# BLUE LIGHT REPORTS March/April 2025

Zane Ketchum Dahlonega, Georgia` Submitted by: Nathaniel Lykins **Pipeliners Union 798** 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave. P.O. Box 470798 Tulsa, OK 74147-0798

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

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# Business Manager's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have dedicated my report to only one subject because I, along with Justin and the rest of my staff, agree that it is the most valuable thing we can provide to clients. We need to continue to capitalize on it while the opportunity is at hand. Believe it or not, we are at war with the extreme environmental groups and political parties that are trying to stop every pipeline project in Canada and America. War was declared over 16 years ago in our industry concerning permitting the Keystone XL Pipeline over the route of the line by just a mere handful of landowners. Since then, these fringe groups have grown in numbers and are sharing tactics and information to shut pipeline projects down. At the very least, they delay permits nationally and sometimes for years. "NIMBY" (Not In My Backyard!) used to be the chant. Now it's "BANANA" (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anybody). These extreme groups believe that today should be the end to all fossil fuels and that renewables are the future. As a nation, I think we are making progress in renewables. Still, any person in the energy supply business who has two brain cells to rub together will tell you that the technology and innovation to eliminate all fossil fuels are decades away, if ever. Unless you and your family live entirely off the grid, you depend on fossil fuels for most of your basic needs without even realizing it. Over 6,000 products we use daily require the basic building blocks of petroleum. I won't try to name them all, but here are a few that may surprise you: anything made from plastic, sunscreen, insect repellant, vinyl, nylon, detergents, cosmetics, medicines, golf balls, and cravons. The list keeps going and going. The opposition screams, "Let's go solar!" Today, even solar panels are made from petroleum-based resins and plastic components in their photovoltaic cells. A barrel of oil is 42 gallons, which creates 19.4 gallons of gasoline. The rest is used to make products. Each American consumes petroleum products at a rate of 3 1/2 gallons of oil and more than 250 cubic feet of natural gas daily. Does it sound like fossil fuels are leaving anytime soon? See how silly the notion of abandoning fossil fuels is when you do some simple research. The pipeline is our industry, and it is our future.

You, as a member, have a powerful opportunity to help guide not only your economy but you can also strengthen the position of America as a global energy leader, as we should be. We should never have to bow down to foreign countries for our energy needs. Have we as a nation forgotten about the tragedy of 9/11 or the oil embargo of the 1970s? Pipelines and the energy they provide are the lifeblood of a strong and independent nation. What can you do to help? We must work collectively; that's why we joined the union. There is no strength or power to yield if we don't all pull in the same direction. The direction we need to pull in is to **build better partnerships with our clients.** We have commitments from numerous clients for some enormous pipeline projects over the next two to three years. But with that comes some expectations from those partners. I have spoken about this topic in almost every issue for the last 14 years, but the membership participation should be better. When called upon, we need you to attend the various meetings for pipeline projects in your regional area. You will not be required to speak unless you feel compelled to do so. We need members in the room. Write a simple letter of support for projects when asked to do so. Take action on the Local 798 Action Network. Your participation is critical to your financial well-being, as well as your local union. These two simple things have and will continue to create more real pipeline jobs than any picket line ever did. This is the "new" norm for Local 798. The best way to organize is partnering with clients, and we must do a better job of showing the client that the decision to utilize UNION LABOR was the perfect choice. There is strength in numbers, but only if it's focused. Surely, we can unite and be better activists than a bunch of fossil fuel haters who don't even know what energy they consume every day or how it gets to them. Please think about what you should do as members, active and retired, in the greatest local in the world when the e-mail notice arrives to act or the phone rings, and you are asked to help fight the fight. Will you do nothing or unite and fight as a family when others try to destroy your livelihood?

