



# BLUE LIGHT REPORTS

March/April 2024

Associated Pipe Line Contractors, Inc.  
Ragley, Louisiana

## Pipeliners Union 798

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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](http://www.local798.org)  
for updated pre-job  
information.

**Business Manager**  
Daniel C. Hendrix

**Financial Secretary-  
Treasurer**  
Justin Wallace

**President**  
Shannon Jackson

**Vice President**  
Randy Mathis

**Recording Secretary**  
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**Examining Board**  
Clark Eastwood  
Ricky Jones

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

**Organizers**  
Cassidy Croley  
Chad Simmons  
Charles Thomas  
Ralph "Barky" Zoller

**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,

Spring is right around the corner, and winter will soon be a memory. The work outlook is positive and will likely be a mirror of last year's man-hours with a chance of maybe an uptick in hours worked. The building trades are still going strong. An abundant number of projects are being planned, which may require additional man-hours. We are getting closer to certification from the Department of Labor for our 798 Apprenticeship Program, and hopefully, by April, we will begin to roll that out. Steward School is coming quickly, and registration is available online. Please make plans to attend for a fun-filled and educational experience. ***If you have never been or membership to 798 is new to you, the only way to describe that week is a cross between a family reunion and a full-blown county fair where everything pertaining to pipeliners will be discussed and displayed.***

I want to touch on an issue concerning building trades work through our UA sister locals. If you desire gainful employment at any other local, please contact your 798 business agent or 798 dispatcher for information and assistance. Regardless of what you see on Facebook, most, if not all, locals want to deal business agent to business agent. ***When you call directly to that sister local, you are not following their protocol, and it creates friction and confusion.*** Please be mindful of this if you are interested in building trades work. Also, once you get on a job, remember you are a guest, and you should act accordingly. It is their work, their contract, their house. So be respectful and professional so we as members will continue to receive the invitation to supply needed manpower.

We are still working on finalizing dates and locations for regional meetings. As soon as we get that information, we will post it on our website. ***As always, I am proud to say, "I work for you, the greatest pipeliners in the world."***

Fraternally,

Daniel C. Hendrix  
Business Manager



**RMS Holdings, LLC**  
Conroe, Texas



# Financial Secretary - Treasurer's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As spring gets ready to break, a lot of our work has carried over through the winter months. As of this writing, 750 members are working on 67 separate NPLA jobs throughout our jurisdiction. We expect this number to go up considerably as some early projects, such as the Williams LEG project in Louisiana and the Tallgrass Trailblazer Conversion, get kicked off in the foreseeable future. We've been attending some PLCA events this winter, and the overall sentiment is that 2024 should look similar to last year regarding man-hours. Most indications are that 2025 and 2026 have the potential to be big years for the union pipeline industry. **We will continue working with our PLCA partners and the client gas companies to gain more market share.**

We continue our advocacy wherever needed, as it is an important tool. The gas companies know who to call on when they need help getting a job permitted. We'd like to see more of those gas companies using union contractors in areas of the country where permitting is not much of an issue, like Texas and Louisiana. As far as the Midwest CO2 projects, Navigator is scrapped for now; Wolf Carbon Solutions appears to be in a holding pattern, but the Summit project seems to be gaining some momentum. We will keep a close watch on this and run actions if necessary. We will also continue our organizing efforts around the country. Much of this must be done under the radar for obvious reasons, but we've got some exciting things taking place. **If you feel like you can help the organizing team, please reach out to any of the organizers. They can't do what needs to be done without the help and support of the membership.**

I am proud to report that your Health & Welfare Fund has really started to gain some ground. **From year's end of 2022 to year's end of 2023, the Fund's market value gained 35%. This is great news and bears out that the moves we've made have been the right ones.** The plain truth is that healthcare costs in this country are out of control. Hopefully, we will keep this momentum and continue to gain reserves. The Pension Fund is also very solvent at around \$1.5 billion. As Trustees, we will determine between now and June 1 where the most prudent place to put the new money that was negotiated in our contract.

Steward School is just around the corner. By now, you've probably received your registration packet, and if not, go to the website and get registered if you plan to attend. It really helps us get a headcount for meal planning if we have a good idea of how many to expect. **The Steward School attendance gift this year will be a 75th Anniversary Case pocketknife, so you don't want to miss out. This is Local 798's 75th Anniversary year, so we thought that was a fitting way to celebrate our great local union. Seventy-five years is quite a milestone!**

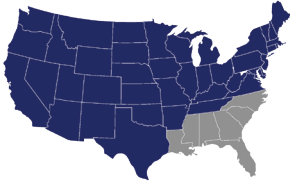
As we've talked about recently, we will continue regional meetings later this year. Last year's meetings were well attended, and I believe everyone who came enjoyed the business discussed, along with the fellowship and camaraderie. No details are finalized, but we are looking at dates and locations to decide how to best accommodate the membership. We will share details with you as soon as we are able. **I look forward to seeing you on the right-of-way this work season!**

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 much traveling across my jurisdiction. The work is slow to start this year, but it is looking very promising. Several projects are going out for bid across my jurisdiction, and several union contractors are going after that work. We are still making great strides with gas company representatives and are continually working on forming new lines of communication. Building trades work will also be in abundance this year for those interested. Give Jimmy Dick in Dispatch a call to find out more details.

