BLUE LEGET REPORTS January/February 2023

Basil Long and Steve McClellan Moundsville, WV **Pipeliners Union 798** 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave. P.O. Box 470798 Tulsa, OK 74147-0798

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

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

Business Manager Daniel C. Hendrix

Financial Secretary-Treasurer Justin Wallace

President Shannon Jack<u>son</u>

Vice President Randy Mathis

Recording Secretary Guy Williams

Inside Guard Joseph Torres

Executive Board Jeffrey H. Doyle Brett Mason Cody Pedigo Troy Post

Finance Committee David N. Hall Raymond Johnson Guy Simms

Examining Board Clark Eastwood Ricky Jones

Business Agents

David Butterworth Jerry "Dale" Crabtree, Jr. Todd Hartle Justin Head Joe Gaines Charles E. Yates, Jr.

Organizers Ronnie Hill Chad Simmons Charles Thomas

Dispatcher Jimmy Dick

Dispatch Office 918-610-2761

Out-of-Work List 918-663-3200

Dispatch Fax 918-610-2740

Job Line 918-610-2745



Business Manager's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and all the candidates who participated. I would also like to thank the members of the Election Committee, John Werner, Greg Russell, and Tracy Lester, for their due diligence and professionalism in ensuring that the election was conducted according to Department of Labor rules and guidelines.

The next three years could be the most challenging for our members as we anticipate the bulk of the new lay will be in Texas, a state that we struggle with, against nonunion wages that do not include a benefits package. Decisions will not be easy or comfortable to try and level a playing field dominated primarily by unscrupulous contractors for far too long. We have been utilizing the Market Recovery as a weapon to make our contractors competitive, but unfortunately, their success rate has been dismal. We have had several meetings and frank discussions with labor and contractors willing to bid in that market. Deliberations continue, and we will build a new weapon to fight this battle. The fight against sub-standard wages and no benefits has always been the enemy of the working man regardless of the industry you work in.

The work outlook hasn't changed much, but I still believe 2023 will be slightly stronger than 2022. Integrity Maintenance work is still strong and growing as our pipeline systems age. There is a large volume of pipeline work on the books but politics and permitting will impact whether they are constructed sooner rather than later. Building trades work through our sister locals will still be red hot after the first of the year for those who want to participate. We have connections with the locals; we have the instructors to help build your skill sets; all we need is for you to reach out.

Pension improvements were not considered at our last PIBF trustee meeting due to poor performance in the market. Our pension fund remains healthy and solvent at over 100 percent, but market futures continue to be volatile on a day-to-day basis. We beat the index in all categories of investments, but unfortunately, the index numbers were all negative, so there were no gains, only losses.

This report may seem all negative to some, but the truth is, this union and my position as your business manager is always challenging, in good times and bad. I pledge to you that I will continue to work to preserve our rightful place as the leader of the pipeline industry and strive to work for the betterment of all members of 798. *As always,* "I work for you, the greatest pipeliners in the world."

Fraternally,

' that

Daniel C. Hendrix Business Manager



Financial Secretary -Treasurer's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope each of you was able to spend time with your loved ones during the holiday season. The votes for the 2022 Officer Election were counted on December 8, here at the Union Hall. You will find the results in this issue of the Blue Light. I appreciate the support I've received and am truly honored that I was unopposed for the position of Financial Secretary-Treasurer. Elections are healthy, but the slander and misinformation that sometimes comes with elections are not. I ask the membership to get behind and support the duly elected candidates going forward. We are stronger when we are all pulling in the same direction. Congratulations to all the candidates and those chosen to represent this membership for the next three years.

We are actively engaged in organizing campaigns in several parts of the country right now. No, we will not divulge the details of our organizing on any social media platform for obvious reasons. We have also met with the other crafts and the PLCA on the subject of securing market share in Texas. This is no easy task. Honestly, it seems like quite an uphill battle we face. There are no easy answers to how to get back into this market. The work has gotten cheaper and cheaper, and we aren't getting enough of it, even under the Market Recovery conditions. We often hear, "Why aren't we doing this work?" and then, it's "Why did we give concessions on this project?" sometimes from the same people. We have to ask ourselves, can we take back this work at full rates and working conditions? It's not going to be easy in Texas. This was recognized in 2018 when the crafts and the PLCA collectively put together the Market Recovery package to make a run at the work down South. We are going to continue meeting collectively to take this work back. It will not be easy, and some of what we will have to do will be painful, but we can't let the nonunion continue to flourish in that market. The bulk of big-inch projects over the next several years will be in Texas and Louisiana.

I know we push this to the extreme, but I can't tell you how vital the Action Network is to us in securing more work. Don't let anyone tell you it doesn't work. Don't ever let anyone tell you this is all we are doing either. Many of the actions we run are because we are specifically asked to do so by the client/gas company. They reach out to Danny or me, or through the business agents and organizers, and tell us what the need is. We've had positive feedback recently from Williams, Enbridge, Tellurian, etc., on how our partnership is strengthened through our use of the Pipeline Action Network. Please help us with this. Spread the word and get everyone you know to sign these actions. Every click helps. If you've got information that may be helpful to our organizing efforts, please reach out to Chad Simmons, Charlie Thomas, or Ronnie Hill. I assure you these guys will follow up on any promising lead. We are all in this together, so let's work together for the betterment of this local union. Opportunities are coming up in several parts of the country for involvement at public hearings for pipeline projects. These carbon capture projects will need our help all along the way. There's a lot of work for us to do, with new proposed projects also popping up. Please stay involved!

I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year, and if there is ever anything 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,

Wallace

Justin Wallace Financial Secretary-Treasurer



Business Agent Reports



Jerry Dale Crabtree, Jr.