The 2025 Steward School is just around the corner. I urge each of you to make plans to attend this annual event. The discussions and interpretations of our National Pipeline Agreement help promote harmony and protect our working conditions on the ROW, but there is so much more to be shared. The whole week is like a family reunion, with a carnival atmosphere for all to enjoy. With lots of fun, food, prizes, entertainment, and some education thrown in for good measure. Tulsa is the place to be in April! Hopefully, when you leave this year's event, you will be armed with the best and latest information concerning this great organization to which you belong. I also believe you will be amazed at everything Pipeliners Local 798, the training center, benefit programs, Voluntary Fund, and Ladies of 798 are doing for you and your families. Pipeliners Local 798 Steward School is the largest UA attended event in the United States and Canada, with only one exception, and that is the UA National Convention. That should say something about your commitment to your local and to the pipeline industry that you work in. If you have never been to Steward School, now is the time to commit. I also invite you to include your spouse when you travel to Steward School. The Ladies of 798 have a great charitable organization! They do volunteer work throughout the year, and their mission is to provide good works, whether at home or in a community while on a pipeline job. I encourage you to explore what these ladies are doing to promote the public image of workers in the pipeline industry. Please take a few minutes and go to their website, www.ladiesof798.org. It is a great way to stay informed and get involved. You will be proud and grateful that you did. By the way, you don't have to be a female to join; many supporters who have joined are men, including myself. We are all 798 pipeliners.

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

Fraternally,

that

Daniel C. Hendrix Business Manager



# Financial Secretary - Treasurer's Report

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If you haven't made plans to attend Steward School, the time is drawing near. We look forward to a good turnout and a great week of fellowship. We plan on making this year's event one of the best. Please help us by registering if you plan to come so we can better plan on how many to expect. We are expanding the golf tournament this year, so help us out by inviting any contractor representatives and gas company contacts you might have. It's an excellent opportunity to network and ultimately raise money for scholarships for Local 798 members' families.

The year has started relatively well, with a few good projects ongoing. I expect this year to be very similar to 2024, but all indications are that the work outlook is very bright for 2026 and beyond. We've had several clients indicate that they have a significant number of projects to build in the years to come.

I recently attended, alongside Business Agent Todd Hartle, several of the public meetings in South Dakota put on by Summit and the Public Utilities Commission. We found there is much public support for the Summit Carbon Solutions project. Like any project, there was opposition, but the project's supporters considerably outnumbered those opposed at each meeting. The expectation is that union contractors will build 90 percent of this project. This will be around 2,200 miles for Local 798 members to build. Keep an eye on the Action Network for initiatives to advocate for this project. It was great seeing several of our fair contractors represented at these public meetings along with the other union crafts. These opportunities, when taken advantage of, result in unions gaining market share. Your business agents and organizers are working hard to secure work for our membership every day.

Todd and I visited the Precision job in Nebraska recently, and I'd like to commend every Local 798 member on that job. The quality and productivity were first-class, from front to back. This type of performance leads to more and more work from the client gas companies. Job well done!

I want to welcome three new signatory contractors. Bianco Pipeline Services, Villarreal Integrity Construction Services, and Scissortail Welding, Inc. have all taken the steps to become union contractors, and we are excited to have them. We are committed to working together to ensure they know they have made the best decision for each of their businesses. Lately, I've noticed a lot more traffic at the Local 798 Training Center. This is great to see, as that facility is the best in the country. It's a good idea to stay up on the latest welding processes, and it never hurts to stop in and make a weld before you hit the right-of-way. I know a few of our contractors are currently pursuing work in Texas. Hopefully, we will end up with some of the big work coming up soon down there.

Again, we hope to see you at Steward School in April. God bless every member of this great local union. If there is ever anything I can help you with, please don't hesitate to call me. *As always, I am proud to serve the membership of Pipeliners Local Union 798!* 

Fraternally,

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Justin Wallace Financial Secretary-Treasurer



Midwest region Business Agent Todd Hartle and Financial Secretary-Treasurer Justin Wallace attend public meetings in South Dakota held by Summit and the Public Utilities Commission.