I want to thank our organizing team for all their hard work. Most of their work is done behind the scenes without much notice, but it is a major part of the success of our local.

The Action Network is making a difference! That is why I encourage all members to continue to be actively involved. Please take the time to encourage all family members, friends, neighbors, and anyone concerned about high energy prices to also get involved. There is always strength in numbers!

If you have not already made plans to attend this year's Steward School, get those reservations now. It is the best chance for you to participate, learn important working details of this profession, and make valuable job contacts. To all our newer members: 798 is a family and is family oriented. Make plans to bring your family with you. I look forward to seeing you and your family there.

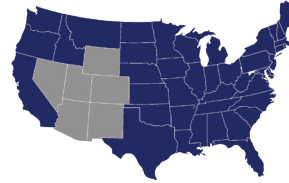
My job is and always has been to serve YOU, so do not hesitate to contact me. I encourage and appreciate all the phone calls, so feel free to call with any questions and concerns at 918-991-5341.

May God keep all of you safe. God bless each and every one of you, and God bless this great local.

## Pre-Jobs:

TJ Construction, Inc.:

- Florence, AL. Blanket for small amounts of fabrication in AL, TN, and MS for various gas companies. Job Steward: Dustin Bilbrey. Special Agreement.



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



Justin Head

I hope this report finds you all doing well. Steward School is around the corner, and I hope to see a good turnout this year. There should be some new things happening and a variety of prominent client speakers this year. If you hope to steward work in the future, it is in your best interest to attend and gather all the information you need to succeed as a job steward or welder foreman.

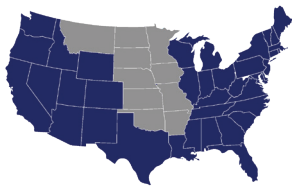
Todd Hartle and I recently attended a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in Nebraska to testify against proposed legislation that would, for the most part, end eminent domain. Eminent domain is always used as a last resort. However, occasionally, it can only take one landowner to halt a project indefinitely. For that reason, eminent domain is still essential to getting pipelines permitted. Keep an eye out for action as this important legislation moves along throughout the session.

I am starting to see a little more work come out for bid this year as opposed to last year. Kern River has some work in Nevada that, hopefully, will have started by the time you read this if the union bidders are successful. Rockford is wrapping up the drills in Colorado and should be gearing back up to start laying pipes in mid-March. That job is roughly 59 miles of 16" and will be pre-jobbed at the 80% rate. I am also waiting to hear awards for some blanket maintenance work on the front range for Chevron. Currently, I am still sending Helper bios to Local 375 in Alaska. I had a lot of calls after the call blast and was able to get most of the Helpers interested lined up to go. Overall, the work out West is still very slow with predominantly small jobs. If you have an opportunity to go to work on a nonunion job, please reach out to me or the Organizing Department, and let's see what we can do to help gain market share.

In closing, if there is any way I can assist you, please don't hesitate to call. Please leave a voicemail or a text if you want your call returned.

## TAKE ACTION TODAY

JOIN THE AMERICAN PIPELINE  
ACTION NETWORK



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



## Todd Hartle

I'm writing this report after speaking in front of the Nebraska Senate Judiciary Committee. I spoke on the importance of pipeline jobs for our union, membership, and the quality skilled labor that Pipeliners Local Union 798 provides. Gas companies ask us to speak at hearings, attend town meetings, or run an action on the Action Network because they understand that union labor has a strong voice. That is how we build good relationships with gas companies. The easiest way to get involved is the Action Network. Another way is to be ready when jobs are available. Practice at the training center if you need to brush up on your welding or make a weld.

The work in my area looks good. Most of the maintenance work will start in the spring. The weather in the Northern states hasn't been too bad this season. Hopefully, the road restrictions in the North will come and go quickly, and we can get some work started. We have work starting in Nebraska for Tallgrass, the Trailblazer Conversion, 18.8 miles of 20" and 22.4 miles of 36". This work should be available by the time you get this report. There are also 350 miles of gathering lines accompanying the conversion, which could go in late 2024 or early 2025.

I have been getting a few calls about nonunion work in my area and have been checking them out. If you are willing to salt one of these jobs, call Chad Simmons or an organizer or business agent in the area.

Steward School is coming up, and I hope to see everyone there. If you plan to be a welder foreman, job steward, or pipeman, you need to be there.

If I can assist you, please do not hesitate to call.

## Pre-Jobs:

### Continental Fabrication Services:

- Carrollton, MO. Fabrication of all sizes of pipe for multiple gas and oil companies. Superintendent: Wyatt Davenport. Job Steward: Samuel Laspatha. Welder Foreman: Nathan Owen. Continental Fabrication Shop. Working 5-8s. Approx. completion 12-31-24.

### Geeding Construction, Inc.:

- Troy, MO. Integrity Maintenance and emergency call-out work for various gas and oil companies. Superintendent: Logan Verslues. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Barry Ellerman. Integrity Maintenance. 80% rates. Working 5-8s. Approx. completion 12-31-24.