I am writing this after returning from our December meeting. I thought it was a very productive meeting, and I am excited for the coming year. I would like to congratulate all my fellow members who were duly elected in December. I know each of you will do an amazing job and continue to help our local thrive. I am also very proud of how many members stepped up and ran for office. Participation is a contributing factor to our local continuing to move forward.

The projected work outlook for 2023 is looking good. I am in constant contact with not only other locals in my jurisdiction but contractors and gas companies as well. I am anticipating the job opportunities in the South looking better for 2023. Building trades work will be abundant, along with pipeline and station projects.

By the time you read this, I will have attended the public hearing discussing a proposed initial part 70 air operating permit in DeRidder, Louisiana, for the Driftwood Pipeline's Indian Bayou Compressor Station in Beauregard Parrish. Members in that area will also attend, showing/stating their support. Any upcoming events are always listed on the 798 Action Network. Signing petitions and attending these public meetings are vital to helping these projects get through all the red tape. Please take the time to take ACTION!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and wish everyone a happy New Year! As always, I am here to serve you. If you have any concerns or questions, please call me at 918-991-5341. May God bless every one of you, and God bless this great local.

Pre-Jobs:

Henkels & McCoy, Inc.:

- Stanfield, NC. Install 15.4 miles of 24" and 27.8 miles of 6" and 8" to be abandoned in place. Gas Company: Duke Energy. Welder Foreman: Manuel Rivera. Job Steward: David Hall. Market Recovery rates. <u>Rockford Corporation</u>:
 - Savannah, GA. Weld up and pull back support for 6,200' of 36" HDD. Gas Company: HDD Company. Welder Foreman: Mitchell Elliott. Job Steward: Wilbur Odom. Mainline rates.



I am writing this report after returning from the December meeting. I want to congratulate the newly elected and returning officers and all who ran to be a bigger part of their local union. I hope that we can all move forward together with this election behind us. Another point I would like to make is the fact that we have a leadership that has an open-door policy. If you want to voice a concern, don't wait until an election year. Pick up the phone and voice your concerns. We have a leader who will listen and consider what you have to say without judgment.

As far as the work for the upcoming year, I see an uptick. I expect some of the bigger projects in Nevada to go this year. Kern River has a substantial amount of Integrity Maintenance work coming up in Utah, as well as the 35 miles of 24" I have mentioned in previous reports. The Tallgrass bids are due this month, and I am optimistic that our past performance should cement our fair contractors in obtaining a large portion of that work. There are still other good projects that are still fighting environmental reviews that I am watching closely. The building trades work is slowing down for winter and the holidays; however, I expect to see it pick up after the first of the year. I get a lot of calls from Helpers wanting to help man that work. The best way to get that opportunity is to obtain some UA certifications. Most locals have not opened the door for Helpers to come in as fitters or provisional Journeymen without having any certifications. If you have some certifications, please contact me, and I will be glad to explain what options may be available.

As always, if there is anything I can assist you with, please feel free to contact me.

Pre-Jobs:

Hanging H Companies, LLC:

 Sparks, NV. Station mods for TC Energy. Start date 10-31-22. Superintendent: Rick Melroy. Mainline rates. Approx. completion 11-21-22.



Update Your Information

The beginning of a new year is a great time to update your contact information with the Union Hall. Simply sign into the Member Login section of the Local 798 website at www.local798.org to verify your information is current. This includes mailing address, phone numbers, email address, and demographics.



AR, IA, KS, MN, MO, MT, NE, ND, OK, SD 918-230-1884

Todd **Hartle**

I am writing this report after returning home from the December Membership Meeting in Tulsa. We had a good turnout, and it was good to see and visit with everyone in attendance. I want to congratulate all the elected and re-elected officers.

I have been visiting with other locals, gas companies, and contractors. Our contractors tell me that they are bidding on work and that the Integrity Maintenance work looks better for next year.

I recently attended a meeting in Tipton, Iowa, regarding the Wolf Project. This is one of three carbon capture pipelines, and they are still in the process of holding informational meetings. This project will be about 280 miles of 4" to 20" pipe, with 190 miles in Illinois and about 90 miles going through Iowa. It is in the early stages, and if all goes well, it will begin construction in the second quarter of 2024. Mark Antczak, business agent for Local 597, and I attended the meeting and can see there is some opposition to this project. We talked before the meeting to the vice president/engineer from Wolf Carbon Solutions about using union labor. He acknowledged that our support for the project by using our Action Network and attending future meetings could be a huge asset. He also spoke of plans to talk to the four crafts, but it is still early in the project. As members, we must continue to stay involved in the Action Network.

I recently received a call from a superintendent from a building trades job saying thanks to 798 for manning their job. He told me our members did a great job and had a good work ethic. This is always great to hear.

While in Tulsa, I visited the 798 Training Center and was glad to see so many of our members taking advantage of it.

I hope all of you had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope to see you all at the January meeting. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me. God bless you and your families in 2023.

Pre-Jobs:

Charps, LLC:

- Eldora, IA. 16" and 26" pipe to be used to install actuators in Hardin County, IA for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Brandon Olson. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Christopher L. Olson. Integrity Maintenance. 90 percent rates. Working 5-10s. Job complete.
- Foltz Welding Ltd.:
 - Bethany, MO. 24" pipe fab and testing. Installation of fab in Harrison County, MO. (2) 24" welds and (2) 24" cold cuts for Flint Hills Resources. Superintendent: Kevin Cain. Welder Foreman: Quintin C. Curry. Job Steward: Brent W. Stai. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Job complete.

Gordon Construction of Mahnomen, Inc.:

• Eagleville, MO. Flip (2) 24" 150# blinds, (3) 30" blinds, (3) 24" blinds, (6) 24" manway blinds, and torque in Harrison County, MO for Flint Hills Resources. Superintendent: Dan Berg. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Adrian B. Johnson. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Job complete.

