



Josh Candau  
Elliston, Virginia

# BLUE LIGHT REPORTS

January/February 2024

Volume LIX Number 1

[www.local798.org](http://www.local798.org) 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145

918-622-1900



**Pipeliners Union 798**

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P.O. Box 470798  
Tulsa, OK 74147-0798

**PH:** 918-622-1900  
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Please visit the  
Local 798 website at  
[www.local798.org](http://www.local798.org)  
for updated pre-job  
information.

**Business Manager**  
Daniel C. Hendrix

**Financial Secretary-  
Treasurer**  
Justin Wallace

**President**  
Shannon Jackson

**Vice President**  
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Justin Head  
Joe Gaines  
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Charles Thomas  
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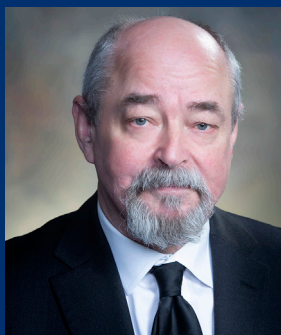
**Dispatcher**  
Jimmy Dick

**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,

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy New Year's. We finished 2023 relatively strong with our man-hours, considering the political atmosphere we try to navigate daily and the social unrest that seems prevalent worldwide. We are in the midstream energy business, and make no mistake about it, we are a target. Our enemies are many, but I believe we will soon be the group that people will seek out to help move America forward once again on energy independence. ***It is naïve to think that solar and wind power have no place on the energy grid. But it is also ludicrous to believe that it will replace natural gas in the next 30 years as our primary source for electrical generation.*** Humans aren't destroying the climate, but the climate alarmists believe so strongly in their convictions that they are willing to sacrifice their country and freedoms with the fervent belief that they are saving the world. What can you do, you ask? ***Advocate. When you see a new action from the Action Network, take a moment and respond.*** Each action is about using a united voice to send a message about our work and our industry. The actions are never about politics but about America's energy policy, and each one is of significant importance to your livelihood as a pipeliner. This simple, almost effortless, response to an action can be one of the most powerful things you can do as a 798 member. If you are new to this membership and unaware of this responsibility, please visit our website or contact a fellow member, become informed, and pull your weight. We have plenty of issues to fight over in this country, and we all have an opinion, but when you express your thoughts singularly instead of collectively, you might as well be talking to yourself. The voices of many cannot be ignored when speaking the truth with integrity.

We are still moving forward with building an apprenticeship program for our local. This is a complex undertaking with many moving parts. As such, Joseph Bigley, Welder member, has been hired as apprenticeship coordinator to facilitate and accelerate our path toward the Department of Labor accreditation. I'm confident that Joe has the skill set, determination, and motivation for the task that lies before him, and I ask that you welcome him with encouragement.

Steward School is just around the corner, so make early preparations to be in attendance. And I look forward to seeing you there. As always, I am proud to say, ***"I work for you, the greatest pipeliners in the world."***

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Hendrix". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Daniel C. Hendrix  
Business Manager



# Financial Secretary - Treasurer's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I reflect on 2023, there were a lot of things that fell in our favor. Once the hours are all in, we will have worked 5 million man-hours. We made a lot of progress with some client gas companies that haven't been as receptive to union contractors in the past. We've taken in around 250 new Helper members through our organizing efforts; many were brought straight off a job working for nonunion contractors. We were able to man our work and simultaneously show these workers that there is a better way. As a result, the wages for Helpers in places like Texas and Louisiana have increased since last spring. This helps our union contractors be more successful in these areas. There were 400 "nonbook" Helpers sent out this year. Of those, 250 became members, and many are still in the process of becoming members of Local 798. Thank you to Chad and his team for staying the course. Organizing is not an easy job, but with every action they take, their results help move the needle in the right direction.

I want to ask each of you to continue advocating through the Action Network. It is essential for the future of our industry. Also, thank you to everyone who showed up in person to advocate for Local 798 when asked over the last year. The battle is long and will not get easier, so we've got to pull together and keep pushing back. The same opponents railing against natural gas and crude lines are also against Hydrogen, CO2, and LNG projects. It's not about reducing the impact of carbon emissions for them; it's about stopping any pipeline project in this country. Let's not let them continue to take food off our tables. Let's be louder than they are; let's be more organized than they are.

The Funds at PIBF continue to be in good shape. The Health and Welfare Fund has started to build more reserves than in recent years. The Pension Fund is in great condition, and the retirees were able to collect a 13th check. Hopefully, this year we will look at accrual increases for active members and a percentage increase for retirees. As trustees, we will continue making decisions that keep these funds solvent. I've said this before, but I will repeat it here. If you have any questions about your pension, healthcare, or 401(k), please call the PIBF. The employees at PIBF are there to work for you and can help you with any questions you might have.

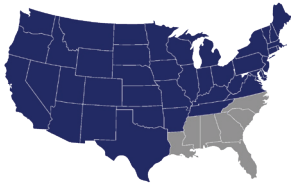
Steward School is just around the corner, so look for that information to come out soon. All indications are that 2024 will look much like 2023 did regarding man-hours and work opportunities. From conversations with contractors and clients, everyone sees 2025 as a big year for us. As of the time of this writing, there are still over 1,100 Local 798 members working. That is a fantastic number for this time of year, so hopefully, this momentum will carry over to the new year. I want to welcome Joseph Bigley as our apprenticeship coordinator. Joe has a lot of experience with apprenticeships, and I know he will be an asset for Local 798. Welcome, Joe!