# Business Agent Reports



918-991-5341

# Jerry Dale Crabtree, Jr.

I am writing this report after returning from Houston, Texas. For those who do not know, Houston is a major hub for many of our clients, and the meetings there were very productive. Work is slow to start this year, but it looks 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 officials and are constantly working on forming new lines of communication. Building trades will also be in abundance this year for those interested. Give Jimmy Dick a call in Dispatch to find out specific details. Also, if you need any UA certifications, contact Farron Hollabaugh at the training center to get those scheduled.

I want to thank our Organizing Department 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 or concerns at 918-991-5341. May God keep all of you safe. God bless each one of you, and God bless this great Local.

#### Pre-Jobs:

Price Gregory International:

• NC. Abandonment of Line 2, consisting of 9 miles of 12" in Robeson County, NC. Gas Company: Duke Energy. Welder Foreman: Aron Pitre. Integrity Maintenance.

Veterans Utility Services, LLC:

• Newton, NC. 4.1 miles of 4" new Lay, 1 road bore, and 2 HDD's in Catawaba County, NC. Gas Company: RETTEW. Welder Foreman: Derrick Dennis. Job Steward: Ted Luszczynski. Special Agreement rates.



Justin Head

As of this writing, work in my area is picking up earlier than expected. I pre-jobbed with Michels a large station upgrade for Williams in Wyoming. That job will be ramping up at the beginning of March. I am also excited to add that Precision has been awarded 30 miles of 12" in Wyoming for Tallgrass, which is part of the Trailblazer Conversion. There is also some other station work in Wyoming out for bid right now.

Michels has a steady drip of Integrity Maintenance work going on in Arizona. Meanwhile, ONEOK plans to lay 210 miles of 16-inch pipeline from Kansas to Denver International Airport, along with 25 miles of 10-inch pipeline in Colorado. Additionally, they will install 44 miles of 12-inch pipeline and 28 miles of 8-inch pipeline in Kansas. We were fortunate enough to recommend several union contractors to bid on that work. If all goes well, that work could begin by summer.

By the time you read this, the work in Alaska should be manned up. We have quite a few members working on the slope this winter, most of whom were name-calls. I was able to send a lot of Helpers from my list, but not many Welders. As a reminder, Local 375 only accepts the bios they have requested. If someone tells you just to have your bio sent, we cannot do that.

Steward School is just around the corner, and if you can attend, make your plans early. I look forward to seeing you there. It should be a great informative event this year with some great speakers.

As always, if I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out.

#### Pre-Jobs:

Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

- Buckeye, AZ. 800' of 20" relocation for Kinder Morgan. Superintendent: Derek Isaacson. Welder Foreman: Corey McClung. Working 6-10s. Integrity Maintenance rates. Approx. completion 4-3-25.
- Rock Springs, WY. Station upgrades for Williams. Superintendent: Chad Willet. Welder Foreman: Joe Valdez, Jr. Working 6-10s. Station rates. Approx. completion 11-1-25.





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

## Todd **Hartle**

I hope this report finds everyone healthy and ready for the work season. I have been traveling, visiting job sites, and attending town meetings. Justin Wallace, several representatives of our fair contractors, and I attended town meetings in South Dakota in January for the Summit project. The scope of work we will receive encompasses 2,285 miles of pipe, ranging from 4" to 24", and 18 pump stations in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Unfortunately, South Dakota still has this project held up. Therefore, we request your prompt signature on the actions related to this project are forthcoming.

On a positive note, we have secured two contractors in my area. We extend a warm welcome to Scissortail Welding, Inc. and Bianco Pipeline Services. Both companies want fair wages, healthcare, and retirement for their employees. We appreciate their commitment and look forward to working with them. In my jurisdiction, maintenance work is expected to kick off by the time you receive this report. We are also getting some members out on building trades work.