Geeding Construction, Inc.:

- Cedar Rapids, IA and Mt. Vernon, IA. 5,300' of 12" pipe to be used for HDD and reroute in Dubuque and Linn County, IA for Buckeye. Superintendent: Jeremy Mound. Welder Foreman: Andrew Gnade. Job Steward: Jimmy D. Noggle. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-24-22.
- Troy, MO. 60' of 16" pipe to be used for fab and installed in Lincoln County, MO and Edgar County, IL for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Chad Hester. Welder Foreman: Aaron A. O'Brien. Job Steward: Donnie R. Lindsey, Jr. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

McCizer Pipeline, Inc.:

• Velvet Ridge, AR. 20" pipe to be used for JM-1 launcher for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Dewey McCabe. Welder Foreman: Aaron W. Carr. Job Steward: Karmen Mason. Integrity Maintenance. 80 percent rates. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-8-22.

Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

- Columbia Falls, MT. 2,000' of 10" conventional lay 325' of 4" tap line conventional lay. City gate station fab in Missoula Yard, congested, for Northwestern Energy. Superintendent: Yancey Palmer. Welder Foreman: Corey L. McClung. Job Steward: Shane R. Loudan. Integrity Maintenance. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-7-22.
- Frazee, MN. Frazee compressor station, 6" pipe on a 600-class line in Becker County, MN for ONEOK. Superintendent: Kevin Marlett. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: James M. Brashears. Station work. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Fremont, NE. Remove temporary launcher barrel in Dodge County, NE for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: John Kummer. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Brian L. Straight. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Manhattan, KS. Repair emergency leak on 36" pipeline in Washington County, KS for TC Energy. Superintendent: Tim Tureson. Welder Foreman: Johnny E. Gardner. Job Steward: Joshua R. Jones. Integrity Maintenance. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-30-22.
- Milford, NE. Replace existing heater and piping in Seward County, NE for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Travis Novack. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Joseph M. Lee. Integrity Maintenance. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

United Piping, Inc.:

 Stockton, IA. Build new interconnect point, install foundations for meter skid and EGM skid, 2" lines from hot tap on 36" line for TC Energy. Superintendent: Sam Anderson. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Chris H. Waeckerle. Station work. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.



I write this after returning home from the December meeting. It was great catching up with everyone and seeing old and new faces. Thank you to everyone who made the trip. Congratulations to our newly elected officials. I know our leadership is strong, and I am committed to helping them in any way I can.

I hope that now that the election is over and the membership has spoken, we can get behind our elected brothers and portray a united front. Badmouthing fellow members is unacceptable, and for our local to continue to thrive, we must come together to work for a common good. If you have grievances with someone, call that member directly. My phone is always by my side, and I look forward to talking to you.

The jobs in Longview and Orange are wrapping up. Thank you to the workers that have gone above and beyond in providing their skilled labor. I have heard only good things from the contractors, and I am grateful to these hands for showing what 798 is all about.

Building trades work in Texas continues to boom. I have sister locals reaching out to me almost weekly, asking for additional hands. Local 404 is currently working on a cheese plant in Amarillo, Texas. While they are currently manned up, that can change at a moment's notice. The cheese plant in Amarillo will be completed in the first quarter of 2023. After the completion, they will move to Lubbock to build one of the nation's largest cheese plants in existence. Business Manager J.B. Kirk, with Local 404, has already expressed

the need for additional workers. If you would like to be put on a list for this upcoming work, please give me a call.

Work at the Texas Instrument's plant continues to ramp up. They are manning all work currently but have continued to express the need for additional workers in this first quarter. If you are interested in this work, please take this time to brush up on your orbital welding skills. UA Certifications 1 and 18A continue to be in high demand. Another reminder that OSHA 10, which can be acquired online, is necessary to even get in the door.

Please continue to participate in the Action Network. These petitions make a difference, but only if you make that happen. Fill out those petitions; like, share and comment with your friends and neighbors. We can absolutely make a meaningful difference in our industry, but only if we speak up! Be the squeaky wheel and be louder than the opposition.

As we enter 2023, I want to take this time to wish you and your family a happy, blessed, and prosperous new year! May this new year bring an abundance of work for our 798 family.

May God continue to bless America, our local, and each of you. As always, if I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to call 918-237-3573.

Pre-Jobs:

Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

- 120' of 24" to replace a damaged section of existing pipeline for Kinder Morgan. Superintendent: Derik Engle. Welder Foreman: Shannon Jackson. Job Steward: John Werner. Working 6-10s. Integrity Maintenance.
- RMS Holdings, LLC:
 - Beaumont, TX. 4,600' of 36" welds for Exxon Mobil. Superintendent: Matt Steel. Welder Foreman: Michael Holder. Job Steward: Andrew Kindle. NPL. Working 6-10s. Approx. Completion 2-15-23.



I am writing this report after returning from our regular December Membership Meeting in Tulsa. The election results are official. Congratulations to Brother Hendrix, Brother Wallace, and all those who not only won but ran a clean campaign. Moving forward, it is my hope that we support one another and uphold our oath of obligation, especially section 153 of the UA Constitution (in summary) I do truly promise and pledge my word of honor that I will not perform any act in any way prejudicial to the best interest of the United Association, but will at all times endeavor to promote its prosperity and usefulness. I will at all times assist members of the United Association, defend them when unjustly treated or slandered, and cultivate for each and every member the warmest friendship and brotherly love.... The negativity is detrimental to our reputation. Please remember that social media has a vast audience which includes contractors and gas companies.

Ultimately, we show up every day and try. We stumble at times, but we show up. Theodore Roosevelt said it best on April 23, 1910. "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly...who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly. . ."