### Gordon Const. Of Mahanomen:

- Carlton, MN. Line 3 take up (take up 13 miles of dual lay 34" and 48") for Enbridge Energy. Superintendent: James Mallon. Job Steward: Michael Benham. Welder Foreman: Patrick McConnaughey. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 3-15-24.

### Intercon Construction, Inc.:

- Grand Rapids, MN. Misc. pipe to be used for sleeve welding for Enbridge. Superintendent: Carl Bubolz. Job Steward: Tyler Johnson. Welder Foreman: Russell Messer. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-31-24.

### McCizer Pipeline, Inc.:

- Hot Springs, AR. Undetermined amount of testing and emergency call-out work for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Dewey McCabe. Job Steward: Bailey Tillman. Welder Foreman: Aaron Carr. Integrity Maintenance. 80% rates. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-31-24.
- Judsonia, AR. 6" pipe to be used for blanket work for Summit Utilities, Inc. Superintendent: Ronnie Chism. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Corey McSpadden. Integrity Maintenance. 80% rates. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-31-24.

### Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

- Hibbing, MN. 10" pipe to be used for replacement in swamp for Northern Natural Gas. Superintendent: Rod Coburn. Job Steward: Adam Conzemius. Welder Foreman: Arnell Malnar III. Integrity Maintenance. 90% rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 3-31-24.
- Junction City, KS. 2024 Keystone digs program in multiple locations for TC Energy. Superintendent: Erv Shurpit. Job Steward: Kevin Davis. Welder Foreman: Alexander Dalrymple. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 5-8s. Approx. completion 12-20-24.

### Northern Horizons, Inc.:

- Solway, MN. Maintenance work to cover sleeving, valve replacements, and various site modifications for Flint Hills Resources. Superintendent: Jason Sanders. Job Steward: Corey Hiller. Welder Foreman: Reid Baso. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-31-24.

### Otis Minnesota, LLC:

- Mankato, MN. 12" pipe for Integrity Maintenance digs. 18 in MN, 4 in ND, 5 in IL, for Pembina Pipeline. Superintendent: Mike Benke. Job Steward: Douglas Anderson. Welder Foreman: Cory Schwartz. Integrity Maintenance. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 4-1-24.

### Precision Pipeline, LLC:

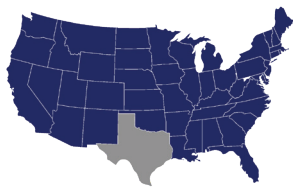
- Hastings, NE. 18.8 miles of 20" pipe and 22.4 miles of 36" pipe for Tallgrass Energy. Superintendent: Kevin Olerud. Pipeman: Michael Seegers. Job Steward: Karmen Mason. Welder Foreman: Derick Strong. Market Recovery. 90% wages. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 5-1-24.

### US Pipeline, Inc.:

- Bowling Green, MO. 11 miles of 16" pipe used in looping with new ancillary components. Superintendent: Thad Hutchens. Pipeman: Eli James. Job Steward: Jimmy Noggle. Welder Foreman: Isaiah Hamilton. Special Agreement. 80% rates. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 4-2-24.



**Aretina Newton**  
Submitted by: **Laura Haynes**



TX  
918-237-3573



Joe Gaines

I am writing this report from the road. I've spent the last several months traveling around Texas and meeting with contractors and gas company officials. I am pleased to say that work in Texas is finally picking up. I currently have five small jobs going on, and I hope the work that our fine 798 Members are doing does not go unnoticed. I had the pleasure of visiting with members on each of these jobs. I can say without a doubt that our members are the best in the industry. I am very grateful to each of them for a job well done. As the tide is turning, I am very hopeful that these jobs are just the beginning of more pipeline work in Texas.

I am in contact with business managers from sister locals in Texas, and they are currently manning all their building trades work. However, this can change from day to day. If you are interested in any of the building trades work in Texas, please contact me. Now is also a good time to get certifications in additional welding procedures. Reach out to the training center if you want to get brushed up on your welding skills or gain certifications. Our training center does an excellent job of preparing our members for work and taking them to the next level.

Steward School is right around the corner. If you are interested in stewarding any work in the future, I highly suggest that you make the trip to Tulsa for Steward School 2024. It is a great way to network, gain valuable information on upcoming work, and be a part of the bigger picture of 798. Information on how to register for Steward School can be found on our website.

The Ladies of 798 are planning their charity auction again this year. This is a fun-filled night; all money raised is donated to deserving charities. Their theme for the auction this year is "Pipeline Pride Across America." I know this is something we can all get behind. If you would like to donate to the charity auction, please get in touch with Shawna Crabtree at 903-278-2191.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Tulsa. 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:

### Geeding Construction, Inc.:

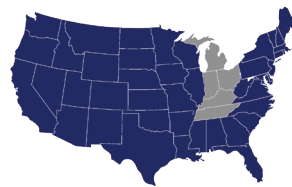
- Waco, TX. 800' of 10" NPLA/Integrity Maintenance. Superintendent: Logan Verslues. Job Steward/Welder Foreman: Kelbey Wilson. Working 6-10s.

### Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

- Beaumont, TX. 2" spool remodification. NPLA/Integrity Maintenance. Superintendent: Corey McDaniel. Job Steward: Jan Slater. Working 6-10s.