I want to commend our membership for their exceptional safety, quality, and production on the Tallgrass projects in Nebraska. This kind of performance embodies our organization's values. We have the industry's most skilled Welders, Journeymen, and Helpers. Tallgrass has additional work upcoming, which should enable our fair contractors to secure this work.

If you plan on being a welder foreman, job steward, or pipeman, attendance at this year's Steward School, scheduled for April 7-11, is recommended.

#### Pre-Jobs:

Continental Fabrication Services:

• Carrollton, MO. Fabrication of various sizes of pipe for multiple gas and oil companies. Superintendent: Wyatt Davenport. Welder Foreman: Nathan Owen. Job Steward: Samuel Laspata. Continental Fab Shop. Working 5-8s. Approx. completion 12-31-25.

Geeding Construction, Inc.:

 Troy, MO. Maintenance and call out work in MO, IA, AR, OK, KS, NE, SD, ND, TX, MN, and FL for various gas companies. Superintendent: Logan Verslues. Job Steward: Barry Ellermann. Integrity Maintenance. Working 5-8s. Approx. completion 12-31-25. Blanket.

Intercon Construction, Inc.:

- Bernidji, MN. Integrity digs in ND, MN, WI, IL, MO, and WY for Enbridge. Superintendent: Carl Bubolz. Welder Foreman: Russell Messer. Job Steward: Tyler Johnson. Integrity Maintenance. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 3-1-25. Job shut down per gas company.
  McCizer Pipeline, Inc.:
  - Hot Springs, AR. 5 miles of 16" pipe for integrity digs for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Dewey McCabe. Welder Foreman: Jacob Miller. Job Steward: Bailey Tillman. Integrity Maintenance. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-31-25. Blanket.
  - West Memphis, AR. 700' of 8" pipe to be used in JM-23 bore for Energy Transfer. Superintendent: Ronnie Chism. Welder Foreman/ Job Steward: Martin Griffith. Integrity Maintenance. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 2-15-25.

Northern Horizons, Inc.:

• Solway, MN. 2"-24" pipe to be used in blanket pipeline maintenance, sleeving, valve replacement, and piping modifications in MN and IA. Superintendent: Craig Lofquist. Welder Foreman: Reid Baso. Job Steward: Corey Hiller. Integrity Maintenance. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 12-31-25. Blanket.

Otis Minnesota, LLC:

- Various locations in ND, IA, and MN. 12" pipe in 27 integrity digs for Pembina Pipeline. Superintendent: Mike Benke. Welder Foreman: Cody Dye. Job Steward: Nicholas Ostby. Integrity Maintenance. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 4-1-25.
- U.S. Pipeline, Inc.:
  - Ashley, MO. 13.61 miles of 16" pipe for Ameren Gas. Superintendent: Andy Durkin. Welder Foreman: Jason Steed. Job Steward: Blake McAnelly. Special Agreement. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 5-1-25.





### Joe Gaines

Local 798's annual Steward School is scheduled for April 7-11. If you plan on stewarding work in the future, this is a must-attend event. Steward School provides essential training on contract enforcement, jobsite leadership, and union representation—critical skills for those looking to step up in our trade. Registration information is available on our website, www.local798.org.

While you're in Tulsa for Steward School, be sure to support the Ladies of 798 Charity Auction, which benefits their 2025 charities. Every year, the Ladies of 798 raise funds to support causes that directly impact pipeline families and communities nationwide. If you want to donate an item, contact Shawna Crabtree at 903-278-2191.

On the work front, building trades projects are staying steady across Texas. The paper mill project in Waco is in full swing, keeping many of our hands busy. A large data center project in Abilene is also moving forward, and LNG facilities along the Gulf Coast continue to provide job opportunities for union members.

Meanwhile, pipeline work across Texas remains promising. Several major projects are currently being bid, and we remain hopeful that some of this work will go union. Our organizers and agents are working hard to ensure contractors and companies understand the value of a skilled, union workforce.

