bills. He was hospitalized in the NICU for 33 days following his birth for an intestinal blockage, which required surgery at three days old. Thank you for all the support, and we give glory to God for his steady recovery. Their baby is now home and doing great.

**Gerld and Ann Furlow** thank Danny Hendrix, the Voluntary Fund, and all the 798 family for the help they received. Ann had surgery and is recovering nicely. It is a pleasure to be one of many members of a great organization like 798.

*Ervin Kegley, Jr., and Family* say thank you for the generosity received during the time of his wife's surgery. The continued support is greatly appreciated.

*Kristy Brantley Stewart* thanks the members of 798 for your generosity. Your gift helped her family when she did not know where to turn. She never expected to lose her mother when she did, and her medical bills had been piling up. Her dad would be so honored to know that 798 does this for others in need. May God bless you all and other 798 members.

**David P. Huber** really appreciates the check he received. Since his doubleneck fusion, he hasn't been able to do much of anything. He is thankful to have worked as long as he could with 798. He wishes he could go back to welding, but it's not a reality his body would allow. God bless everyone and 798

**Laura Donelson** says thank you for the check she received from the Voluntary Fund. It was very appreciated.

**Ledel and Sherry Sappington** thank everyone for all the prayers and support. When they got their letter from the Voluntary Fund, they were more than thankful. Every time someone takes up the Voluntary Fund, he always gives because you never know when you'll be the one in need. The true Brothers and Sisters of Local 798 stand together and help those in need. Lift one another up and stay strong.

**Jason Wood** thanks all the Brothers and Sisters that give to the Voluntary Fund. The help was greatly appreciated.

**Mark and Deana Ballou** thank you for your thoughtfulness and the contributions to the Voluntary Fund. The donation was a very generous gift after Mark's recent back surgery. Special thanks to Tim and Vickie Hart.

**Delisa Allen** thanks the PIBF, Voluntary Fund, and the Trinity spread in Beaver, WV, for helping her and her family. Her grandson, Colt Allen, is at home and recovering from his heart surgery. They've had so many incoming prayers, calls, texts, and Facebook messages, that they've been unable to respond to each one but would just like to thank their pipeline family for everything.

**Black and Tuffy Schroeder** express their appreciation to everyone that called, texted, sent cards, came to the hospital, and most importantly, for all the prayers that are more powerful than medicine. Thank you for being there in their time of need. Every person that contributes to the Voluntary Fund needs to know that you are helping your Brothers and Sisters. The Voluntary Fund sometimes is not about the money. It does help a lot, but the thought of someone caring enough to sit down and write a letter for someone in need, is what true unionism and brotherhood is about. You are all truly family, and they love you.

**Lawrence F. Motty** says thank you for your generosity. Your contributions to the Voluntary Fund give aid during times of need. You are greatly appreciated.

**Michael and Kimberly Hawkins** thank the Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Local 798 Voluntary Fund. Special thanks to those who submitted Michael's name to receive assistance during his recent hospital stay. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.

**Leon Loggins** would like to thank his Brothers and Sisters who give to the Voluntary Fund. His truck was stolen, and he didn't have full coverage

insurance. As a result, he lost about \$1,000 worth of tools. If someone had told him that one day, he'd receive a check from the Voluntary Fund, he would have called them crazy. Special thanks to Carey (Elvis) Wesley, Danny Hendrix, and everyone involved with the Voluntary Fund.

**David and Jean Wallace** thank the Voluntary Fund for the help they received after the passing of their grandson, Luke. Special thanks to Mike Bouchard and Ed Martin.

**David and Cindy Ashby** thank the Voluntary Fund for sending a check following his surgery. It really came at a good time, and they are grateful for the help. Local 798 is the best.

*Ty Gibson* thanks the Voluntary Fund for the money he received due to his medical condition. Special thanks to Jimmy Dick.

**Steve DeArmond and Family** say thanks to everyone who contributes to the 798 Voluntary Fund for the help they received for Steve's daughter, Stevie, when she went through surgery. The check was greatly appreciated. They are glad to be a part of the 798 family.