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,

Justin Wallace  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

# Business Agent Reports



AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC  
918-991-5341



Jerry Dale Crabtree, Jr.

I am writing this report after returning from Tulsa. Our regular December Membership Meeting was a great chance to fellowship, meet new members, reconnect with older members, and understand all the positive things going on in our local. I want to congratulate Joe Bigley on his appointment as apprenticeship coordinator. I know he will do an amazing job.

I hope everyone plans to attend our regular January Membership Meeting on January 12. Staying involved is the best way to ensure the success of our great local.

As you read this report, 2023 is in our rearview mirror, and 2024 is starting to unfold. I hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed holiday season and is excited to begin another year of pipelining. I will be hitting the ground running and spending a lot of time on the road to help ensure we continue to regain our market share in the South.

Work in my jurisdiction slowed down during the holidays, but it should pick back up after the first of the year. Several projects, from Louisiana to the Carolinas, will be kicking off that should materialize into great work opportunities. Please remember to continually work to upgrade your skill sets. The more skills listed on your out-of-work card, the more work opportunities you will have. If you are unsure, call Jimmy Dick in Dispatch. Also, if you know anyone who wants to become a Helper or become a better Helper, they can contact Farron Hollabaugh at the Training Center. That is the best place for Helpers to receive training and increase their skill set.

I hope that everyone makes our new members feel welcome. Our Organizing Department is doing a fantastic job snagging the best of the best from the nonunion side. We want all the qualified nonunion hands we can get. Everyone deserves a chance to make a better life for themselves and their families. With that said, a RAT is not someone from the nonunion side: they are the ones working on both sides. I will not tolerate a RAT in my jurisdiction!

We are still making great strides with the Action Network. So please continue to participate and advocate. It truly is making a powerful impact on our clients. You do not have to be a member to advocate. Involve your family, friends, and community in our efforts.

My job is, and always has been, to serve **YOU**, so do not hesitate to contact me. I encourage and appreciate all the phone calls, so feel free to call with any questions and concerns at 918-991-5341. May God keep all of you safe. God bless every one of you, and God bless this great local.

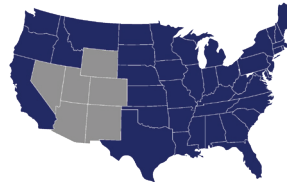
## Pre-Jobs:

Associated Pipe Line Contractors, Inc.:

- Ragley, LA. 1.4 miles of 36" pipe for DT Midstream LEAP Gas Gathering, LLC. Welder Foreman: Brett Mason. Job Steward: Tracy Lester. Market Recovery.

B&G Pipeline Company:

- Wilson, NC. 17,670' of 8" New Lay and fabrication for Duke Energy NC. Welder Foreman: Joel Warren. Job Steward: Trevor Howerton. Special Agreement.



AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT, WY  
918-398-3380



Justin Head

I am writing this report after returning from the regular December Membership Meeting. As always, it was great to see those who could attend.

The work in my area is still slow but is picking up slightly. I have pre-jobbed with Rockford to lay the drill sections on the 16" Suncor work. They are only utilizing a few Welders as they get permits and variances to proceed. I expect the Mainline to begin in late March or the beginning of April. If you plan on working on this project, be advised the test is scrutinized to b-3313 code. I have received job notifications on some smaller maintenance work and should continue to see more throughout the next year. I am also waiting to hear awards on some Mainline work in Nevada that could start early in the year. Q&D has already secured some fabrication work for that project, which should begin this winter. I have also been handling the calls to work in Alaska starting in January. I had hoped there was going to be enough work this winter to be able to send some Welders. However, it looks like Local Union 375 will be able to cover most of the Welder calls this year. I have been sending some Helper bios up, and several should get an opportunity to go. If you have talked to me and are on the list, I plan on carrying that list forward through next year. I believe when the Willow Project and others get going, I may be able to start sending Welder and Journeyman bios. Some building trades locals out West still have work available as well. Phoenix will still take Helpers who have the required UA certifications. If you are a Helper, we will not send your bio if you do not have certifications.

In closing, I hope you all had a merry Christmas. If there is anything I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to call. Please leave a voicemail or text if you would like a returned call.



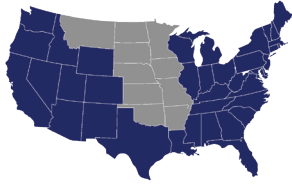
## Pre-Jobs:

### Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

- Peoria, AZ. 21 anomaly digs for Kinder Morgan. Superintendent: Ben Brock. Integrity Maintenance rates. Working 6-10s.

### Rockford Corporation:

- Eaton, CO. 7 directional drills for Suncor. Superintendent: Jonny Kroner. Special Agreement. Working 6-10s.



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

## Todd Hartle



I am writing this report after the regular December Membership Meeting. We had a good turnout for both the membership meeting and the Ladies Hospitality meeting. Business Manager Danny Hendrix announced that work on our apprenticeship program continues, and Joseph Bigley has been named the apprenticeship coordinator. Congratulations to Joseph. He has completed an apprenticeship program and will do a great job.

Currently, we have 22 pre-jobs going in my area. Work is starting to slow down, but I'm hearing of several jobs set to go early and some that will kick off in the spring. Integrity Maintenance will be a big part of the work in my area for the upcoming year.

Wolf Carbon Solutions CO2 has withdrawn its application with the ICC but plans to refile it early next year. There is talk about a Heartland Hydrogen Hub that will be located in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Partners include Xcel Energy, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, and TC Energy. We will see if these take off.