### US Pipeline, Inc.:

- Freeport, TX. Directional drill. Integrity Maintenance. Superintendent: Jason West. Job Steward: Robert Kindle. Welder Foreman: Heath Cowan. Working 6-10s.



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



Charles Yates, Jr.

Winter weather is a challenge for pipeline projects. Combine that with an election year, and the result is our current (and typical) downtime. Politics is involved in our industry whether we like it or not. Job notifications for the Central Region are still slowly coming across my desk. We anticipate a steady stream of Integrity Maintenance and possible new lay in March or April.

Building trades work is abundant, and our sister locals need hands to fill the gaps. Please follow proper protocol to earn pension credits and health care hours via building trades. Just as we have ROW etiquette and a chain of command, our sister locals also have hiring procedures, work etiquette, and a chain of command. First, members do not call other union halls directly; their process is business agent to business agent. Contact either the 798 dispatcher or the 798 business agent assigned to that area. These staff members will communicate with and advocate on your behalf for man-hours within this industry.

Secondly, the name-call process is an additional avenue to hire out. *Name-call* is when a contractor working in that local's jurisdiction can specifically request someone by name to that local union. When that happens, the business agent of that local will contact the assigned 798 business agent to request a bio for the named member. The importance of following proper protocol cannot be emphasized enough. When you call a sister local or reach out to a business agent outside of 798 looking for work, the outcome is often unfavorable and negatively impacts your opportunities and our professional relationship as a union family. No one likes a pushy family member who doesn't have boundaries.

Consider building trades work to help yourself and help our sister locals keep up with their current demands. Once invited into their jurisdiction, be a good guest in their "home and neighborhood." It is imperative to observe and follow their rules professionally; be sure to mind your manners.

If you aspire to be a job steward in the Central Region, please arrange to attend Steward School. See you in April.

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:

- OH, KY, TN. 2024 blanket work for Duke Energy. Superintendent: Colton Hendrix. Working 6-10s. Ongoing.

### Contractor Rental Corp dba CJ Hughes:

- Various locations in OH, IN, KY, WV, MI, PA. 2024 blanket emergency call-out for Marathon Petroleum. Superintendent: Christopher Randolph. Working 5-10s. Ongoing.

### Holly Construction, Co.:

- Melvindale, MI. 8"-16" Integrity Management digs and repair (blanket work) for multiple oil and gas companies. Superintendent: Aaron Brotsky. Working 5-8s. Ongoing.

### Intercon Construction, Inc.:

- Danville, MI. Install approx. 400' of 6" steel pipe and approx. 56" bolt-ups for Enbridge. Superintendent: Carl Bubolz. Welder Foreman: Blaine Cecil. Working 6-10s. Job complete.

### Miller Pipeline, LLC:

- Akron, OH. Blanket emergency call-out Integrity Maintenance in OH for Dominion Energy. Superintendent: Nick Smith. Welder Foreman: Adam Kandle. Working 5-10s. Ongoing.
- Louisville, KY. Blanket contract 20" pipeline integrity, pigging, and cut-outs for Louisville Gas and Electric. Superintendent: Sam Hoehn. Welder Foreman: James Howard. Working 4-10s and 1-8. Ongoing.
- OH, IN, and KY. Blanket contract for Integrity Management and digs for CenterPoint Energy Integrity Management. Superintendent: Kevin Jessee. Welder Foreman: Chet Clark. Working 5-10s. Ongoing.

Otis Minnesota, LLC:

- Muncie, IN. Installation of 3 HDD's approximately 1,800' for CenterPoint Energy. Superintendent: Mark Carpenter. Welder Foreman: Cody Dye. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 5-4-24.

Roberts Pipeline, Inc.:

- IN, OH, MI, and PA. Emergency and call-out integrity dig blanket work for Buckeye Partners, TC Energy, and other various oil and gas companies. Superintendent: Bobby Westrater. Working 5-10s. Ongoing.

Union Pipeline, Inc.:

- North Jackson, OH. Blanket emergency call-out on high-pressure transmission work in OH for Dominion East Ohio. Superintendent: Perry Rogers. Welder Foreman: Eric Raymond. Working 5-10s. Ongoing.

VEC, Inc.:

- Hubbard, OH. 2"-10" pipe for station fabrication at fab shop for TransCanada. Superintendent: Sean Wilster. Welder Foreman: Ryan Brady. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 3-10-24.

Veterans Utility Services, LLC:

- Jackson, MI. Various pipe sizes for emergency Integrity Maintenance blanket work for Consumers Energy. Superintendent: Russell Sennhenn. Welder Foreman: Derick Dennis. Working 5-10s. Ongoing.
- Jackson, MI. Blanket shop work no contract welding for Veterans Utility. Superintendent: Russell Sennhenn. Welder Foreman: Derick Dennis. Working 4-10s. Ongoing.

## Pre-Jobs:

Apex Pipeline Services, Inc.:

- New Martinsville, WV. 2 miles of 20" steel, 2,100' of 20" lateral line, 2 miles of 18" plastic. Superintendent: Roman McKown. Welder Foreman: Derrick Bennett. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s.

Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

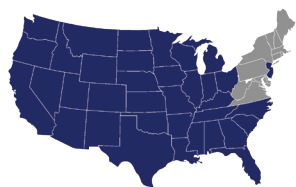
- Salem, VA. 600' of 42". Superintendent: Gordon Cameron. Welder Foreman: Glen Lewis. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.
- Virginia Beach, VA. 7,680' of 42" casing and 400' of 48" casing. Superintendent: Jayme Fye. Welder Foreman: James Bellinghausen. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s.

Schmid Pipeline Construction, Inc.:

- Elkland, PA. 12" uphill and downhill welder qualification. Superintendent: Lonnie Skadsem. Welder Foreman: Mike Smith. Integrity Maintenance rates. Working 5-10s.

Voshell Bros Welding, Inc.:

- Dover, DE. 2-16" miscellaneous station and short pipe work. Superintendent: Gale Voshell. Welder Foreman: Daniel Milstead. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s.



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

## David Butterworth



The workload in the Northeast is currently steady, with around 370 UA members still working to complete the MVP. The new pre-jobs are starting to materialize, and we're hearing that 2024 will be solid, with the majority of the work falling into the medium to small-size Integrity Maintenance, compressor station, and gathering categories. We did hear that a portion of one of the major projects we've been tracking could possibly pop up in the late summer/fall time frame. We'll keep you posted as we hear more information about this project.

In June, out of necessity, Charlie Thomas took over the day-to-day affairs, which included pre-jobbing, placing job stewards, testing journeymen, and dealing with problems that arose. I continued to work on advocacy, political issues, UA Pipe Trades, and client relations. When my doctor fully cleared me, I realized that with both of us attacking these tasks together, we could get more done. I also want to continue to let folks in the industry know that we are the only organization that can say we haven't missed a federal or state pipeline hearing in the Northeast between 2016 and today.

I am currently attending events and am affiliated with the following groups and trade organizations: West Virginia Pipe Trades, Pennsylvania Pipe Trades, Marcellus Shale Coalition, Energy Education and Awareness Council, Ohio Valley Energy Association, Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association, and I have applied to GO-WV which is the West Virginia Oil and Gas Association. These groups help us with our advocacy by providing platforms and putting us in rooms we've never been in before, and they can help us strengthen our relationships with clients and end users. They also provide opportunities for us to discuss common sense energy policies with policymakers who may not understand the importance of energy infrastructure and the challenges we face getting projects built.

I constantly tell folks that we are the best pipeline builders in the world and that pipelines are the safest, most efficient way to move energy, and no other method can compare. I implore you to remember this each day and to go to work with this in mind. I'm out here selling the idea, and I need you to back it up by simply doing your job each day in a skilled, professional manner. If you do your part and I do mine, then nothing can stop us, and we will always have a head seat at the table in the pipeline industry. I look forward to future collaboration and fellowship at the 2024 Steward School, April 8 through April 12.



**Tristan Smith**  
Submitted by: **Tristan Stewart**



# DISPATCH Report

Jimmy Dick

918-610-2761

Many positive developments are happening in our work outlook. We've recently received a couple of promising stick rod pre-jobs, which is always encouraging, especially in February. As you read this Blue Light, these two projects should be already underway, with the potential for more positive job opportunities on the horizon.

Recently, we've noticed members accepting jobs after being out of work for extended periods. It's crucial to take the time to refine your skill set. Check your equipment, practice with some rods, and have confidence in your abilities. In our line of work, there are no easy tests. Every weld matters. Our training center is fully operational, with plenty of spots available for Welder members who wish to refine their skills or learn new processes. We have dedicated instructors ready to assist you. To reserve your booth, please contact Farron Hollabaugh at 918-622-0210. Take the time to ensure you're prepared for the opportunities ahead.

I'm pleased to share that this January has been the most successful since I took on the role of dispatcher at Local 798. Throughout the month, we've managed to secure employment for over 150 of our members on various building trades projects. I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to the building trades locals that have played a crucial role in facilitating job opportunities for our members, particularly Local 430 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Local 502 in Louisville, Kentucky. Our members truly value the collaboration and support we receive from these locals, allowing us to work within their jurisdiction.

This brings me to the importance of effective communication when soliciting work from other locals. It's essential to maintain clear and respectful communication channels to foster positive relationships and maximize job opportunities for our members. The dynamics of the building trades industry have undergone significant changes in the past five years. If you're seeking work through a building trades local, it's essential to contact your business agent (BA) or the Dispatch office for assistance. We're observing a trend where many smaller building trades locals are reverting to the traditional BA-to-BA communication method. These locals are currently overwhelmed with work, and the most efficient way to solicit work with them is through the 798 business agents or the 798 Dispatch office.

By utilizing these channels, you can reduce the overwhelming number of calls these BAs receive. It's crucial to remember that these BAs are just as human as us, and excessive calls can lead to negativity towards our local. Please refrain from directly contacting them, whether by phone or showing up at their hall, as this can create animosity towards Local 798. Your 798 BA and Dispatch office have put in tremendous effort to build and maintain relationships with these building trades locals. Our members rely on these relationships for job opportunities. Unfortunately, recent actions by some members, such as directly contacting the building trades locals, have strained these relationships. It's important to understand that such actions not only hurt yourself but also other members in need of work.

