Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The September meeting is quickly approaching, and with it, we will have nominations and vote on a three-member Election Committee. We also will have nominations for 798 delegates to the UA Convention. The number of delegates will be determined by the number of members in good standing according to the March cash sheet. We will send one delegate per 100 members. You may nominate yourself in person or by mail, fax, or email. I encourage all members to nominate themselves prior to the membership meeting, just as a matter of convenience. All members who wish to attend are welcome to do so, but please be aware social distancing will be in place at this meeting, and we will adhere to all precautions to protect your safety.

Voting for UA Delegates will be by mail ballot only. If you are a member in good standing for one year, you will receive a ballot at the home mailing address on file with the 798 Business Office. As of this writing, the UA Convention will be in San Diego, California, but with social distancing and everything that is involved with putting over 3,000 people in one large room how it will be held is still up in the air.

The work outlook is only slightly improving with man-hours up a tad since last month, bringing our total to nearly three million through July.

This nation, as a whole, is struggling due to so many issues. Unfortunately, one political party wants to burn it down, while the other struggles to maintain law and order and wants to move us forward. The presidential election is just around the corner. Please register and vote. It is not only your right as an American, but also your civic duty. We live in the greatest country in the world; please let us all work together to maintain and improve it for our children and grandchildren.

Last, but certainly not least, we must double our outreach on the Action Network. This simple tool is the most powerful weapon we have in our arsenal, but, sadly, we still have members that will not participate. Our clients that we work for are constantly asking for our collective support for their projects. They praise our efforts, but I know we can do better. A few minutes a week could be the difference between a bumper crop or a drought. The value of these actions should be a constant thought as they bring about better communication with clients who decide to build their projects with union craftsmen.

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

Fraternally,

Daniel C. Hendrix
Business Manager
Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this report finds you well. Through July, we have worked 2.8 million man-hours. As you all know, that is a far cry from what we've become accustomed to over the last several years. There is no doubt these are uncertain times. 2020 seems to be the year that will test everyone's patience and resolve. The COVID-19 pandemic has definitely turned this country upside down and has negatively impacted the pipeline industry as well. I pray that we can put this ugly chapter behind us soon.

The good news is that some work seems to be breaking in certain parts of the country. Michels just recently began the 13 miles of 36” for the Line 3 Replacement in Hamilton, North Dakota. On a recent call with Enbridge representatives, they tell us that the remainder of the project will most likely begin construction around the first of December. This is approximately 350 miles of 36” in Minnesota and Wisconsin that is worked under a PLA and will put many of our members to work. Also, some station work for the Keystone XL recently began. It is great to see some actual progress and to see our members working on these jobs. This progress is all due to you stepping up and advocating for these jobs for the last several years. It is absurd to me that it now takes years for a project to come to fruition. It has become fashionable in this country to be opposed to pipelines and pipeline construction. The problem with this is that those who oppose pipelines never give up the comforts of life that fossil fuels provide. Where I'm from, we call those types of people hypocrites.

Please continue to participate in the Action Network. Lately, we are getting between 1,600-2,300 petition signatures for each action that we put forward. Thanks to those who take every action. And if you aren't, please step up and advocate for all of these important projects. It only takes a few minutes a week to login and verify that you have taken each action. I know we talk about this all the time, but it is that important, and the client gas companies recognize that we've got the best tool for advancing these projects.

I can't remember a time in my life that a political party's platform has been more anti-energy than what we see right now in this election cycle. The so-called “progressive” movement has pushed candidates further to the left than ever before with proposals such as the “Green New Deal.” As much as these radicals would like to think otherwise, natural gas is here to stay. There is no true alternative to the most abundant, clean-burning fuel in the world. Remember, when they came for coal, they pushed natural gas as the cleaner, safer, more environmentally friendly alternative. Now that coal appears finished, they have set their sights on natural gas. Natural gas will not fall as easily as the coal industry. It is too valuable a commodity, and Local 798 pipeliners are still the best at building the pipelines to transport it.

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
I hope this report finds each and every one of you in good health and good spirits. I know this pandemic has dealt misery to many of our Brothers and Sisters and their families. God willing, everything will get back on track soon.

Not much has changed since my last report. Many jobs are still sitting on hold waiting on court bureaucracy and a lot of political hacks that are totally against the oil and gas industry. I hope the coming months will bring everyone some relief. The work outlook is looking up; it is just running behind because of the current state of things. I am doing everything in my power to get some work rolling in my jurisdiction. With that said, I need to remind everyone that working NONunion is still NOT an option. I have found several Brothers and Sisters on nonunion work, and this will not be tolerated. Hard times in this industry have come and gone; it has always been known as “feast or famine” work.