I have been visiting jobs in my area, and it has been great to see everyone who's working on the jobs. We are getting some members out on building trades jobs, mainly for combo Welders.

Remember, if there's an action on the Action Network, be sure to sign it.

The IRS has set the rig rates for 2024 at \$22 an hour.

I hope everyone had a good New Year's and spent time with family and friends. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me.

## Pre-Jobs:

### Charps, LLC:

- Clearbrook, MN. Frazee, MN. 2" to 16" pipe for turbine fab in fab shop. Install in Ottertail County, MN, for ONEOK. Superintendent: Brandon Olson. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Joshua Nepean. Station. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

### Geeding Construction, Inc.:

- Troy, MO. Misc. size fab (2" to 10") in fab shop, install in Jefferson County, MO, for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Logan Verslues. Welder Foreman: Andrew Gnade. Job Steward: Joy Compton. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-7-23.
- Stilwell, OK. 3,000' of 10" pipe to be used for take-up and relay for Panhandle Eastern. Superintendent: Dustin Licktieg. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Kelbey Wilson. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 11-30-23.
- Iowa, IL. 8"-12" pipe to be used for anomaly digs for Magellan. Superintendent: Logan Verslues. Welder Foreman: Michael Martin. Job Steward: Dalton Clemmons. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 1-8-24.

### Gordon Const. of Mahnomens:

- Bethany, MO. Bolt ups on manway covers and speck blinds on 3 tanks for Flint Hills Resources. Superintendent: Dan Berg. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Adrian Johnson. Station rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

### Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

- Carpenter, SD, and Luverne, ND. Bypass replacement and drain trap replacement for various pump stations and spool and valve change outs for TC Energy. Superintendent: Jesse Neu. Welder Foreman: Jan Slater. Job Steward: Adam Conzemius. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Canton, SD. 350' of 4" pipe for new gas main in Lincoln County, SD, for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Rod Coburn. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Arnell Malnar III. Integrity Maintenance. 80 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Cut Bank, MT. Final tie-ins in Glacier County, MT, for Northwestern Energy. Superintendent: Yancey Palmer. Welder Foreman: Charles Boyett. Job Steward: Zachary Holmen. Special Agreement. 80 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- South Sioux City, NE. 1,700' of 18" HDD, 3 integrity digs and replacement for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Travis Novack. Welder Foreman: Adam Conzemius. Job Steward: Jimmy Williams. Integrity Maintenance. 80 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-22-23.
- Ferney, SD, and Fort Ransom, ND. Bypass replacement and drain trap replacement for various pump stations and spool and valve change outs for TC Energy. Superintendent: Jesse Neu. Welder Foreman: Jan Slater. Job Steward: Arnell Malnar III. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-8-23.
- Bennington, OK. 2"-4" drain line rework and hydrovac excavation on 2"-4" drain lines in Bryan County, OK, for TC Energy. Superintendent: Cory McDaniel. Welder Foreman: Dylan McKegey. Job Steward: Marvin Bagwell. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx completion 12-16-23.

### Otis Minnesota, LLC:

- Various locations in MN, ND, IA. 12" pipe to be used for integrity digs at 400psi for Pembina Pipeline. Superintendent: Mike Benke. Welder Foreman: Cory Schwartz. Job Steward: Douglas Anderson. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

### Q&D Construction:

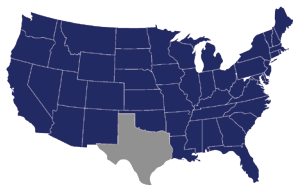
- Great Falls, MT. Regulator station with piping ranging from 4" to 12" in Cascade County, MT, for Northwestern Energy. Superintendent: Andy Davis. Welder Foreman: Joel Harris. Job Steward: Austin Flemister. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-12-23.
- La Bolt, SD. 600' of 6" Pipe for HDD in Grant County, SD, for Northwestern Energy. Superintendent: Corey Vandervoorden. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Chance Ingles. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Job complete.

### Q3 Contracting:

- Gibbon, MN. 8 miles of 6" open trench and HDD; fab and install meter station; fab and install custody transfer interconnect for McGough Construction. Superintendent: Josh Bartel. Welder Foreman: Russell Schueller. Job Steward: Levi Bottelson. Special Agreement. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 1-31-23.

### United Piping, Inc.:

- Eldridge, IA. Installation of 400' of 36" pipe to accommodate reverse flow on the NBPL System in Scott County, IA, for TC Energy. Superintendent: Mack Santikko. Welder Foreman: Eddie Martin. Job Steward: Kelly Howerton. Station. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-20-23.



TX  
918-237-3573



## Joe Gaines

I write this report upon my return from the regular December Membership Meeting, which boasted an impressive attendance of over 100 members. It was great to see so many of you there. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to join us.

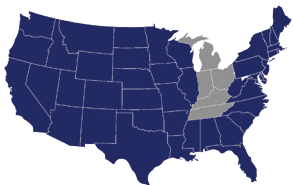
As is customary during winter, work is gradually slowing down, particularly in the building trades sector across Texas. Presently, opportunities at the Samsung plant in Austin and Texas Instruments in Dallas are limited. However, there's a silver lining as work in Waco shows signs of resurgence, with Local Union 529 currently seeking workers for a pharmaceutical company and a paper mill. If you are interested in doing either of those jobs, please reach out to me.