If you're not getting the desired response, there's a reason behind it. There may be past relationships or restrictions preventing our membership from working in certain building trades locals. These are the relationships we aim to improve for a more secure future for Local 798. Remember, in the building trades, it's BA-to-BA communication. Trust your home local to reach out to these building trades unions on your behalf. Recent incidents have highlighted the importance of adhering to proper etiquette and the chain of command when soliciting work from building trades locals. Let's work together to strengthen our membership and relationships with these locals. It starts with each member respecting the established channels of communication.

If there's anything we can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to give us a call at the Dispatch office.



# ORGANIZING Report

Chad Simmons

918-600-4207

The new year has started wide open for the Organizing Department. We continue speaking with nonunion workers, contractors, and gas companies. Some conversations are more pleasant than others. Regardless of the outcome, they know we are here and not going away. We will continue to push to gain more market share and for better conditions for the nonunion Welders and Helpers.

As our work typically slows down in the winter, so does the nonunion side. We have received numerous calls from nonunion Welders and Helpers looking for work. All the while, we have more Local 798 members working this time of year than in a long time. The tide is turning in our favor.

We commend our contractors who have bid and procured work in Louisiana and Texas this last year. These jobs contributed to a lot of man-hours for our members. This trend will only improve as we continue to impress the gas companies with our quality craftsmanship.

Some have asked what organizing is. Organizing is the process where workers come together to form a labor union. Together, we can effectively advocate for better working conditions, wages, and benefits. The goal is to create a collective voice to negotiate with employers. This movement has a long history, dating back to the 19th century, and has played a crucial role in shaping workers' rights. The process involves gathering support, holding elections, and negotiating labor agreements. Overall, it is about empowering workers to secure fair treatment in the workplace.

Others may ask why we organize. First, the sustainability of our local union. We cannot grow and maintain our workforce without organizing. Second, we offer workers the opportunity to have the same rights and benefits that we have as union members. All workers deserve to be compensated justly for their labor, with good benefits to boot.

Why are the nonunion workers paid less? Several factors contribute to workers not being paid fairly. One major issue is the power imbalance between employers and employees. Employers often set wages based on what they believe is necessary to attract workers rather than ensuring a fair share of profits (corporate greed). If they can get people to work for less, it means more money in their pockets. This is why we see nonunion wages 20 years behind the times.

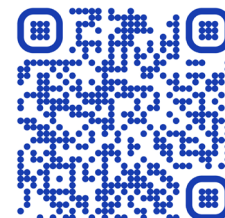
Additionally, a lack of information and negotiation skills among workers can lead to unequal pay. As stated in the last report, WELDERS CONTROL THE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY! When these Welders realize that they really control the industry, the contractors will have to pay proper wages. It only takes sticking together. We are educating as many Welders and Helpers as possible about the rights that they are deprived of daily. You would not believe the number of Welders getting \$15 - \$17 for their rigs when we know that the IRS rate went to \$22 on January 1, 2024. These same Welders must supply consumables that union hands take for granted such as gloves, sleeves, holders, torch tips, clear lenses, umbrellas, and mud boards. I don't know about you, but it sounds like a bunch of crap to me!

Lastly, weak labor laws and enforcement can fail to protect workers' rights, allowing unfair payment practices to persist. Right-to-work laws and contract labor (1099) have been designed to hurt the worker.

Steward School will be here before you know it. Make plans to attend. We are looking for a great turnout with a mixture of members, contractors, and gas companies. For the new members, it is a fantastic way to get informed about the contract and meet the local's officers and welder foremen. Do not forget to sign up for the COMET class if you want to know more about organizing. Space is limited, so don't delay.

If you know any Welders or Helpers who are 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.





# Steward School

April 8-12, 2024

Registration packets have been mailed to all members for the upcoming Pipeliners Local Union 798 Steward School. You may also complete your registration online at [www.local798.org](http://www.local798.org) on the home page. Please complete your registration information and return it to the Local 798 office no later than March 22. 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, group code: PI1. Reservations must be booked by March 6 to receive the discounted 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.

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 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.

A COMET 'Construction Organizing Membership Education Training' Course will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 9 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 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 from noon to 3 p.m. Please register no later than April 10.

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.





# PIBF Report

918-280-4800  
PIBF.org



Renée Vause

Director

Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund - 60 years and still going strong! Taking a walk down memory lane, we honor the rich history of those serving the membership as Director of PIBF:

John L. Lawler – November 24, 1964 – April 19, 1966

Clifton Throneberry, Jr. (Interim) – April 19, 1966 – July 19, 1966

Bill Roderick – July 19, 1966 – July 17, 1974

A.L. Jones – July 17, 1974 – January 15, 1975

John E. Ellis – January 15, 1975 – July 26, 1976

Grant Sample – July 27, 1976 – December 31, 1999

Robert Kime – January 1, 2000 – May 31, 2018

Renée E. Vause – June 1, 2018 – Present

Grant Sample also served as a Trustee for PIBF after he was the Director, as did Robert "Bob" Kime who is currently serving as a Trustee.