Please continue to advocate for our work through the Action Network. It is more important than ever to fight for our way of life. I hope this November everyone takes the time to choose those candidates who are pro-fossil fuel.

In closing, remember that I am always available and here to serve you, so do not hesitate to give me a call on my cell at 918-991-5341. May God bless each and every one of you, and God bless this great Local.

Pre-Jobs:

Hanging H Companies, LLC:

Q&D Construction:
I write this Blue Light report the first week of August with the Integrity Maintenance work still holding up in my area. The gas companies say the COVID-19 virus has cut into the maintenance budget, and some of the work scheduled for this season will be canceled in the 4th quarter.

There is some good news with the Enbridge Line 3 and the Keystone XL. Michels has started on the 12-mile section of 36” Line 3 Replacement in North Dakota. Enbridge is very optimistic about kicking off in December. That would be 350 miles of 36” and eight stations in Minnesota. I have pre-jobbed with Michels on Keystone XL Station #19 in South Dakota and will pre-job Station #20 in mid-September. Minnesota Limited is doing dirt work and pouring concrete on two stations in Montana that I will pre-job in a few weeks.

It’s been a tough year for everyone in the construction business, not just pipeliners. There is not a lot you can do to battle the coronavirus. It’s hard to fight something you cannot see. I believe the virus is one reason a lot of jobs have not started. And the main reason for job delays and cancellations is the politicians who want to kill the oil and gas industry that supports our way of life. They are the enemy you can see and fight by not voting for them in the upcoming elections. Get involved and fight for your jobs by voting and taking part in the Action Network. I just signed a petition on the network about the gas pipeline that Alaska needs to build. Do not sit back and let someone else do it; do your part for your job.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall.

Pre-Jobs:

Abercrombie Pipeline Services, LLC:

Intercon Construction, Inc.:

Michels Pipeline:

Minnesota Limited, Inc.:

United Piping, Inc.:

Michels Pipeline:

Associated Pipeline Contractors, Inc.:

I hope this report finds everyone safe and well from COVID-19. The year 2020 has been one to remember for this great nation and the entire world. A lot of us have experienced some of the most challenging times of our whole lives. We all need to pray for everyone’s safety and health and that next year turns out much better.

I have picked up a few jobs that will have started by the time you read this Blue Light. There are three station jobs for TC Energy/KXL Pipeline, all union labor in Texas.

Numerous projects in Texas are still out for bid. Even with the Market Recovery concession, our contractors are having difficulties picking up work. As members of the UA and Local 798, we must still do our part. Be professional always, show up every day, and give our contractors a day’s work for a day’s pay to the best of our ability. We still make more and have more than the nonunion sector. Therefore, we must always maintain our craftsmanship and productivity.

I want to take this opportunity, with sincerity and the utmost gratitude, to thank Danny and Norma Kay Hendrix, along with the long list of members and their wives, who donated to have Tuffy’s name put in Memory on the Memorial Wall and also the In Recognition pavers. You cannot imagine what this means to me. I will never forget and always be grateful to each one of you.

If I can be of assistance to anyone, please don’t hesitate to contact me. May God bless Local 798, every Brother and Sister member, and your families.

Pre-Jobs:

Abercrombie Pipeline Services, LLC:

Intercon Construction, Inc.:

Michels Pipeline:

Minnesota Limited, Inc.:

United Piping, Inc.:
The work in the Central Region is holding its own in the third quarter. There has been a steady flow of notifications and pre-job conferences. Some of the larger projects will be wrapping up, but the maintenance work still looks strong. Every piece of market share is essential. Even that one small job could mean the difference in a member keeping health care or earning a pension credit for that year.

We have campaigned in my area hard the past few months against non-signatory contractor Integrity Kokosing. I wish I had a more favorable outcome to report, but it is not from a lack of trying. Local 798 has executed many strategies. We ran billboards in four different Indiana locations, distributed pamphlets (handbills) in Ohio and Indiana, walked a picket for weeks in Indianapolis, and utilized a nationwide petition through the Action Network. All of these strategies highlighted our 798 workforce with the goal of securing market share. Although Integrity Kokosing’s slice of the pie is not large, it is still good pipeline work that our members are missing. Integrity Kokosing is competing against our fair contractors, and we are losing ground because they underbid. This is a continuous fight and far from over. I remain hopeful that our efforts will produce positive results. I feel we are making progress with gas companies by emphasizing that you get what you pay for. Just because Integrity Kokosing and others like them are cheaper, cheaper is not better. Cheaper will get them high repair rates, missed deadlines, and bad safety records. I am optimistic that this contractor and others will come around in the future. We only need a chance to show them the value that only Local 798’s highly trained and skilled tradesmen can bring to the table.