Over the past few months, notifications have slowed, as is typical of the onset of winter. I have collaborated with our organizers, Chad Simmons and Charlie Thomas. We are in talks with various nonunion contractors. The October Intel Plant meeting prepared by Columbus Local 189, Bechtel Contractors, and UA International Representative Kenny Ruggles went well. Special thanks to Timothy Ely, business manager of Local 189 in Columbus, Ohio, for hosting

h

this event. Project leaders specifically requested 798 representatives to discuss welding procedures and manpower potential. Being included in such a historic project with a nationwide following proves that we are respected professionals in this industry.

Happy New Year to all my Brothers and Sisters. If I can be of assistance, do not hesitate to call. Shop small, support union, and buy made in the USA.

Pre-Jobs:

Appalachian Pipeline Contractors, LLP:

 Monroe, OH. Modifications and casing replacements on 12" pipe for Duke Energy. Superintendent: Colten Hendrix. Welder Foreman: Randy Williams. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

Appellation Construction Services, LLC:

• Oberlin, OH. 8" and 24" hot tap tie-in for Enbridge. Superintendent: Brad Kamerer. Welder Foreman: Tim Ungard. Working 5-10s. Job complete.

Big Inch Fabricators and Construction:

- Howell, MI. 50' of 4" valve replacements for Pan Handle Eastern. Superintendent: Jim Shepler. Welder Foreman: Scott Petty. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Breman, IN. Plus or minus 2,000' of 2" meter station installation in St. Joseph County for Trunkline Gas Company. Superintendent: Zeb Hartman. Welder Foreman: Brandon Houston. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

InterCon Construction, Inc.:

 Oberlin, OH. 6" pipe for pipeline RNG and interconnect for Burns and McDonald. Superintendent: Aaron Zila. Welder Foreman: Patrick Kingsland. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 1-21-23.

Michels Utility Services, Inc.:

• Syracuse, IN. Valve replacement at regulator station in Kosciusko County for NiSource. Superintendent: Eric Carlson. Welder Foreman: John Healy. Working 5-10s. Job complete.

Otis Minnesota Service, Inc.:

• Elyria, OH. 15,700' of 6" steel pipeline installation for Burns and McDonald. Superintendent: Mark Carpenter. Welder Foreman: Cody Dye. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-10-22.

RL Coolsaet Construction Company:

 Romulus, MI. Pressure test approximately 300' of high-pressure steel pipe for DTE Energy. Superintendent: Bart Jennette. Welder Foreman: Kevin Duffy. Working 5-10s. Job complete.

Roberts Pipeline, Inc.:

 Mifflin, OH. 16" pipe cut-out for TC Energy. Superintendent: Bobby Westrater. Welder Foreman: Ryan Frey. Working 6-10s. Job complete.



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



David **Butterworth**

I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I have just returned from the December meeting, where we found out who our officers will be for the next three years. I congratulate all who won, and I commend all those who had the resolve to run for office. The fact that you ran shows you care about this great local and its progression. Local 798 was chartered 73 years ago, and this group of elected officers is tasked with steering and guiding this local on a path of sustainability so we can be around for 73 more. I pray those elected take this obligation seriously and truly understand how important their duties are to our success.

The work in the Northeast is currently slow due to the holidays, and I am pre-jobbing less than I do in the spring/summer. I hear from the contractors that there is more work out to bid in 2023 than in 2022. I think we will continue

to see most of our work being done in the maintenance, gathering, and compressor station sectors as the large-diameter transmission mainlines in the Northeast continue to be plagued with permit issues. Permitting reform will be necessary to unlock development in carbon capture and hydrogen ventures along with fossil fuel projects. My sources on Capitol Hill tell me there is a strong appetite for permitting reform amongst the politicians. And many of them know that the \$370 billion the Inflation Reduction Act dedicates to energy will not be able to be spent due to roadblocks put in place by the "Not in My Back Yard" movement.

I am frequently asked what is going on with the MVP. The United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management permits, which have been reworked, will be decided on by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in the summer of 2023. If the permits receive a favorable review, we will return to work on MVP next summer. I would like to see a legislative permitting reform bill passed before the court rules because I am hesitant to trust the Fourth Circuit's judgment due to past decisions they have made on the MVP. Time will tell how this plays out, but you can rest assured that we will keep close tabs on this and help in any way possible to get MVP over the goal line.

Pre-Jobs:

Ace Pipeline, Inc.:

- New Martinsville, WV. 6,000' of triple lay, 2-20" and 1-24" steel new lay. Superintendent: Travis Jarvis. Welder Foreman: Jason Pitts. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.
- Apex Pipeline Services, Inc.:
 - Bens Run, WV. 24" Install 2,200' of 24" mainline HDPE and 1,300' of 20" mainline steel. Superintendent: Eric Creel. Welder Foreman: Jason Smith. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s.
- Appellation Construction Services, LLC:
 - Hereford Township, PA. 8" pipeline interconnect. Superintendent: Trevor Sheleman. Welder Foreman: Ryan Massaro. Integrity rates. Working 5-10s.
 - Westwood, MA. Station maintenance. Superintendent: Cory Chilson. Welder Foreman: Gordon Titus. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.
- Contractors Rental Corp dba CJ Hughes:
 - Lynchburg, VA. 2,023' of 6" steel gas main replacement. Superintendent: Kyle Pugh. Welder Foreman: Brian Fox. Integrity rates. Working 6-10s.
- LMC Industrial Contractors, Inc.:
 - East Waterford, PA. 2"-6" 2023 facility scope preparation. Superintendent: Mike Adams. Welder Foreman: Mike Trevett. 80 percent rates. Working 5-10s.
- Otis Minnesota Services:
 - Warren, PA. Take up and relay of 1,200' of 6". Superintendent: Billy Neidermaier. Welder Foreman: Andre Malan. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s.

Precision Infrastructure:

- North Lawrence, NY. 11,300' of 2" plus fabrication. Superintendent: Gary Denhoff. Welder Foreman: Jacob Roberts. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.
- Price Gregory International:
 - Chesapeake, VA. Creek crossing install and abandonment for 372' of 12". Superintendent: Todd Burleson. Welder Foreman: Jimmy Jones. Integrity rates. Working 6-10s.
 - Roaring Branch, PA. 6,700' of 12" steel natural gas pipeline. Superintendent: Jack Burch. Welder Foreman: Aron Pitre. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.