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

## New Pension Tax Table Installed

Pension tax tables are updated in the first quarter of each year. The new federal tax table for 2024 is scheduled to be installed effective March or April 1, 2024. Please review your deposit amount as of those dates and after and let us know if you need to make any changes. Oklahoma and Arkansas state tax tables will also be updated effective March or April 1, 2024.

## Annual Pension Statements

Annual Pension statements are scheduled to be mailed to participants in March. Please verify pension hours worked for the current year and check the beginning year showing on your statement. This is especially important for older years to make sure your pension statement is complete.

## Quarterly 401(k) Statements

Statements from the Trust Company of Oklahoma are mailed quarterly. When you receive your statement, it is important to verify that your 401(k) contributions, including Employee and Employer contributions (QNEC), are properly included.

## REMINDER - HRA Filing Deadline Approaching

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.

## PIBF at Steward School

PIBF's presentation Thursday afternoon at Steward School will include the PIBF, PIPF, and 401(k) plan year in review with guest speakers from the Trust Company of Oklahoma who will cover helpful information on our 401(k) plan. Blue Cross Blue Shield will visit about mental health issues in today's world; Sav-Rx will cover your prescription plan, specialty Rx, and preauthorization for Rx; and Zelis will talk about the member rewards program available to participants. In addition, as in the past, the PIBF staff will be available throughout Steward School for participant questions. Please stop by if we can help you with anything or just to say hello!

## FREE Health Screenings at Steward School

PIBF will provide health screenings by CardiOptics at Steward School again this year. This new screening provider has proven to be more convenient than in years past, with all screenings taking place at one station! PIBF continues to offer these screenings because the tests being offered detect medical problems, which, if left unattended, could lead to more serious health issues. A form to sign up for an appointment is in the Steward School packet. During Steward School, please arrive at your designated appointment time. If you arrive earlier than your appointment, those with appointments scheduled prior to your appointment will be seen before you, even if they arrive after you do. Walk-ins will not be seen until scheduled appointments are complete. In years past, walk-ins were seen after lunch.



## Congratulations on your Retirement, Patti! 15 Years!

Patricia Cox Reif (Patti) joined the PIBF Job Control Department in July 2008, working with hours reporting, eligibility, and contractor fringe contributions. In September 2017, she began training for the position of Assistant to the Director and transitioned into that position full-time on June 1, 2018. She has served in this capacity for the past six years. She will be retiring on April 12, 2024. Patti is a vital part of PIBF and will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best in retirement!

## MEETING NOTICE

**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.



**Trevor Sneed and Dakota Bench  
Elliston, Virginia  
Submitted by: Zachary Woodall**



**Casey and Rae Brown in Muncie, Indiana, for Otis Minnesota, LLC.  
Submitted by: BJ Folmar**



**Chad Townsend in Bowling Green, Missouri  
Submitted by: Bill Bryan**



**Hunter Ainsworth, Justin Work, and Tristan Smith  
Submitted by: Levi Holstrum**



**Richard "Red" Stout  
Submitted by: Elijah Malone**



**Jake Taylor**  
Craigsville, West Virginia



**Trevor J. Howerton** in Wilson, North Carolina, for B&G Pipeline Company  
Taken by: Kenneth Rayburn



**Michels Pipeline, Inc.**  
Rockport, Texas

# Short & Personal

## THANK YOU

**Jerry Tomlinson** thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. The check he received was very much appreciated. Special thanks to James Lannie Dyer. "May God continue to bless 798 and all its members."

**Danny and Catherine Poole** would like to thank everyone associated with the Voluntary Fund, those who donate and the administration. "Your help during this most difficult time is so appreciated. Danny has been a Journeyman Pipefitter for well over 50 years. It's so nice to feel the love in messages as well as financial support. You've always been our family."

**Andy Hess** thanks all members who support the Voluntary Fund. Special thanks to Mickey Westerman and Billy Hawkins for the letter. "It is a blessing to know people care."

**Gary Evens** thanks all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The money he received came at a time of need, and he appreciates the assistance while he recovers from hip surgery. Special thanks to Rusty Evens.

**Thomas W. Shepard and Family** extend thanks to the Gene Walker family for submitting a request to the Voluntary Fund on their behalf following the passing of Thomas's wife of 67 years. "We appreciate the support at this very difficult time. Thanks to all the Brothers and Sisters of Local 798 who support the Voluntary Fund."

**Steven Saucier and Family** thank Jeremy Peters and Harry Houser for their thoughts and prayers during a difficult time. "We appreciate everything you did for us. Thank you, and God bless."

**The Family of Greg Foreman** thanks everyone for the help they received from the Voluntary Fund in their time of need. A special thank you to Preston Ri'chard. "Your kindness was deeply appreciated."

**The Lacey Family** says, "During this time, we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us." They will never forget your expression of sympathy.

**Perry Shamblin** would like to show his utmost appreciation to everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the help he received after his rig went down. It was a tremendous help. "It makes me feel proud to be a member of this great local."

**Nathen and Elizabeth Lampton** thank all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the help received after the loss of their loved one. "God bless Pipeliners Local Union 798."