Looking ahead to the spring and summer months, pipeline work appears to have promise across Texas. I have been meeting with gas companies about the carbon capture work that will be dominating Texas in the near future. I hope our fair union contractors will be on the bid list for these jobs.

For those contemplating nonunion employment, I urge you to connect with either Chad Simmons or me to formalize a salt agreement. Our robust organizing efforts persist in Texas and beyond, and we are relying on your support to regain market share. Together, everyone achieves more – that's the power of a united workforce.

As we enter a new year, I extend warm wishes for a happy and prosperous new year to each of you. 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.



IN, KY, MI, OH, TN  
918-270-6746



## Charles Yates, Jr.

At the time of this report, I have just returned from Tulsa to attend our regular December Membership Meeting. It was great to see those who made the trip. The meeting went well. We had around 114 members in attendance. The evening agenda focused on our finances, work outlook, and the apprenticeship program. Our finances are healthy, and PIBF (our insurance) had almost a 28% YTD increase, which indicates that the money from our raises allocated towards our insurance and COBRA increases were necessary and are delivering positive results. Brother Hendrix addressed the work outlook for 2024, with projections looking favorable and 2025 being even better. He also spoke about our new Local 798 Apprenticeship Program. It is still a work in progress, but we are making strides towards a certified apprenticeship program sometime in March. Congratulations to Brother Joseph Bigley, who has been appointed as our new apprenticeship coordinator. Brother Bigley brings valuable experience and union loyalty to this new venture.

We still have over 1,100 members working on NPLA projects, which is encouraging since we typically see a decrease in activity this time of year. There are 20 active jobs in my area that have been ongoing but are in the stages

of wrapping up for the winter. Again, building trades hours are available for Welders and Journeymen who want to work. As far as openings for Helpers in the building trades, if you do not have the necessary UA welding certifications, hiring is strictly by name call. In other words, the contractor must specifically ask for you by name.

In early December, the Michigan Public Service Commission approved the Enbridge application to build the Line 5 Tunnel Project. This was an important step in the approval process. Next is the federal review from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Please continue to use the Action Network for projects like Line 5. This platform is the best tool that provides and encourages active participation in our union's livelihood and our nation's future.

Happy New Year to all my Brothers and Sisters. Thank you for your union solidarity in 2023 by attending regular membership and regional meetings, engaging in the Action Network, and manning our work according to the NPLA. If I can be of assistance, do not hesitate to call. Shop small, support union, and buy made in the USA.

## Pre-Jobs:

### Big Inch Fabricators and Construction:

- Rockville, IN. ½ mile of 24" take-up and relay for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Jim Shepler. Welder Foreman: Scott Petty. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-9-23.

### Contractors Rental Corp dba CJ Hughes:

- Sarahsville, OH. 900' of 8" pipe replacement by HDD for TC Energy. Superintendent: Jim Conner. Welder Foreman: Keith Kongsjord. Working 5-10s and 1-8. Job complete.

### InfraSource Construction, LLC:

- Monroe, OH. 7,154' of 8" new lay for Duke Energy. Superintendent: Chris Meeks. Welder Foreman: Bobby Russell. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 3-5-24.

### Intercon Construction, Inc.:

- Columbus, OH. One mile of 12" take-up and relay for Buckeye Partners. Superintendent: Aaron Zila. Welder Foreman: Thomas Hall. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 1-19-24.

### Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

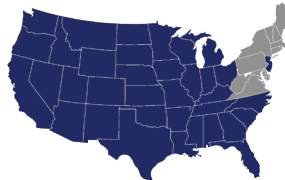
- Negaunee, MI. 1,100' HDD of 10" to replace existing pipe under railroad tracks for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Luke Kearns. Welder Foreman: Matthew Fincher. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 12-12-23.

### PJ Steel Supply, Inc:

- Frederic, MI. 70' of 12" for cut-out and replacement for Lambda Energy Resources LLC. Superintendent: Larry Townshend. Welder Foreman: Blaine Cecil. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-29-23.

### VEC, Inc.:

- Hubbard, OH. 2" through 6" pipe station fabrication at fab shop for TransCanada. Superintendent: Sean Wilster. Welder Foreman: Ryan Brady. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 1-19-24.



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



## David Butterworth

In my last report, I failed to mention the passing of Brother Ronnie Hill. Ronnie and I worked together over 20 years ago on a low-scale 10-inch job in southern West Virginia. We hit it off from the start and became friends on that job. It goes without saying that he will be sorely missed by me and this organization. Life goes by fast and can change within the blink of an eye. Don't wait to tell those important to you that you love them.

The number of members working in the Northeast is above average for this time of year due to the continued effort to complete the MVP. If you are working



on the MVP, please remember the magnitude of the project and its importance to the future of the pipeline industry. Let's continue to work diligently to safely bring Marcellus gas to starved markets in the South, where it is desperately needed for their manufacturing sector. Once completed, the MVP will also spur lateral projects that will keep us working in the future.

Before all that can happen, we need to finish the task at hand, and that is to continue building the safest, most efficient pipelines in the world. As with the MVP, we will continue to build them while being under intense scrutiny and examination. Be proud that you are playing an important role in constructing the most historic pipeline since the Alaska Pipeline. I also ask that you act professionally on the job and in the community. People are watching, and your actions will control how communities view pipeliners. Do the right thing so future generations can follow your lead and be welcomed by areas where future pipelines will be constructed.

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season, and I look forward to a prosperous 2024.