US Pipeline, Inc.:

- Landover, MD. Additional 0.6 miles of 24" and 0.4 miles of 16". Superintendent: Jerry Bash. Welder Foreman: Nathan Cunningham. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s and one 8.
- VEC, Inc.:
 - Sandyville, WV. Replace main gas heater. Superintendent: Kelly Giltinan. Welder Foreman: Ryan Brady. 80 percent rates. Working 6-10s.
 - Manakin-Sabot, VA. Install two valve actuators. Superintendent: Sean Wilster. Welder Foreman: Brandon Houston. 80 percent rates. Working 6-10s.

Meeting Notice

January 13, 2023

The regular January Membership Meeting will be held at the Pipeliners Local 798 Union Hall, 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145, on Friday, January 13, 2023, beginning at 7 p.m. CST.

Special Business: Installation of Officers

Ladies of 798 Hospitality

The Ladies of 798 Hospitality will be held at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel at 6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133, beginning at 6 p.m. CST on Friday, January 13, 2023.

Hotel Accommodations

To make reservations at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel, please call 918-307-2600.

2023-2025 Membership Cards

New membership cards are here. Remember, you must pay membership dues into 2023 before your new membership card is mailed. Membership cards will only be sent to the address you have on file with the Union Hall.





DISPATCHReport

Jimmy Dick

918-610-2761

As members, we should be thinking of ways to make our fair contractors more competitive in today's markets. Cutting pension contributions and benefits is not the win-all-save-all method. We should all agree that upgrading our skill set will help. Now is the time to take advantage of our training facilities. Today we see a lot of gas companies overmatching the consumable to the pairing metal. We have contractors currently bidding on work that will be done with not-so-common welding procedures. These procedures will be handheld wire and downhill Lo-Hi. Take the time to become familiar with these procedures. We have everything you need right here in Tulsa to accomplish that. We must stay on top of the game in this industry. High repair rates are just one of the many factors gas companies consider when awarding work.

I see members taking jobs who have been out of work for months, even years. Take the time to brush up on your skill set. Check your equipment, burn some rods, and have confidence in your ability. There is no give-me test in our line of work during these slower times. Make every weld count.

Building Trades

A welder will go to work quicker than a fitter. I say that to make everyone aware of the demand coming. Take the time to get some UA certs. Prepare yourself now for the upcoming work season. By March 2023, the building trades work should be in full swing. There will be work opportunities from coast to coast. Combo welders and Stainless welders will be in high demand. I want to make sure everyone is aware of these opportunities. We will do videos and make call blasts as the work picks up. Don't sit back and make excuses. Get involved. Give me a call, and let's talk about what's going on with the industry. Let's find you a job.

Take the time now to get the OSHA 10; everyone working building trades will need it. You can help yourself and also help out our fair contractors by having the OSHA 10. You can take the course through the 798 Training Center. Give Farron Hollabaugh a call to set it up.

I want to thank the members who have been manning the building trades work. Your positive approach to the work has helped mend and build strong relationships with our sister locals.

This month, the business agents and I will visit sister locals to see if we can help them with their upcoming needs. I thank these BAs for helping me build on the relationships that have given our members opportunities to work in other jurisdictions.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Business Manager Danny Hendrix for his ongoing support, encouragement, and words of wisdom. I greatly enjoy working for a business manager who puts the membership first.





918-600-4207



ORGANIZING Report

Chad Simmons

As December has ended, so has our election. Congratulations to all those who ran. Whether you were elected or not, you put yourself out there to help this great local union, and your continued positive involvement is needed.

We are embarking upon a new year with many opportunities and challenges ahead. Numerous gas companies we have spoken with are looking to lay new pipelines. Some of these are in conjunction with LNG exports along the Gulf Coast. One example is Tellurian's Driftwood project, which will be built with union labor. By the time you read this report, we will have attended a town hall meeting in DeRidder, Louisiana, for Driftwood Pipeline's Indian Bayou Compressor Station with approximately 20 of our members. Thank you to each of you that came to show your support. Attending these town hall meetings is so vital to the success of a project. Please participate if you are available and continue to support the Action Network. Several gas companies have commended our efforts in both.

For the United States to become energy independent, we need pipeline permit reform. Call your U.S. Senators and Representatives and urge them to support legislation that will shorten the pipeline approval process. This will open the door for future projects to get started in a timely manner and continue once they begin, unlike the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Most of you probably don't hear much about what your organizers are doing. There is a reason for that. Most things that we do are covert operations. Ronnie Hill, Charles Thomas, and I work with the appropriate business agents to seek out our target companies. We keep our circles small to avoid exposing our plans. If you are willing to help us, we will require you to do the same. In the last Blue Light, Ronnie did an excellent job describing the qualities and requirements of a Salt. "Salting often starts as a covert operation; therefore, the salts must be very discreet and well-disciplined. They must also be an excellent craftsman, congenial, observant, and have an excellent work ethic. And they must be very knowledgeable about what is considered protected concerted activity. As far as the work is concerned, you need to be a model employee, so when the real reason for being there is revealed, there would be no legitimate reason for being fired due to your work record. It's imperative that salts do not discuss any activity with anyone unless instructed to by whoever sent them there. It's a job like any other, and there is one reason for being there and only one reason. If the opportunity arises, and it seems it will be beneficial, and the right people are available that are sincere and disciplined for this, then we will certainly do it." If you have information that can help, let us know. Our phone numbers are listed below.