**The Wood Family** extends thanks to the Voluntary Fund and Jeremy Peters for submitting them for financial help after a death in their family. "Thank you very much!"

**Chris Olson** thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. The check was greatly appreciated and helped with expenses while he was recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

**Blake and Lacea Hankins** thank everyone who donates to the Voluntary Fund. The check they received was very helpful and appreciated. Special thanks to Chad Shivers, David Layton, and Dennis Jackson.

**John and Joan Bradford** thank all the members who contribute to the Voluntary Fund and all who nominate others to receive assistance. "We thank you all for your help."

**Dan Pawloski** wishes to thank all those who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The check he received was sincerely appreciated. His latest surgery in December appears to be successful, and if he's careful, he might finally begin to enjoy retirement. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix and Justin Wallace.

## RETIREMENTS

**Tony L. Brown**, Helper, Hohenwald, TN

**Jerome P. Burton**, Helper, Rush, KY

**Charles L. Carter**, Helper, Chicago, IL

**Lance P. Cook**, Journeyman, Sandusky, OH

**Maxie E. Ferrell**, Helper, North Zulch, TX

**Donald S. Lammers**, Helper, Eagle River, WI

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

**Carl A. Traweek**, Welder, Cross Plains, TX

**Jeffrey T. Wade**, Welder, Hamlin, WV

**Darrick G. Walker**, Spacer, Luverne, AL

## IN MEMORIAM

**Neal Holloway**, 83-year-old Retired Helper of Austin, TX, passed away December 12, 2023.

**Randolph Alexander**, 86-year-old Retired Helper of Jayess, MS, passed away December 15, 2023.

**Glen D. Bird**, 72-year-old Retired Welder of Pinch, WV, passed away December 17, 2023.

**David A. Tyer**, 41-year-old Helper of Washington, DC, passed away December 18, 2023.

**Thaddeus R. Rodenkirch**, 55-year-old Helper of La Crosse, WI, passed away December 20, 2023.

**Edward L. Lambert**, 94-year-old Retired Welder of Dothan, AL, passed away December 24, 2023.

**William Richard Gossage**, 89-year-old Retired Welder of Monticello, KY, passed away January 2, 2024.

**Thomas Rail**, 88-year-old Retired Helper of Tunkhannock, PA, passed away January 7, 2024.

**Carey B. Wesley**, 80-year-old Retired Welder of Etoile, TX, passed away January 21, 2024.

**Eugene Leeper**, 96-year-old Retired Welder of Winnfield, LA, passed away January 24, 2024.

**Gary J. Graham**, 80-year-old Retired Welder of Waynesburg, PA, passed away January 25, 2024.

**Buffington "Tire Pump" E. Tittle**, 84-year-old Retired Spacer of Cambridge, OH, passed away January 27, 2024.

**David Johnson, Jr.**, 36-year-old Welder of Dallas, TX, passed away January 28, 2024.

**Willie R. Beach**, 84-year-old Retired Welder of Roxie, MS, passed away January 31, 2024.

## SWAP & SELL

**2018 DRV Mobile Suites 40KSSB4S:** Good condition, lightly used. Loaded. \$103,000. Contact JT Born at 903-898-2231.

**2019 Ford F350/2019 DRV Mobile Suites 36RSSB3:** Selling as a package deal! Only asking payoff! Truck is a 2019 Ford F350 SRW 4x4 Lariat Diesel with Ranch Hand bumper, Weather Tech floor mats, air bags, Reece hitch. Loaded up power everything including the cooled front and heated front and rear seats. 98,500 miles (daily driver). Excellent condition. RV is a 2019 DRV Mobile Suites 36RSSB3 36' with 4 slides. Has dishwasher, stove, oven, cheap heat, washer, dryer, wi-fi ranger. Very nice! Selling because we no longer need them. Second owner of each. Asking for payoff, \$120,000. Contact Lynesha Boulet at 409-626-1395.

**Caps by Cindy:** Welder/Helper caps. Contact Cindy at 918-557-1660.

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



**Dylan Burch**  
Pembroke, Virginia  
Submitted by: Brooke Holloway

# RAFFLE TICKETS

**\$10 EACH OR SIX (6) FOR \$50**

798798

LINCOLN ELECTRIC AND MILLER ELECTRIC HAVE BOTH GRACIOUSLY DONATED WELDING MACHINES TO RAFFLE OFF DURING STEWARD SCHOOL, WITH ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITING THE VOLUNTARY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. THE DRAWING WILL BE DURING THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON APRIL 12. LINCOLN IS DONATING A LINCOLN FRONTIER 400X PIPE WELDING MACHINE. MILLER IS DONATING A MILLER PIPE PRO 400 WELDING MACHINE. TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE LOCAL 798 WEBSITE [WWW.LOCAL798.ORG](http://WWW.LOCAL798.ORG) IN THE SHOP SECTION. TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM DESIGNATED 798 PERSONNEL OR LINCOLN AND MILLER PERSONNEL DURING THE WEEK OF STEWARD SCHOOL. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

PIPELINERS



UNION 798  
UNITED ASSOCIATION

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

# SUPER SALE

DISCOUNT

**\$35**

SPECIAL OFFER



70TH Anniversary Pocket Knife  
Item #147