## Pre-Jobs:

### Apex Pipeline Services, Inc.:

- Amma, WV. 100' of 8" steel fab and 4' of 8" poly take up and relay. Superintendent: Moe Riddle. Welder Foreman: Brandon Sampson. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Job complete.

### Appellation Construction Services, LLC:

- Cockeysville, MD. 2-12" meter run installs. Superintendent: Corey Chilson. Welder Foreman: Jack Saxton. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Easton, PA. 24" valve install. Superintendent: Zach Bowes. Welder Foreman: Richard Farnsworth (LU 520). Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Job complete.
- Manassas, VA. 42" scrubber maintenance. Superintendent: John Francis. Welder Foreman: Tim Ungard (LU 520). Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Job complete.
- Ellicott City, MD. 1/2" through 6" station maintenance. Superintendent: Corey Chilson. Welder Foreman: Jack Saxton. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s.

### Charps, LLC:

- Berlin, NH. 24" stopple by-pass changeout. Superintendent: Brandon Olson. Welder Foreman: Brady Spencer. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

### InfraSource Construction, LLC:

- Kirby, WV. 1/2" through 2" replacements in station. Superintendent: Chad Colley. Welder Foreman: Derek Dayton. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

### Kirila Contractors, Inc.:

- St. Mary's, PA. Valve setting install plus 14,000 of 16". Superintendent: Ron Kirila, Jr. Welder Foreman: Ted Hazelet. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s.

### Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

- McLean, VA. 3,000' of 24" HDD and conventional bores. Superintendent: Christopher Powell. Welder Foreman: Greg Baird. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s.

### Otis Minnesota, LLC:

- Methuen, MA. Mainline valve modifications. Superintendent: Kyle Wittie. Welder Foreman: Steve Coraci. 90 percent rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Mansfield, PA. 12,374' of 3" flex steel install. Superintendent: Otis Quick. Welder Foreman: Josh Basinger. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.

### Price Gregory International:

- Roaring Branch, PA. Hydrotest 750' of 8" and 16". Superintendent: Jimmy Jones. Welder Foreman: Robbie Goodnight. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.

### TDD Solutions:

- Belington, WV. 100' of 4" road crossing. Superintendent: Joe Williams. Welder Foreman: Josey Kirk. 90 percent rates. Working 5-10s.

# Year-End Statements

Your monthly dues, Voluntary Fund, and working assessments paid for 2023 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 to view the total amount of monies paid during that time. To view your working assessments and organizing fees paid, 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 2024.***

Your emailed year-end statements will not be available until after February 19, 2024. 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, our goal is to provide the membership with all the information they need while striving to do so in the most cost-efficient ways possible.



TAKE ACTION TODAY  
JOIN THE AMERICAN PIPELINE  
ACTION NETWORK



# DISPATCH Report

Jimmy Dick

918-610-2761

We would like to wish everyone a happy new year. We ask everyone to make sure all your pertinent information is up to date with Local Union 798 and PIBF.

We have had a steady flow of building trades work. If you are a Welder or Journeyman looking to start the year off accumulating some man-hours, we

encourage you to call and see if we can help put you on a building trades job. It's better to plan now than call next December, needing a few more hours to get a credit year. There is a big demand for combo Welders with current UA certificates. These jobs are in multiple areas, so the pay scales do vary. Major projects from battery plants, refineries, and chip plants are steadily manning up through the winter months. If you are a combo Welder and are interested in starting the year off working, call us. The fitter work has been sporadic, but it never hurts to call and see what's out there.

If you do not have your OSHA 10, we highly recommend you get it through the 798 Training Center. The winter months are the perfect time to take the course. Farron Hollabaugh, the training center director, can help you with the OSHA 10. This time of the year is also a great time to work on your skill set in general. The training center is wide open. If you're considering a building trades job or want to hone your low-hydrogen skills, now is a great opportunity.

The pipeline work outlook is positive. We are hearing rumors of upcoming work but nothing in writing. Remember, if you receive something from the Action Network, please sign it.

If we can be of any assistance, please call the Dispatch office.



# ORGANIZING Report

Chad Simmons

918-600-4207

The December meeting has just wrapped up, and it was great to see all who attended. It is always great to have first-timers at the meeting. Remember to invite our newly organized members. One big announcement was Joe Bigley's appointment as apprenticeship coordinator. Congratulations Joe! He is an excellent fit for this position.

As the holiday season closes, the new year is upon us, and we are excited about what it holds. First, let's look at a few of the accomplishments for 2023. Our man-hours were up to 5 million, with over 1,100 members working on NPLA jobs into December. Many of these man-hours resulted from your advocacy through our Action Network. Although complicated, the building of the project is the easy part nowadays. Our collective voice plays a significant role in permit approvals. Please continue to support the Action Network. Our contractors secured work for new gas companies, and you knocked it out of the park, finishing ahead of schedule with low repair rates, only solidifying that you are the greatest pipeliners in the world.

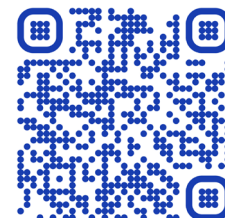
As the work picked up throughout the year, the Organizing Department was able to work with your business agents and PPC11 390 Helpers. Some were your sons, daughters, grandchildren, etc., but over 50% were from the nonunion sector. Local 798 gained good Helpers who understand the industry and are now compensated fairly for their labor. These new Helpers often receive a \$5-\$15 hourly wage increase plus our retirement and health care benefits. We also had the opportunity to bring in five new Welders to help man our work. These new members provided the manpower our signatory contractors needed to complete their projects. Let's make them welcome when we get a chance. Throughout 2023, we engaged with over 2,000 nonunion Welders and Helpers. We plan to continue filling open positions with these quality candidates as our market share increases and members retire.