One of the biggest hurdles we face in the organizing world is ourselves. When meeting with gas companies and contractors (union and nonunion), we get asked about all the dissension on social media. It is hard to convince them that we are the Best in the World when there is so much ill will being slung around on these so-called "private pages." This not only hurts the local; it also hurts you! We must come together and support our great local union. *Positive Participation Promotes Peak Performance!*

May God bless you and Local 798.

Ronnie Hill 918-284-6862

Charles Thomas 918-313-5987

Chad Simmons 918-600-4207



Steward School April 10-14, 2023

Registration information will soon be mailed to all members for the upcoming Pipeliners Local Union 798 Steward School to be held April 10-14, 2023. <u>If you plan to work in the future as a Steward, Welder Foreman, or Pipeman, make plans to attend.</u> Please complete your registration information and make your reservations as soon as possible. Additional information on the events will be included with your registration packet. Pipeliners Local Union 798 has a group rate at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel. <u>When making reservations, please ask for</u> the Pipeliners Local Union 798 rate.

> Renaissance Tulsa Hotel - 6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133 1-800-264-0165 Starting at \$109/night <u>Please note that the \$8 parking fee will **NOT** be charged to Steward School attendees.</u>

The 22nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament, benefitting the George Lambert/Harry Faucett, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, will be held Monday, April 10, 2023, at Forest Ridge Golf Course, 7501 E. Kenosha, Broken Arrow, OK 74014. Registration information will be included with your Steward School registration packet.

Steward School registration packets can be picked up at the Local 798 Training Center from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. You can also pick up your packet at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel Tuesday evening, April 11, 2023, from 6-8 p.m., and again beginning at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning, April 12, 2023.

Lincoln Electric will host the annual Barbeque at the Local 798 Training Center on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at noon.

The Steward Reporting Forms and Computer Class will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at the Local 798 Training Center following the Lincoln Barbeque.

Steward School sessions will be held at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel beginning promptly at 8 a.m. Wednesday, April 12, 2023, and continue through noon Friday, April 14, 2023.

The Retiree Banquet, honoring members with 50 or more years of membership, will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday evening, April 13, 2023. Join us for a delicious dinner and live entertainment.

Miller Electric will host the annual Crawfish Boil and equipment demonstrations at the Local 798 Training Center on Friday, April 14, 2023, at noon.

The 12th Annual Slick Rig Contest will be held on Friday afternoon at the Local 798 Training Center. Additional information will be provided with your registration packet. A minimum number of 10 participants will be required for this event to be held.

April 14, 2023

The regular April Membership Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel at 6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133, on Friday, April 14, 2023, beginning at 7 p.m.

Ladies of 798 Hospitality

The Ladies of 798 Hospitality will be held at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel at 6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133, beginning at 6 p.m. CST on Friday, April 14, 2023

Hotel Accommodations

To make reservations at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel, please call 1-800-264-0165. Book by March 20 to receive the discounted rate starting at \$109/night.

PIBF Report

€ 918-280-4800 ∰ PIBF.org



COBRA Coverage

Effective March 1, 2023, COBRA rates will be as follows:

- Single Coverage \$640 per month
- Family Coverage \$1,700 per month

Eligibility Rules Amended

Trustees amended the Plan (effective January 1, 2023) to change initial eligibility for new journeyman participants who enter the Plan on or after January 1, 2023, or who have lost eligibility for 60 months and are re-establishing eligibility from the 500-hour requirement to an 800-hour requirement. The hours must be worked within a 12-month period. Eligibility rules for helpers remain at 800 hours.

Renée **Vause** Director

Virtual Medical Visit Option Expanded to Include Behavioral Health and Co-Payment Amounts Changing as of April 1st

Beginning April 1, 2023, the MDLIVE program will include the option for behavioral health visits. MDLIVE 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 gives 24/7/365 access to speak to a medical provider from any location. Co-payment for this service will be 30% of the cost of the visit. For a medical visit, the co-payment will remain around \$15; however, co-payments for behavioral health will depend on the length and level of the visit and the credentials of the medical provider. This co-payment will count toward your annual medical benefits deductible and out-of-pocket expense limit. It will be eligible for reimbursement under the Health Reimbursement (HRA) by submitting your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) with a completed HRA Claim Form. Plan exclusions apply (treatment of substance abuse, etc. See the PIBF SPD at www.pibf.org, pages 53-55, for a complete list of plan exclusions). Please know that MDLIVE is experiencing high visit volumes due to COVID-19 and the cold and flu season and wait times may be longer than normal.

Disability Pension Benefit Suspension and Reinstatement

If your disability pension benefit is suspended because you were not approved for your Social Security Disability benefit within 24 months, upon receipt of the Social Security Award, the Trustees shall retroactively reinstate the Disability Benefit from the date of suspension, commencing on the first day of the first month following receipt of the Social Security Award, provided that the date of disability as determined under the Social Security Award is within the 24-month period.

Tax Forms Available on Member Portal

Tax form 1099R (Pension Payments) will be mailed to you by the end of January, and tax form 1095B (Health Coverage) will be mailed to you by March 2, 2023. These forms are also available on the member portal at www.pibf.org. Log in, click on the "General Information" tab, and then "Fund Office Correspondence." A list of correspondence will display, and you can select and print the forms.

Email Addresses and Other Personal Information

To remain HIPAA compliant, PIBF and Local 798 do not share change of address information. It is extremely important that plan participants notify both 798 and PIBF when permanent address changes occur or when email or telephone numbers change. You can change your address by mail, by calling the Fund office at 918-280-4800, or by going online to www.pibf.org, logging in to the "Members Login" section, and choosing "Change of Address Form" under the "Forms" tab.

Deductibles Renew January 1st

Please remember that medical and prescription deductibles start over at the beginning of the year. The PIBF office receives a large volume of calls early in the year, questioning the price increase from their last refill. In most cases, this is due to the deductible having to be met before the prescription is covered with co-insurance.

Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)

The HRA deadline is fast approaching for 2022 claims. Don't leave money on the table! Remember to file for reimbursement of your 2022 claims by April 15, 2023.

Summary of Benefits and Coverage

The PIBF office recently mailed out the Summary of Benefits and Coverage, describing what the benefit plan covers and what it costs. This is a condensed version of our PIBF Summary Plan Description booklet showing comparable information about your health plan benefits and coverage.

Retirees - Working Rules Before Age 62

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) imposes rules that limit a retiree's ability to immediately return to work in the industry after retirement if the retiree is under age 62 (age in service rules apply). Penalties could be imposed upon the participant by the IRS.

An exception to this was granted in previous years because Local 798 was experiencing a manpower shortage. *Because a manpower shortage was not anticipated for 2022 or 2023, an exception to this rule was not in place for 2022 and will not be in place for 2023.* Therefore, the rules of the Pipeline Industry Pension Plan (PIPF) will again apply. The PIPF office will again impose accrual limitations for work performed on January 1, 2022, and later.

The IRS imposes penalties on both the PIPF and retirees who retire before age 62 and continue to work in the industry on jobs covered by the National Pipeline Agreement, Distribution Agreement, Participation Agreement, or similar agreement. If you retire and consistently work under agreements previously mentioned or in any employment capacity with a contributing employer or business entity within any "controlled group of employers," the IRS may impose excise taxes on your retirement earnings and require a revocation of your pension. Should you elect to retire, the Trustees will take action to revoke your pension should hours consistently be received by PIPF.

Year-End Statements

Your monthly dues, Voluntary Fund, and working assessments paid for 2022 are available to you on the Member Login section of the Local 798 website. Once signed in, click on the payment history page, and enter any year period to view the total amount of monies paid during that time. To view your working assessments and organizing fees paid, you must go to the work hour page and enter the date range you need, it will give you the totals for that time frame. **Please remember, hours are typically reported 30-45 days behind, so if you worked in December, those working assessments will not appear until late January to mid-February 2023**.

Your emailed year-end statements will not be available until after February 20, 2023. If you do not have an email address on file, your year-end statements will be mailed to your home address. We will be working diligently to get this information out to all members, so we will be unable to provide the information over the phone prior to that date. However, you may obtain this information when logged into the Member Login section of the website as indicated above. Please keep in mind that it is our goal to provide the information they need, while striving to do so in the most cost-efficient ways possible.

Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program

Calling all students! The deadline to submit your completed application, appraisal forms, and transcripts is January 27, 2023. Applications can 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.

2022 Officer Election Results

President	
Shannon Jackson	1,694
Sarah Rogers (Missy)	540
Business Manager	
Danny Hendrix	1,551
Landon K. Duncan	760
Recording Secretary	
Chuck Loggins	658
Guy S. Williams	1,597
Inside Guard	
Timothy (TJ) Garrett	423
Justin Baur	270
Phillip Razian (Raz)	423
Scooter Folk	369
Joseph Torres	686
Finance Committee (3 Members)	
David N. Hall	940

	940
Bryce Beaty	377
Justin Hornback	772
Raymond L. Johnson	1,446
RJ Baur	433
Joseph T. Bigley	681
Guy Simms	1,479

Vice President	
Randy Mathis	2,040
Financial Secretary-Treasurer	
Justin Wallace	2,103
Executive Board (4 Members)	
Pete Ashby, Jr.	49:
Timothy Adrian	285
Jeffrey H. Doyle	890
Troy Post	1,387
Harry Houser	510
Alexander Dalrymple	50
Jake Taylor	23
Wallace E. Lively	122
Jeremy S. Duncan	304
Ed Coker	65 [,]
Cody Pedigo	690
Cassidy Croley	392
Grant Glaze	42
Matt Ingram	53
Kevin Davis	25
Brett Mason	1,182
Wesley Taylor	212

Examining Board (2 Members)

Sold State

Anthony Webster	373
Brian Gilley	354
Ricky Jones	788
Mike Miller	645
Jimmy Pedigo	616
Clark Eastwood	884
Karmen H. Mason	587



Ε

F GUNS KULL PEOPLE Ences PENCILS missell words G

Short & Personal

THANK YOU

Clifford "Sodbuster" Roe extends gratitude to Grady Evans and all those who contribute to Local 798 Voluntary Fund for the generous donation following the passing of his beloved wife.

Jason McKinney thanks the Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the assistance received after his unfortunate accident. Special thanks to Jimmy Dick, Danny Hendrix, and Justin Wallace.

Juan M. Rivera thanks everyone who generously donates to the Voluntary Fund. The financial help he received following the loss of his sister is very much appreciated. Special thanks to David Hall, Danny Hendrix, and Justin Wallace. "God bless 798!"

Landon Carr thanks everyone for thinking of him while he was in the hospital. "Your generosity is greatly appreciated."

Chris and Wendi North and Family thank the Voluntary Fund and its contributors for the assistance received following the passing of Chris's dad, W. Scott North. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Justin Wallace, and Charlie Yates, Jr. "I will never forget the feelings of love and family that filled my heart when I opened that Voluntary Fund letter. Thank you to all the members who have touched my family with your calls, respects, and stories that lifted our spirits. May God bless everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund and for making this organization the greatest family anyone could ever hope to be a part of."

Cody Woods thanks everyone for the help he received in his family's time of need. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Shannon Jackson, and Blake Fincher. "My family and I are so proud to be a part of a union that takes care of its own in times of need."

Edward and Robyn Bohannon send a heartfelt "Thank You" to the members of 798 that give faithfully to the Voluntary Fund and to those who reached out after their family's recent loss. Special thanks to Todd Hartle, Justin Wallace, and Danny Hendrix. "God bless Local 798 members and their families."

Adam Kandle thanks all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the generous donation he received after his accident. Special thanks to Charles Yates and Miller Pipeline for their support throughout his recovery.