Thank you to the following members who participated in the protest and held the socially distant picket line day after day carrying signs in the heat: Joshua Pattison, Troy Allen, Jason Duke, Kenneth Jordan, Michael Johnson, Scott Kidd, Robert Turner, Joshua Jones, Jeff Roberts, Chad Springer, Hal Oswalt, Jacob Turner, Robert Turner, Joshua Jones, Jeff Tigert, Sara Ward Rogers, and Jerry Cunningham, Jr. Thank you also to Danny Hendrix and Justin Wallace for all the necessary resources and counsel to implement this campaign. I would especially like to acknowledge Justin Hornback for his collaboration. His partnership in Indianapolis was invaluable. His skillset and motivation are assets to Pipeliners Local Union 798.

If I can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to call. Shop small, support the local contractors. His skillset and motivation are assets to Pipeliners Local Union 798. His skillset and motivation are assets to Pipeliners Local Union 798.

Pre-Jobs:

Appellation Construction Services, LLC:

Big Inch Fabricators and Construction:

C. A. Murren & Sons:

Chapps, LLC:


Graycor Industrial Constructors, Inc.:

Henkels & McCoy, Inc.:

- Grand Ledge, MI. Tie-ins on line 1,100 for the Grand Ledge City Gate Project, Consumers Energy. Superintendent: Matt Hopkins. Welder Foreman: Derrick Girard. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 8-31-20.


- Plainwell, MI. Replacing existing 20” valves, 12” PLD valves, demolition of existing piping on line 1,800 for Consumers Energy. Superintendent: Bill Duren. Welder Foreman: Kevin Blasdell. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 9-6-20.

Michels Pipelines:
- Martinsville, IN. Install 1,400’ of 8” steel pipe, 195’ of 4” steel, 30’ of 2” steel, 40-2” PE, 2 services, retire 1,490’ of 2” and 600’ of 6” for Vectren. Superintendent: Buck Newholm. Welder Foreman: Michael Johnson. Working 5-8s. Approx. completion 8-31-20.

- Royal Oak, MI. Remove and replace 2-26” valves, pipe sizes range from ½” to 26” for Consumers Energy. Superintendent: Russ Shurpilt. Welder Foreman: Jan Slater. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 8-28-20.

Minnesota Limited, Inc.:


- Traverse City, MI. 8.6 miles of 10” and install filter at launcher site for DTE. Superintendent: Dusty Schaaf. Welder Foreman: Ryan Schwartz. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 9-1-20.


- Traverse City, MI. 8.6 miles of 10” and install filter at launcher site for DTE. Superintendent: Dusty Schaaf. Welder Foreman: Ryan Schwartz. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 9-1-20.


- Traverse City, MI. 8.6 miles of 10” and install filter at launcher site for DTE. Superintendent: Dusty Schaaf. Welder Foreman: Ryan Schwartz. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 9-1-20.


I hope everyone remains safe and healthy during these unprecedented additional environmental hurdles are still in play. The MVP will get finished, but some of the state of Virginia now recognizes that more harm is being done by not completing the project. I'll believe that when I begin receiving job notifications, which are often slow. The current MVP start-up is rumored to be sometime in August. I am speculating on all these scenarios, but one fact remains, the South needs the gas, and West Virginia has the gas. It will be interesting to see how this plays out. The current MVP start-up is rumored to be sometime in August. I believe that when I begin receiving job notifications, but I do think that the state of Virginia now recognizes that more harm is being done by not completing the project. The MVP will get finished, but some of the additional environmental hurdles are still in play.

The reason I say that the Berkshire-Hathaway acquisition might go our way is because Buffet doesn’t buy anything that loses money. He now owns 18 percent of the pipelines in our country, and he owns eight percent prior to the purchase. Buffet is also friends with a lot of the folks that have been standing in our way. The gas that is produced in West Virginia is needed in Virginia and the Carolinas. That demand is not going away, and renewables are not going to be ready in time to meet this demand. Berkshire-Hathaway and other gas companies know about this current dilemma and may figure out new strategies to get the demand met.

Instead of trying to receive permits on a highly scrutinized 600-mile pipeline project, the gas companies may use laterals and existing right-of-way to meet the demand. I am speculating on all these scenarios, but one fact remains, the South needs the gas, and West Virginia has the gas. It will be interesting to see how this plays out. The current MVP start-up is rumored to be sometime in August. I believe that when I begin receiving job notifications, but I do think that the state of Virginia now recognizes that more harm is being done by not completing the project. The MVP will get finished, but some of the additional environmental hurdles are still in play.