Our goal is for every Welder, Journeyman, and Helper to be compensated fairly for their skill sets. It doesn't matter whether they are union or nonunion; pipeliners need to be paid what they are worth today. The pipeline Welder can be described as a metal fusion expert with nomadic tendencies. Welders load up in their rigs and travel nationwide to build America's much-needed pipelines. You craftsmen perform as an artist, displaying your unique ability to weld in some of the most adverse conditions with precision and accuracy. These skills cannot be easily replicated as some jobs on the pipeline, and this ability needs to be paid accordingly. On the union side, we are fortunate to have a fair wage with great retirement and health care benefits. Why shouldn't the nonunion Welder and Helper have the same? If you know some nonunion Welders and Helpers, have them contact us. We want to help them make a better life for themselves and their families. As stated earlier, all pipeliners need to be paid their worth. If they want to become union or not, we want to help them make a better wage and have better working conditions. These merit shop contractors have taken advantage of the pipeline Welder for far too long. The pay continues to trend lower as profits continue to soar.

Here is the fact – They can't build a steel pipeline without qualified, skilled rig Welders. These nonunion contractors try to control the pipeline industry with their contractors' association. How ironic is it that the nonunion contractors have a union, the APCA, but tell the workers that they don't need a union? **THEY ARE WRONG. THE WELDERS CONTROL THE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY!** And I bet most of the contractor representatives can't weld a lick! You must have Welders to build pipelines, and if the Welders stick together, they can change the pipeline world as we know it. All Welders, Journeymen, and Helpers can be paid fairly and receive the benefits they deserve. All it takes is unity!

If you know any Welders or Helpers interested in a better way of life, have them contact us or scan the QR Code for more information.

May God bless you, and may God bless Local 798.



## Update Your Information

The beginning of the new year is a great time to update your contact information with the union hall. Simply sign into the Member Log-in section of the Local 798 website at [www.local798.org](http://www.local798.org) to verify that your information is current. This includes your mailing address, phone number(s), email address, and demographics.



# Steward School

April 8-12, 2024

Registration information will soon be mailed to all members for the upcoming Pipeliners Local Union 798 Steward School to be held April 8-12, 2024. **If you plan to work in the future as a Steward, Welder Foreman, or Pipeman, make plans to attend.** 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. **When making reservations, please ask for 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

Please note that the \$8 parking fee will **NOT** be charged to Steward School attendees.

The 23rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting the George Lambert/Harry Faucett, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, will be held Monday, April 8, 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 9. You can also pick up your packet at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel on Tuesday evening, April 9, from 6-8 p.m., and again beginning at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning, April 10.

Lincoln Electric will host the annual Barbeque at the Local 798 Training Center on Tuesday, April 9, at noon.

Steward School sessions will be held at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel beginning promptly at 8 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, and continue through Friday, April 12, at noon.

The Retiree Banquet, honoring members with 50 or more years of continuous membership, will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday evening, April 11. 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 12, at noon.

The 13th 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.

The regular April Membership Meeting will be held at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel at 7 p.m. Friday evening, April 12.

The Ladies Hospitality will also be held at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel from 6-10 p.m. Friday, April 12.





Renée Vause

Director

Happy 60th Anniversary to Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund! It's hard to believe it's been 60 years! I will include historical facts about PIBF in each Blue Light article in 2024. Let's start at the very beginning...

The first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund was held in the office of Williams Brothers Company, 326 National Bank of Tulsa Building, Tulsa, Oklahoma, beginning at 10 a.m., June 2, 1964. The following officers were elected to serve for the first year or until their successors had been elected and qualified in accordance with the trust agreement to be drafted at a later date: Chairman – George Seaton, Co-Chairman – B.E. Barnes, Secretary – W.H. Bryere.

On November 23, 1964, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed the following: "RESOLVED: That the headquarters office of the Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund be established in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and that suitable quarters be rented, separate and apart from the offices of Pipeliners Local Union 798."

Stay tuned for more interesting and fun facts about your Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund!

## Diabetic and Weight Loss Medications

Advertisements for these medications are everywhere you look. As a result, PIBF/Sav-Rx is receiving numerous questions about eligibility for medications such as Ozempic, Mounjaro, Wegovy, etc. In some cases, participants will start taking these medications using samples or coupons at the pharmacy without first verifying coverage through PIBF. Once those coupons expire or samples are used, they have their doctor send in a prescription for the medication and are incredibly frustrated to find out that other steps must be completed before coverage through PIBF prescription drug benefit can be considered or that it does not meet criteria for coverage through PIBF.

Sav-Rx follows the current guidelines set by the American Diabetes Association for approval of diabetic medications, which include a diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes and an A1c > 6.5%. Coverage for diabetic GLP1 medications (Ozempic, Mounjaro, Trulicity, Rybelsus, Victoza) can only be approved for participants meeting those criteria and after trying and failing one generic medication, such as metformin or pioglitazone, and one non-GLP1 brand name medication, such as Januvia or Jardiance. Modifications to these criteria are in place if you have other underlying conditions such as atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, or heart failure.