Robert W. Chapman thanks the Voluntary Fund for the assistance he received after his wreck. Special thanks to Dale Crabtree and Russell Dean Bailey. "Thanks again to the greatest local union in the world! God bless."

Ronnie and Carol Lampton thank everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. The help received was greatly appreciated. "We had no idea how hard it could be with both of us down. The check was such a blessing. Thank you to all that were involved, and thanks to Local Union 798."

Russell Hawks thanks everyone in this great local for the help and love he received when he got hurt. "Thank God for family and friends."

Larry Moser thanks all 798 members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the check he received after losing his oldest daughter to a heart attack. Special thanks to Ronny Moser and Stu Baldwin.

Eric Jones expresses his profound appreciation to all the members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The gift he received helped tremendously with the medical bills. Special thanks to Barky Zoller.

Garrett Gurkin thanks the Voluntary Fund for the assistance he received during his time away from work and for all the prayers he received following his wreck. Special thanks to Tyler Wallace, Kyle Sanford, William Blake, and Justin Wallace.

Jimmy Blanton thanks all his 798 Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. Special thanks to Jimmy Dick and Leon Gibson. "My family and I are extremely grateful for the gift we received."

The Family of Mike Kafer thanks everyone for the thoughts, visits, prayers, and generous donations received following Mike's death. "Mike was a 56-year member of Local 798. He loved all the Brothers and Sisters in the union."

John Wayne and Linda Carte thank the Voluntary Fund for the help they received. Special thanks to J.D. Crabtree and the Gintz Family.

Marion "Blackie" Thomas and Family thank all who generously give to the Voluntary Fund. The money received helped cover expenses during Blackie's recent stay in the hospital and nursing home following his stroke and a bout of COVID-19. Special thanks to Billy Joe Angler (Billy Bob) and Darrel Hendricks.

RETIREMENTS

Robert C. Anderson, Helper, Cameron, WV

Larry E. Bellew, Spacer, Gadsden, AL

Robert R. Brown, Helper, Troy, MO

Ronald J. Danner, Welder, Hattiesburg, MS

Earnest L. Fontenot, Welder, Deridder, LA

Rick D. Lindsey, Welder, Choctaw, OK

Richard P. Morgan, Helper, Crawfordville, FL

Gregory M. Patkos, Helper, Galeton, PA

Bradley K. Peters, Spacer, Idabel, OK

Timothy J. Snyder, Welder, Coudersport, PA

Sidney T. Stringer, Helper, Livingston, TX

Jimmy C. Whitt, Helper, Cadiz, OH



IN MEMORIAM

John D. Davis, 85-year-old Retired Welder of Nacogdoches, TX, passed away July 30, 2022.

Lloyd L. Womack, 86-year-old Retired Welder of Niles, MI, passed away September 28, 2022.

Jonathan R. Shamblin, 33-year-old Helper of Clendenin, WV, passed away October 11, 2022.

Otis D. Hines, 79-year-old Retired Helper of Skiatook, OK, passed away October 17, 2022.

Gary J. Robichaux, 75-year-old Retired Welder of Brownsville, TX, passed away October 30, 2022.

Christopher A. Ungard, 36-year-old Welder of Linden, PA, passed away October 30, 2022.

Michael F. Kafer, 74-year-old Retired Helper of Hobart, OK, passed away November 3, 2022.

Paul W. Ginn, 91-year-old Retired Welder of Madison, IN, passed away November 4, 2022.

Robert J. Fontenot, 76-year-old Retired Welder of Lake Charles, LA, passed away November 15, 2022.

Kevin A. Barrett, 60-year-old Retired Helper of North Port, FL, passed away November 16, 2022.

Claude L. Pendergraft, 84-year-old Retired Helper of Jay, OK, passed away December 2, 2022.

Harold W. Riggs, 76-year-old Retired Spacer of Sandyville, WV, passed away December 10, 2022.

SWAP & SELL

1969 Model SA 200: 1969 Model SA 200 welding machine. Located in LA. Asking \$4,000. Contact Chuck Houston at 724-255-2249.

Aluminum Welding Bed: Custom, heavy-duty aluminum welding bed. The welding bed was previously used on a 2017 Ford F-350. Cut out for Lincoln or Miller welding machine and storage boxes. Asking \$10,000 OBO. Will also consider trade. Contact James White at 304-678-3266.

Chums Leather Work: Custom armbands, suspenders, belts, holsters, journals, knife, and gun scabbards, and much more! Contact Craig Chumley at 682-459-4035.

Welding Bed: Welding bed that fits a 2014 Dodge Ram Mega Cab. Asking \$3,700. Contact Steve Spiker at 817-455-1003.

LOCAL 798 HELPING HANDS

While working for Michels Pipeline, Inc., in the Washington, D.C. area, 798 Welder member Gerald Davis joined the Potomac Valley Church of Christ in Dumfries, Virginia. The church has a licensed preschool, and the preschool needed a sunshade over the children's playground. One of the children's ministry teachers reached out to Davis for help. Davis contacted Washington Gas and Michels Pipeline Supervisor Chris Powell, and they agreed to donate 80' of 8" pipe for the sunshade construction. Davis's landlord donated the use of a caterpillar skid steer to use to auger the holes and set the pipes. Davis, 798 helper member Ronald Topper, and fellow church members including, Brian Halstead, Jimmy Thomas, Edson Bravo, constructed the sunshade. Davis also came to the aid of a local teenager who needed his wheelchair repaired so he could attend school. "God has used me to help in many ways in the church and community. It definitely puts pipeliners in a good light when we reach out to the communities we work in. If we all put God first, everything else will fall into place," says Davis.



PIPELINERS

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



Knitted Hat Item #102 - \$8.00 **Navy Pullover Hoodie** Item # 116 - \$38 (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)

Logo 798 Blanket Item #135 - \$34.00