# RETIREMENTS

Jochua D. Bergey, Spacer, Leroy, MI

Mark C. Blair, Welder, Nashville, TN

Frank F. Bowker, Welder, McPherson, KS

Bruce C. Carroll, Jr., Welder, Archer, FL

Kenneth J. Clark, Welder, Waller, TX

Winford H. Costlow, Welder, Bay City, TX

Keith W. Davis, Helper, Rush, KY

**Mark G. Davis,** Spacer, Gretna, VA

Mike R. Green, Welder, Cedar Vale, KS

Robert W. Hughes, Helper, Smock, PA

Jhan B. Jarrell, Spacer, Olive Hill, KY

Johnnie W. Jennings, Helper, Macon, MO

David R. Johnson, Welder, Sherwood, AR

James D. Lambert, Welder, Marietta, GA

Frank L. Laney, Helper, Kilmichael, MS

Terry L. Lindquist, Helper, Temperance, MI

Warren Lyda, Welder, Bixby, OK

Joseph F. Messina, Jr., Welder, White Castle, LA

Tommy R. Morgan, Welder, Leslie, MI

James C. Nall, Helper, Monroe, LA

Donald R. Pitts, Welder, Hanoverton, OH

Deborah L. Plaster, Helper, Jourdanton, TX

Billy L. Powers, Helper, Scotts Hill, TN

David A. Rigby, Welder, McKinney, TX

Steve J. Ritchie, Helper, Bald Knob, AR

Kevin A. Ritenour, Helper, Lake Milton, OH

William J. Ritenour, Welder, Melcroft, PA

Kenneth R. Robertson, Welder, Oak Grove, LA

Jeffery S. Sample, Welder, Oregon, OH

Tim L. Simpson, Helper, Newbern, TN

Glenda T. Sonnier, Helper, Winnsboro, LA

David P. Starbuck, Spacer, Coldwater, MS

Bobby K. Steele, Helper, Russiaville, IN

**Dardo F. Varas**, Welder, West Haven, CT

Mark A. Witt, Welder, Roswell, NM

Jeffrey B. Wickett, Spacer, New Virginia, IA

# CONGRATULATIONS

**Congratulations to Brother Jesse Fuller** on receiving a scholarship from Oklahoma Wesleyan University for Cross Country 1 and 2 miles!

## IN MEMORIAM

**Danny R. Tharp II**, 21-year-old Helper of Beebe, AR, passed away August 7, 2019.

**Austin Adams**, 24-year-old Helper of Bald Knob, AR, passed away August 17, 2019.

*Charles M. Whitlatch,* 57-year-old Retired Spacer of Claysville, PA, passed away August 18, 2019.

Joshua T. Miller, 28-year-old Helper of Belpre, OH, passed away August 24, 2019.

*Matt J. Lout,* 36-year-old Spacer of Jasper, TX, passed away September 15, 2019.

Carlos G. Patrick, 75-year-old Retired Spacer of Olive Hill, KY, passed away September 23, 2019.

**Don R. Curtis,** 64-year-old Welder of Reno, NV, passed away October 5, 2019.

## SWAP & SELL

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

**2016 Miller Pipe Pro 350:** With approximately 1,150 on the hour meter, stainless steel package includes one Direct Cable remote, and one Miller remote for \$9,500. Contact Jayson Gates at (918) 940-8525 or jayson. gates@gmail.com.

*Lightest Pancake Hood:* Lightest pancake hood on the market! Custom made. \$90+ shipping. Call Ron Johnson at (318) 613-4078.

**The Hood Fan:** The hood fan cools and defogs. Hood fans for scoops and pancakes. \$36 includes mail fee. Call John Russell at (903) 609-2458.

**Welding Truck Bed:** Has been used with a 2011 Dodge dually 3500 and a 2001 Dodge 2500 long bed. Truck bed is located in Glen Rose, TX. \$3,000. Contact Ann Baker at annbaker2008@yahoo.com.

**40 Ft Sierra Fifth Wheel:** Located in Winnsboro, LA. \$16,000. Contact Mason Fenn at (318) 535-4741 for pictures and more details.



B&G Pipeline Company in Union Mills, NC



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



Knitted Cap
Item #102 - \$6.00

Camo Winter Cap Item #101-C2 - \$11.00 70th Anniversary T-Shirt – Long Sleeve Item #121 - \$17.00 (S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL, 4XLT)

Pullover Wind Shirt W/Pockets Steel Blue Item #208 - \$59.00 (S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL, 4XLT) 70th Anniversary Pocket Knife Item #147 - \$69.00

Navy Pullover Hoodie Item #116 - \$37.00 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL) Local 798 Blanket Item #135 - \$37.00

Stainless Steel Travel Mug Item #133 - \$12.00