I hope everyone remains safe and healthy during these unprecedented times.

Pre-Jobs:

Associated Pipe Line Contractors, Inc.:

Bond Civil and Utility Construction:

Contractors Rental Corp. dba CJ Hughes:
- Kenova, WV. HDO river crossing pipe replace on 1,300’ of 10” and 16”. Superintendent: Tyler Gandee. Welder Foreman: Trent Dickess. Integrity rates. Working 5-10s.

Frank Lill and Son, Inc.:

Michels Pipeline:
- Fayetteville, PA. 3,162’ of 20” take-up and re-lay, 1 MLV install and 5,404’ of hydro upgrade. Superintendent: Todd Bradshaw. Welder Foreman: Mickey Westerman. Integrity rates. Working 6-10s.

Price Gregory International:

I hope everyone is doing well in light of the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in many areas. I’m sure everyone, including myself, is having trouble understanding and coping with this new normal. Let’s all hope this pandemic is over soon.

The work outlook is a little better than my last report. I have pre-jobbed the two Snelson jobs in North Carolina, which are good jobs, and a few smaller jobs. Several more jobs in North Carolina are out for bids, as well as a few jobs in Tennessee and Kentucky. Most of this work is Special Agreement or Market Recovery, but if we didn’t have these agreements, we probably wouldn’t be getting this work.

I’m sure everyone has heard about the cancellation of the ACP. Thanks to everyone who worked hard, helping with the permits for this project. Advocating for our jobs is the future. I was watching a TV news cast about the damage done by the hurricane that hit the East Coast. It was devastating to the people living in the hardest-hit area. The people featured in the news story were threatening to sue the local utility companies for not being prepared for the kind of devastation the storm caused. Our great nation’s energy companies are spending billions of dollars trying to permit projects that will ensure this country has an adequate supply of clean, affordable energy, and our lives will not be affected because of a gas shortage. Continuously, the permits are rejected by environmental activists. They fail to understand that most of our energy infrastructure is aging and will eventually need to be shut down for repairs and maintenance. We need to get behind these energy companies and help get the necessary permits to build these pipelines. If these lines are shut
down, where is the energy going to come from? We must continue to educate the uneducated about the need to build the safe, new energy infrastructure needed to supply this country with clean, affordable energy. The September meeting is just around the corner. As always, I’m sure it will be an enjoyable and very informative meeting. I hope to see you there.

Pre-Jobs:

Snelson Companies, Inc.:

B&G Pipeline Company:

Minnesota Limited, Inc.:

It is good to hear we will have our Regular September Meeting this year; it will be good to see those in attendance. Missing the Steward School left a huge void in the year, but some things can’t be helped. As you all know, we will have nominations for delegates to the UA Convention at the September meeting.

It seems the oil price has come up somewhat, and hopefully will rise to desirable levels soon and stabilize. We have faced so many obstacles this year from every front; it’s almost unbelievable. As if the price of oil dropping to nothing wasn’t enough, couple that with COVID-19, plus the civil unrest and the ever-present radical environmentalists. We certainly have our work cut out for us. It’s a never-ending cycle, which is fairly normal, but this year has been exceptionally difficult. But I am sure with hard work and determination; we will prevail in the end.

Please, everyone participate in the Action Network! We need it now more than ever. And encourage others to do so.

As always, the nonunion is present and willing to work for substandard wages and zero conditions. But they, too, have not been immune from all of the things plaguing the industry this year. I have been contacted several times recently by nonunion workers inquiring about membership. Their wages are certainly going down as expected during times like these.

I will be heading out to West Texas this coming week for an extended time. If anyone is out there in that area and has any information, I would like to hear from you. Please don’t hesitate to call with anything that may be of interest regardless of where it may be. Also, if a nonunion pipeline company contacts you for work, let me know what they have to say.

If I can be of help to anyone, give me a call. If I can’t answer, leave a message. Sometimes I have little or no signal, and a lot of times, my phone doesn’t show a missed call, but it always shows a voicemail message. Thanks to everyone who has called in the past with much-needed information. It certainly helps, and I am always glad to hear from you. Stay safe and healthy on and off the jobs. All of us want to get through this without any health problems. If you can make it to the September Membership Meeting, be sure to come by and say hello.