Sav-Rx follows PIBF plan guidelines for approval of weight loss medications, which include a Body Mass Index of 35 or over with co-morbidities such as pre-diabetes, diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, lower extremity joint pain, and shortness of breath. Participation in a physician-supervised diet program, as documented in medical records, is required. Continued use of weight loss medications requires periodic documentation of progress with documented weight loss. There are several oral weight loss medications, such as phentermine, Contrave, Qsymia, in addition to the injectable GLP-1 weight loss medications, Saxenda, Wegovy, and Zepbound.

Please make sure you clearly understand the steps that must be taken prior to approval for these medications.

## Member Portal Verification Code

The member portal has been upgraded so that participants can now utilize a text message to confirm their identity (dual authentication) when logging into the site. To set this up, you will need to log into the portal using your email address and password. That ensures that PIBF has accurate email addresses in case the Fund ever needs to email you. Once logged in, you can update your cell phone by clicking "Account Settings" in the menu on the left side of the site. Once the Account Settings appear, click "Edit" on the "Mobile Phone" line. After reading the instructions, click the "Edit" button, enter your phone number, and click the "Verify Phone" button. Once you receive the 6-digit code on your phone, enter it into the box labeled, "Verify Code." Then, you must enter your password to ensure you intend to use this phone number. Going forward, you will still use your email address and password to log into the site initially, but you can start using text messages as dual authentication to confirm your identity. The option to verify your identity using your email address is still available as well.

## Sapphire Member Rewards – LIVE!

You will soon receive information in the mail explaining how to utilize Member Rewards. This program will allow you to compare providers for eligible procedures and earn a cash reward based on your savings by choosing an equally qualified but less expensive provider. We are extremely excited to launch this program and hope you find it beneficial!

## Tax Forms Available on Member Portal

Tax forms 1099-R (Pension Payments) will be mailed to you by the end of January, and 1095-B (Health Coverage) will be mailed to you by March 4, 2024. These forms are also available on the member portal at [www.pibf.org](http://www.pibf.org). Log in and click on the "General Information" tab and then "Fund Office Correspondence." A list of correspondence will be displayed, 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](http://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. Sav-Rx is available 24/7 to answer questions related to the processing of your prescription claim.

## Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)

The HRA deadline is fast approaching for 2023 claims. Don't leave money on the table! Remember to file for reimbursement of your 2023 claims by April 15, 2024.

## 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 condensed version of our PIBF Summary Plan Description booklet shows comparable information about your health plan benefits and coverage.

# MEETING NOTICE

## January 12, 2024

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 12, 2024, beginning at 7 p.m. CST.

### 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 12, 2024.

### Hotel Accommodations

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

## April 12, 2024

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 12, 2024, 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 12, 2024.

### Hotel Accommodations

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



In December, Local 798 members Sarah Rogers, Cheryl Moore, Emily Dickten, Summer Hawkins, Taylor Westerman, and Deanna Harris represented Pipeliners Local Union 798 at the 2023 Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. Over 3,700 tradeswomen attended, of which 830 were UA members. The Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference is the largest gathering of tradeswomen in the world.



## Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program

Calling all students! The deadline to submit your completed application, appraisal forms, and transcripts is January 26, 2024. Applications can be downloaded online from the Local Union 798 website at [www.local798.org](http://www.local798.org). The application is available under the Voluntary Fund tab in the Scholarships section.



**Mountain Valley Pipeline  
Spread G  
Precision Pipeline, LLC  
Pembroke, Virginia**





**Regular December  
Membership Meeting**



# Short & Personal

## THANK YOU

**Jimmy Sanford** thanks the Voluntary Fund for the kind gesture. Special thanks to Rusty Bailey, Danny Hendrix, and Justin Wallace.

**Johnny and Carol Huskey** thank all the members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The check received after Johnny's hospital stay and surgery was much appreciated. Special thanks to Jimmy Dodd, Danny Hendrix, and Justin Wallace.

**Christopher Miller** thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the check he received following his mom's passing. Special thanks to Michelle Hill and the Ross's.

**Robert Crocker** thanks the Voluntary Fund and all who contribute for the help received following surgery and a hospital stay. Special thanks to Jerry Tomlinson.

**Steve Ward** is thankful for the check he received from the Voluntary Fund. "It is a big help to me as I recover from surgery." Special thanks to Brian Fox and the Mathis family.

**Gary and Cathy Pohlman** express thanks for the help they received from the Voluntary Fund. "It's a big help! God bless."

**Barry English** thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the check he received after his diagnosis and surgery for prostate cancer. Special thanks to David Butterworth and Todd Hartle.

**Lynn and Mary Landreth** express thanks for the 13th check. "It is much appreciated."

**Patrick and Nancy Geohagan** express their gratitude for the assistance received in the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia. "The Pipeliners Voluntary Fund speaks volumes for those contributing to such a worthy cause."

**Jothawnya McMillan** "It is my honor to send the most heartfelt thank you on behalf of my father, Holland McHam. He recently celebrated his 91st birthday. Knowing the union stands with him brought tears to his eyes. He has always been a proud member of 798, and I am proud to be a pipeliner's daughter. It was a pleasure to speak with Mr. Wallace. Thank you again. Wishing all of you the best."

**Lee Allen** thanks all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. It was much appreciated after his dad's accident. Special thanks to Guy Simms.

**The Brown Family** thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. "Your contributions were greatly appreciated and extremely helpful during our son's time with his hand injury and surgeries. May God bless each one of you! Your prayers were felt and heard!"

**Ledel Sappington** sends a heartfelt thank you to the Voluntary Fund for the check he received following the death of his wife, Sherry. Special thanks to Harold Black and Scott Phillips.