Stay engaged, stay informed, and we'll see you in Tulsa this April! 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:

Associated Pipe Line Contractors, Inc.:

• Carthage, TX. Fabrication for DTM Midstream. Superintendent: Matt Hinton. Welder Foreman/Job Steward: Brett Mason. Working 6-10s. Texas Initiative. Job complete.

Michels Pipeline, Inc.:

 Houston, TX. 7 miles of 20" and 4 miles 16" for Texas Gas Service. Superintendent: Kyle Zabel. Welder Foreman: Cory Johnson. Job Steward: Bryan Corbello. Working 6-10s. Texas Initiative. Approx. completion 8-1-25.



Over the past two months, the trajectory of our industry has dramatically changed. The energy sector made a significant shift in favor of oil and gas. Traditionally, our work has been cross-country transmission pipelines. Now, our opportunities are expanding to include conversations around carbon capture and data centers. Our world is rapidly transforming. What does this mean for 798 members?

At the recent Tennessee Pipe Trades Conference, UA Director of Energy and Infrastructure Wendell Hibdon spoke about how the UA is embracing this new administration and new energy demand opportunities. Hearing about the connection between artificial intelligence and energy demands had the most impact on me. The energy consumption of data centers is expected to grow 160% by 2030 as the use of AI increases. Data centers like the current project in Ohio and the proposed Meta project for Louisiana require significant amounts of energy to power their cooling units, generators, and server systems. Project plans for these facilities include large stations to generate their own power sources. These localized stations will require feeders or transmission lines running from the mains, which will transport the product used for the immediate energy needs of the data center. CO2 emissions from these data centers will also rise, thus the need for carbon capture lines. Bids have already started to go out. This is where 798 comes in. Significant energy demands are driving the prioritization of oil and gas as THE reliable source to meet national needs.

As we embrace the future, we also embrace new partnerships with three new contractors. I met with leadership from Villarreal Integrity Construction Services in January. I am proud to announce that this Brohman, Michigan, contractor signed the NPLA. A special thanks to Welder member Cody Bennington for his role in helping sign this fair contractor. Brother Todd Hartle also deserves special recognition for signing two new contractors, Scissortail Welding Inc. and Bianco Pipeline Services, to the NPLA. Thank you, and great job, Todd! Let us welcome all our new, fair, and signed contractors with rigs ready and prepared to provide professional craftsmanship and quality union labor. In April, you can brush up on your working knowledge of the National Pipeline Agreement at Steward School. As always, we will cover the entire NPLA. If you plan to be a welder foreman or job steward, it is imperative that you attend.

Brother Joe Bigley, our 798 apprenticeship coordinator, and I teamed up as guest speakers to the metal fabrication students at the Coshocton County Career Center in Ohio. Joe had a great presentation and did a fantastic job highlighting the benefits of our apprenticeship program. Thank you, Coshocton County Career Center, for inviting us to your class and for being genuinely interested in a future with 798.

This is my favorite time of year because everything is starting up new again. It is a new day like we have never seen before, and with it brings excitement and uncertainty. What is most important is that we face it together in union brotherhood and solidarity, preserving and protecting what we have. No matter what the future holds, we are STRONGER TOGETHER. If I can be of assistance, do not hesitate to call. Shop small, support union, and buy made in the USA. In God we trust.

#### Pre-Jobs:

Appalachian Pipeline Contractors, LLP:

 Cincinnati, OH. 1,615' of 20" and 12,600' of 24" with an additional install of 1,343' of 20" via HDD for Duke Energy. Superintendent: Colten Hendrix. Welder Foreman: Randy Williams. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 8-1-25.