Fraternally,
Ronnie M. Hill

1846 Helpers 1587 Welders 229 Journeymen

ORGANIZING Report

Ronnie Hill
918-284-6862

I hope everyone is doing well. I write this report from Central Texas while checking on jobs in this area. A multitude of things are still shut down or partially shut down across the state due to COVID-19. Hopefully, this pandemic will be over soon, and everything can get back to normal. Recently, I made trips to South and West Texas. Things remain slow in those areas.

It is good to hear we will have our Regular September Meeting this year; it will be good to see those in attendance. Missing the Steward School left a huge void in the year, but some things can’t be helped. As you all know, we will have nominations for delegates to the UA Convention at the September meeting.

It seems the oil price has come up somewhat, and hopefully will rise to desirable levels soon and stabilize. We have faced so many obstacles this year from every front; it’s almost unbelievable. As if the price of oil dropping to nothing wasn’t enough, couple that with COVID-19, plus the civil unrest and the ever-present radical environmentalists. We certainly have our work cut out for us. It’s a never-ending cycle, which is fairly normal, but this year has been exceptionally difficult. But I am sure with hard work and determination; we will prevail in the end.

Please, everyone participate in the Action Network! We need it now more than ever. And encourage others to do so.

As always, the nonunion is present and willing to work for substandard wages and zero conditions. But they, too, have not been immune from all of the things plaguing the industry this year. I have been contacted several times recently by nonunion workers inquiring about membership. Their wages are certainly going down as expected during times like these.

I will be heading out to West Texas this coming week for an extended time. If anyone is out there in that area and has any information, I would like to hear from you. Please don’t hesitate to call with anything that may be of interest regardless of where it may be. Also, if a nonunion pipeline company contacts you for work, let me know what they have to say.

If I can be of help to anyone, give me a call. If I can’t answer, leave a message. Sometimes I have little or no signal, and a lot of times, my phone doesn’t show a missed call, but it always shows a voicemail message. Thanks to everyone who has called in the past with much-needed information. It certainly helps, and I am always glad to hear from you. Stay safe and healthy on and off the jobs. All of us want to get through this without any health problems. If you can make it to the September Membership Meeting, be sure to come by and say hello.

Fraternally,
Ronnie M. Hill

Blue Light Reports - September/October

Photo Provided By: Kyle Biggs
Meeting Notice
September 11, 2020

The regular September Membership Meeting will be held at the Pipeliners Local 798 Union Hall, 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145, on Friday, September 11, 2020, beginning at 7 p.m. CST.

SPECIAL BUSINESS: Nomination and Election of an Election Committee and Nominations for UA Convention Delegates. The Election Committee will oversee the 2020 Election of Convention Delegates for the 2021 UA Convention. Therefore, Election Committee members will not be eligible to seek election as a Convention Delegate.

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

Any member who has been in continuous good standing for the two years prior to election is eligible to run for Election Committee. Nominations will be accepted on the floor at the membership meeting. In addition, letters of nomination may be submitted via fax to (918) 627-9327, via email to information@local798.org, or via mail to PO Box 470798, Tulsa, OK 74147. Faxed, emailed, and mailed nominations must be submitted by 12 noon CST on Friday, September 11, 2020. It is the nominator’s responsibility to verify that the nomination has been received in the Local 798 office.

All nominees must sign a nomination acceptance letter. Nomination acceptance letters should be submitted prior to the start of the September 11, 2020, membership meeting. Letters can be submitted via fax to (918) 627-9327, via email to information@local798.org, or via mail to PO Box 470798, Tulsa, OK 74147. It is the nominee’s responsibility to verify that the nomination acceptance letter has been received by the Local 798 office.

The secret ballot election will be conducted during the September 11, 2020, membership meeting. Election Committee members will not be eligible to run for Convention Delegate and should plan to attend a meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 9 a.m. CST at the Local 798 office.

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

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 concerns, the membership lunch and the Ladies of 798 hospitality have been canceled.

Hotel Accommodations
The Renaissance Tulsa Hotel has graciously offered a discounted room rate of $97-137/night. To make reservations, please call (918) 307-2600. Make sure you indicate you would like Pipeliners Local Union 798 rate.

PIPELINERS VOLUNTARY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In January 2021, following the conclusion of the Fall 2020 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 college-level coursework will be considered for this award.

Application forms for the 2020-2021 Scholarship Program are now available for students enrolled in the Fall 2020 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 a transcript of their grades upon completion of the Fall 2020 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 forms, and transcripts, are not received by the January 22, 2021, deadline.

PIPELINERS VOLUNTARY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In January 2021, following the conclusion of the Fall 2020 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 college-level coursework will be considered for this award.