**Jeremy and Dawn Hetz** thank the Voluntary Fund for the donation to their family. "It is truly appreciated. Please pray for complete healing for our daughter Jade Hetz."

**Joseph Thornburg** thanks the Voluntary Fund and all who contribute for the check received after his wife's hospital stay and surgery. "It's truly an honor to belong to such a great organization that cares for their Brothers and Sisters whether they be active or retired." Special thanks to Danny Hendrix.

**Edward Bohannon** thanks all for being gracious and faithful contributors to the Voluntary Fund. The assistance he has received helped greatly with expenses following multiple eye surgeries. Special thanks to Justin Wallace and Danny Hendrix. "May God bless all 798 Brothers and Sisters."

**The Allen Family** thanks the Brothers and Sisters of 798 for the cards, messages, calls, and visits to Ricky following his hip fracture and subsequent hip replacement surgery. "He is making a speedy recovery. Thank you all for your support."

**Dalton Simmons** thanks the Voluntary Fund for the help received. His fiancé has completed her cancer treatments and surgery and she is doing well.

**John and Emily Basye** thank everyone who generously contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the help received following John's hip fracture and hospital stay. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix and Justin Wallace. "God bless Pipeliners Local Union 798."

**Sheila Anderson** expresses appreciation for the gift she received from the Voluntary Fund. "Thank you for your thoughtfulness."

**Emma and Jerry Jordan** thank the Voluntary Fund for the help received and wish to acknowledge the hardworking members of Local 798. Special thanks to J.C. Thornburg.

**Thomas Anderson** expresses gratitude to all the 798 family and to the Voluntary Fund for the check received. He also appreciates all the calls, prayers, and the heartfelt kindness of his Brothers and Sisters who called and checked on his spouse in her time of need. "No other organization of this size does that to my knowledge." Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Dale Crabtree, Kent Jewell, and Shannon and Scotty Jackson.

**Benji Rodgers** sincerely thanks all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The check he received will come in very handy during his upcoming treatments. Special thanks to Bobby Noble and his wife, Bobbie, Danny Hendrix, and Justin Wallace. "It is heartwarming to belong to a great organization like 798!"

**Myran Copley** sends thanks to everyone who played a part in recommending him for the Voluntary Fund. "My grandpa recently passed away, and I want you to know it's greatly appreciated!"

## RETIREMENTS

**Tanya M. Carter**, Helper, San Francisco, CA

**Julie M. Cazalas**, Helper, Livingston, TX

**Robert W. McMillan**, Welder, Booneville, MS

**Jan N. Nagg**, Helper, McIntyre, PA

**Kirk P. Pitre**, Welder, Denham Springs, LA

**Robin M. Pompura**, Helper, Smock, PA

**Billy W. Schrock**, Spacer, Oak Grove, LA



# IN MEMORIAM

**Charles K. Finke**, 65-year-old Retired Welder of Pottsboro, TX, passed away October 11, 2023.

**Bonnie Tucker**, 77-year-old Retired Helper of Boise, ID, passed away October 15, 2023.

**Marshall Russell**, 79-year-old Retired Welder of Woodville, TX, passed away October 16, 2023.

**Garry D. Archer**, 81-year-old Retired Helper of Carrollton, GA, passed away October 25, 2023.

**Gregory Foreman**, 69-year-old Retired Welder of Sulphur, LA, passed away November 4, 2023.

**Michael A. Hatch**, 55-year-old Welder of Vero Beach, FL, passed away November 19, 2023.

**Herman A. Deroin**, 51-year-old Helper of Hominy, OK, passed away November 25, 2023.

**Randy J. Miller**, 67-year-old Retired Welder of Fouke, AR, passed away November 27, 2023.

**Ronald P. Gannon**, 84-year-old Retired Welder of Ironton, OH, passed away November 30, 2023.

**Trey Coen and Darrell "Fuzz" Glaze for Associated Pipe Line Contractors, Inc. in Caldwell, Ohio.**



# SWAP & SELL

**1980 Lincoln SA 200:** The welder just came out of the shop. It runs and welds great. Some rust. Includes lead. Asking \$3,500. Contact Donna Davis at 662-380-1200 for pictures.

**2008 Dodge Cummins Diesel with Custom Welding Bed:** 280K miles. Located in Norman, OK. 2008 Vantage 300 with 1,800 hours. Torches, hand tools, etc. Asking \$65,000. Contact Melanie at 405-862-8506.

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

**Dodge Ram Limited 3500:** Asking \$24,999. One owner. Call Steve Spiker at 608-369-4984 for details.



**Geeding Construction, Inc. in Troy, Missouri**



**Wes Taylor (left) and dad Bobby Taylor (right) working on the MVP in Rocky Mount, Virginia. Submitted by: Loren Ulrickson**



PIPELINERS



UNION 798  
UNITED ASSOCIATION

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

(Back)



#301

#302

#303

#304

#305

#306

**Green T-Shirt "I AM LOCAL 798"**

Item #301  
(S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)  
\$16.00

**Black T-Shirt w/ Blue Distressed Flag**

Item #302  
(S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL)  
\$17.00

**Black T-Shirt w/ Logo Flag**

Item #303  
(S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL)  
\$17.00

**Dark Gray T-Shirt w/ Black Distressed Flag**

Item #304  
(S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)  
\$16.00

**Black T-Shirt w/ American Flag**

Item #305  
(S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL)  
\$17.00

**Black T-Shirt "1949"**

Item #306  
(S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL)  
\$17.00