Application forms for the 2020-2021 Scholarship Program are now available for students enrolled in the Fall 2020 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 a transcript of their grades upon completion of the Fall 2020 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 forms, and transcripts, are not received by the January 22, 2021, deadline.
Nominations for Local 798 2021 UA Convention Delegates/Alternates

This notice provides important information regarding the nomination process for the upcoming Local 798 2021 UA General Convention Delegates. If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Union Hall.

Nominations

1. A meeting to nominate convention delegates will be held on Friday, September 11, 2020, starting at 7 p.m. CST, at the Pipeliners Local 798 Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74145.

2. No Local 798 member shall be eligible as a convention delegate or alternate unless they have been a good standing member of the Local Union which they are to represent for at least two (2) continuous years previous to their election and they remain in good standing from the date of their election through the period of the convention. The date of the “election” for purposes of determining eligibility to serve as a convention delegate or alternate is October 21, 2020. Thus, if a member is not eligible as described above as of October 21, 2020, they will not be eligible to run for convention delegate or alternate.

3. Nominations for convention delegates will be accepted from the floor at the nominations meeting. A candidate may nominate their self and need not have a second. If a member is not present at the meeting, they may be nominated or nominate their self by sending written notice of their acceptance of nomination as a convention delegate. Such written notice may be delivered by hand, mail, or facsimile to the Local 798 office, or by email to nominations@local798.org. Written notice must be received in the Local 798 Union Hall in Tulsa, OK, no later than 12 noon CST on the day of nominations, Friday, September 11, 2020. (Please note that the email address for nominations will be activated on July 1, 2020, and deactivated at 12 noon CST on Friday, September 11, 2020.) The names of all candidates received by this deadline will be announced at the nominations meeting.

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

5. The Election Committee will conduct a candidate’s meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2020. All candidates and their observers are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be conducted at the Local 798 Union Hall, 4823 South 83rd East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74145, and will start at 10 a.m. CST.
THANK YOU

Dena Jones and Tommie G. Newsom thank the Voluntary Fund for the assistance they received. It is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Dennis Linney.

Steven Dakota Moore thanks you for the thoughts and prayers.

Ronnie Lampton thanks everyone that contributes to the Voluntary Fund. The gift helped them during a hard time while dealing with his cancer. Special thanks to Nikki Lampton, Phillip Wallace, and everybody involved. He deeply appreciated it.

James R. Hathorn expresses his thanks to the staff of Local 798 for the job they have done the past several months during the trying times of the shutdown. It is because of the quality and dedication that this organization has been able to continue to function. My thanks to all of you for a job well done.

Larry D. Fuller thanks everyone that supports the Voluntary Fund. May God continue to bless our local union and its members. Special thanks to Sam Herren for his support.

Jamie Sligh thanks all who contribute to the Pipeliners Voluntary Fund and those who make it possible. Thank you all for the generous gift.

Jeremy Sanford and family thank the members of Local 798 for contributing to the Voluntary Fund. It was a tremendous help during their son’s surgery. Special thanks to Daniel Hendrix and Justin Wallace.

Raymond and Jane Scarborough thank the Voluntary Fund for the gift they received when Raymond was hospitalized. The Voluntary Fund is such a help to those in need, and we are so blessed to have been a recipient of it. Special thanks to Joe Pearrow and his wife for their help to us. God bless all of you!

Buddy Kervin and Family thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.

William and Sara Choate thank each Brother and Sister who give to the Voluntary Fund. It’s reassuring to know it’s there when needed. We greatly appreciate the help we received, as it was very much needed. Special thanks to Thomas Haar.

A. J. Malnar thanks the Voluntary Fund and the contributors for their thoughtfulness and generosity at the passing of his wife, Wanda. It was greatly appreciated, and he feels blessed to be part of the Local Union 798.

Karen Smith and Family thank the members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The money we received after the passing of her mother was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Blake McAnally, Marc Sena, and Ricky Curtis.

Brian May thanks the people that contribute to the Voluntary Fund. Special thanks to Sam Chapman for his kind thoughts. God bless.

James Michael “Mike” Davis thanks all the members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the kind generosity he received at the loss of his son, Michael “Scott” Davis, on June 23, 2020. Scott, age 51, was a Helper member who had many friends in the pipeline industry. Special thanks to Bobby Turner and Chad Springer for their assistance. Love to all.

Alton Thompson thanks the 798 Voluntary Fund and everyone who contributes for the help received. Special thanks to Dean Evans and Black Schroeder.

Tex and Joni Davis thank 798 and the Voluntary Fund for the check they received after her fourth back surgery, heart problems, and hospitalizations. Special thanks to Grant Sample.

Michael and Kimberly Hawkins, Dakota Hawkins, and Micah Hawkins thank the members of Local 798 who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The generosity that was received following the loss of 798 member Linda Hawkins was definitely appreciated.

Robert Greenfield thanks the 798 Voluntary Fund for helping during a hardship endured. Special thanks to Frankie Bowker.

Dan Pawloski thanks all his 798 Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The check he received helped with the additional costs incurred recently at the Mayo Clinic. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Charlie Yates, Justin Wallace, and Steve Birgy.

Gibran and Melanie Smith greatly appreciate the Brothers and Sisters of Local 798 for their generosity in contributing to the Voluntary Fund and assisting us financially in our time of need. Special thanks to Jeremy Padgett, Michael Hawkins, Greg Russell, and Preston Ri'chard.

Jimmy and Angie Noggle thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, flowers, and money during this most difficult time. May God bless you all and keep you all safe.

Delisa K. Allen thanks the Voluntary Fund and everyone that contributes. The money received was very helpful to me and my family during my recent hospital stay while on the Greeley, Colorado, job.

Gary and Beverly Graham thank the Voluntary Fund and everyone who donates every week for the check received. Special thanks to Preston Ri’chard, Danny Hendrix, and Justin Wallace. Everyone stay safe, and God Bless.

Michael Shuman thanks Local 798 for its support. As I’m not the only one to have money issues this year, the check means a lot to me and my family.

Rickie and Staci Hayes thank everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. Staci is doing a lot better after her shoulder surgery. Special thanks to Jason Knight, John Knight, and Bobby Wayne.

Virgil Frith thanks all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund and for all the phone calls, cards, and letters. It gives me great pride to be able to say that I belong to the greatest organization in the world. The monetary gift and the letter were so uplifting and encouraging in this very low time in my life. It was such a blow to lose my loving wife of 53 years, especially during this pandemic when we could not have a traditional funeral. I’d also like to report that I’m getting much better after I sustained compression fractures to two vertebrae. Special thanks to Keith Edwards and Chad Gilbert for their kindness. May God bless you all.
The Brent Stai Family thanks the union and its members for voluntary funds received. Special thanks to Reid Baso, Preston R/’chard, and Phillip Wallace.

Bill “Fat Boy” and Diana Taylor thank all Brothers, Sisters, and Voluntary Fund contributors. I have been retired 11 years, but when you found out about my health problems, you were here to help me immediately. Thank you from all of my heart, and God helped with all the repairs and no cutouts!

Gary Farquer thanks everyone who gives to the Voluntary Fund. It really came in handy after hospital stays and surgery.

Royce Battles thanks the Voluntary Fund for the assistance. Kenneth always was so happy with the union and all they did for him. He loved his welding. I really appreciate your help at this time.

Theresa Smith thanks all the 798 Brothers and Sisters for their support and generosity to our family during this time. The check from the Voluntary Fund helped tremendously in the first few weeks following my husband, Nick Smith’s passing. I cannot express my gratitude enough for the outpouring of condolences and kind words from our union family. I will greatly miss all our fellow traveling Brothers and Sisters and will keep you in our prayers.


Kenneth W. Battles, 84-year-old Retired Welder of Antlers, OK, passed away on June 12, 2020.

Melvin A. Rivera, 41-year-old Helper of Deer River, MN, passed away on June 18, 2020.

William A. Gilbert, 86-year-old Retired Welder of Durant, OK, passed away on June 20, 2020.


Kenneth W. Battles, 84-year-old Retired Welder of Antlers, OK, passed away on June 12, 2020.

SWAP & SELL

Welding Truck Bed: Welding truck bed, has been used with a 2011 Dodge dually 3500 and a 2001 Dodge 2500 long bed. $2,500. Truck bed is in Glen Rose, TX. Contact Ann Baker at (254) 396-3343.


IN MEMORIAM


Nick J. Smith, 37-year-old Welder of Buckeye, AZ, passed away May 9, 2020.

Benjamin G. Sample, 83-year-old Retired Welder of Houston, TX, passed away May 29, 2020.


Jeffery E. Adams, Welder, Kensett, AR

Andrew C. Bimah, Welder, Thibodaux, LA

Stephen L. Gatehouse, Welder, Zephyrhills, FL

Delbert D. Jones, Welder, Weston, WV

David D. Kandle, Welder, Navarre, OH

James D. Mitchell, Welder, Frametown, WV

David C. Skaggs, Helper, Seward, PA

James A. Sonnier, Welder, Jonesboro, LA

Minnesota Limited

Bemidji, MN
Email Addresses Needed
The Pipeline Industry Pension Fund (PIPF) will begin to implement the electronic delivery of select Pension documents in the near future. You will be notified in advance of the start of this, but once implemented, you will receive an email that includes a link to the document. When you click on this link, you will be directed to the document. In preparation for this, we need to make sure we have your most recent email address. The primary source for email addresses will be from the email address associated with your Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund Member Portal email address. Log in to the member portal and update your email address as needed. Prior to the start of the electronic delivery of documents, you will receive a letter in the mail confirming the email address we will use. You will also have the option at that time to opt out of receiving documents via email. Electronic delivery of documents can save the Fund thousands of dollars on mailouts. Please update your email address today!

Requirement to Notify PIPF of Retirement Intentions
The PIPF sends all participants nearing their normal retirement age a letter to verify that the participant is aware that they can take their retirement and that the participant can retire immediately, or at the normal retirement age or wait. In any case, the participant must send the completed form back so the PIPF staff will know the participant’s retirement intentions. PIPF is required to comply with the fiduciary duties of prudence under Section 404(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to advise participants who have not filed a benefit application of their entitlement to benefits under the terms of the Plan. Receipt of this signed form enables PIPF to clearly document compliance with this requirement.

As a reminder, the Trustees previously approved the age 62 in-service distribution rule, which allows a participant to retire at age 62 and draw the monthly pension and continue to work. You can draw your pension and continue to earn additional pension credits that can increase your monthly pension amount.

In addition, when you retire, you have the option to select the survivor benefit of your choice, choosing from 50%, 75% or 100% joint and survivor annuity. If something should happen to you before you retire, your spouse would draw the plan default of 75% joint and survivor annuity option. Also, if you do not qualify for retiree health insurance at retirement, you can now earn the additional credits to qualify by working after retirement. A participant can choose to wait past the normal retirement age to retire, but the final required date to retire under IRS rules is 70 ½. Please refer to the PIPF Summary Plan Description for complete details.

MDLIVE - Virtual Medical Visit Option
The MDLIVE program launched on May 1, 2020. Hopefully, you have all registered and set up a profile for you and your dependents to use should you need the service. It is a great idea to do this in advance of your first virtual visit. As a reminder, this is a virtual medical visit program offered by BlueCross BlueShield for active and COBRA participants and for participants where PIBF is the primary coverage. This program will give 24/7/365 access to speak to a doctor from any location. The co-payment for this service will be $15 per visit. This co-payment will not count toward your annual medical benefits deductible or out-of-pocket expense limit. It will be eligible for reimbursement under the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) by submitting your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) with a completed HRA Claim Form. Details about the program and instructions on how to participate have been mailed to the membership. In addition, you should have received a new Medical ID card listing the MDLIVE information.

Featured Personnel
Michelle Ruiz is an Assistant to the Controller. She handles the 401(k) distributions and has been with PIBF for 10 years. Michelle loves spending time with her family and time out at the lake in their boat. She is the proud mother of two amazing daughters, Amber (34) and Bethann (20), and has been married to her husband, David, for 35 years. Michelle enjoys helping the membership and hearing their stories. “I feel it helps me connect with the membership. I am very thankful for being a part of PIBF – it is an incredible organization!”

Tabitha Bruner works in the Pensions and Contributions Department at PIBF. She started as temporary personnel in 2015 and went full time in 2016. When she first joined PIBF, she was doing Steward Reporting, but now her main focus is COBRA and Pension applications processing. She has been with PIBF for five years and feels like time has flown! At home, she enjoys crafting, reading, gardening, and spending time outside with her little fur baby Bo-Bo. Bo-Bo is a mini Aussie and keeps her on her toes. To the members, “I’ve enjoyed learning about this industry and continue to learn daily. Thank you for your hard work, and I look forward to serving you for years to come.”

918.280.4800
www.PIBF.org
Renée Vause - Director
Camo Winter Cap
Item #101-C2 - $11.00

Gray Long-Sleeve T-Shirt
Item #118 - $17.00
(S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL, 4XLT)

Stainless Steel Travel Mug
Item #133 - $12.00

Winter Navy Cap
Item #101-D - $17.00

70th Anniversary Long-Sleeve T-Shirt
Item #121 - $17.00
(S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL, 4XLT)

Knitted Cap
Item #102 - $8.00

70th Anniversary Long-Sleeve T-Shirt
Item #121 - $17.00
(S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL, 4XLT)

Gray Long-Sleeve T-Shirt
Item #118 - $17.00
(S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL, 4XLT)

Camo Winter Cap
Item #101-C2 - $11.00