#### Charps, LLC:

- St. Louis, MI. 25,000' of 4" in Gratiot County for Major Pipeline. Superintendent: Tim Turson. Welder Foreman: Mitch Mincoff. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 3-31-25.
- Henkels & McCoy, Inc.:
  - Johannesburg, MI. 11 miles of 3" pipe for repurposing existing well flow line for CO2. Launcher and receiver work with hydrotesting for Riverside Energy. Superintendent: Nelson Moore. Welder Foreman: Blaine Cecil. Working 5-10s. Approx. completion 3-15-25.
- NPL Great Lakes LLC:
  - Mishawaka, IN. Valve replacement 4", 6", 8", 16" in St. Joseph County for NIPSCO. Superintendent: John Saltzman. Welder Foreman: Grady Mitchell. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 3-28-25.
  - New Carlisle, IN. 3,125' of 8" relocate steel gas main in Joseph County for NIPSCO. Superintendent: John Saltzman. Welder Foreman: Jose Carrera. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 3-21-25.
- RMS Holdings, LLC:
  - La Verne, TN. 3.1 miles of 30" and 36" dig-up and replacement work; approximately 300 welds for Enbridge. Superintendent: Matt Steel. Welder Foreman: Abraham Hostetler. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 6-30-25.

Roberts Pipeline, Inc.:

 Bainbridge, IN. 3-12" integrity digs in Hendricks, Putman, and Vigo Counties for Buckeye Partners. Superintendent: Bobby Westrater. Welder Foreman: Garrett Bergkamp. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
Snelson Companies, Inc.:

• Cincinnati, OH. 60' of 8", 440' of 12", 6,880' of 16" for relocation of 16" pipeline and meter station for Duke Energy. Superintendent: Carroll Morris. Welder Foreman: Cory Morris. Working 6-10s. Approx. completion 4-30-25.





CT, DE, MA, ME, MD, NH, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV 918-600-5109

## David **Butterworth**

The Northeast work outlook is a bit brighter this year than in 2024. We know of two mainline projects that will kick off this spring as opposed to last year, where we had no mainline slated to go. When TC Energy's Virginia Reliability Project permits came in early, it was a welcome surprise and a muchneeded shot in the arm for a lackluster year overall. So, it's encouraging to know that Hope Gas will be embarking on 30 miles of 16-inch in Morgantown, West Virginia, and the VRP still has approximately 24 miles of 24-inch to lay in the Virginia Beach area. Both projects are scheduled to begin in spring 2025, and both are being built to bring natural gas to strained areas that need more gas.

As for the overall outlook, we should be cautiously optimistic about our country's growing energy demand. Political forces have long been the driver of U.S. energy policy, and it looks as though we are at a tipping point where market forces will become the driver as demand for grid reliability, artificial intelligence, and LNG skyrocket to a point where we have no choice but to build the necessary infrastructure. A client has already contacted us for a FERC support letter on a project that will elevate natural gas compression in Pennsylvania to send more gas to the Washington, D.C., area. The D.C. area is where many of these power-hungry AI data centers are slated to be built, and it's reassuring to see that plans are being made to supply the growing demand.

We will still have to fight for permits until permitting reform is passed into federal law, but it's starting to look like there will be no choice but to build the necessary infrastructure that will keep this country safe, independent, and on the cutting edge of the world's latest technological needs.



#### Pre-Jobs:

- Bond Civil & Utility Construction, Inc.:
  - Danbury, CT. Emergency replacement of 3 actuators. Superintendent: Frank Pillarella. Welder Foreman: George Robideau. Mainline rates. Working 6-10s. Job complete.
- Frank Lill & Son, Inc.:
  - Victor, NY. 20" and below fabrication of launchers and receivers. Superintendent: Nick Warner. Welder Foreman: Mike Donohue. Mainline rates. Working 4-10s.
- GPL Construction, Inc.:
- Oakdale, CT. 400' of 4" bridge crossing. Superintendent: Michael Guadette II. Welder Foreman: Ken Jones. Mainline rates. Working 5-10s.
- LMC Industrial Contractors, Inc.:
  - New Florence, PA. Compressor station expansion. Superintendent: Mike Adams. Welder Foreman: Matt Temple. 90% rates. Working 4-10s
- Michels Pipeline, Inc.:
  - Berkley Springs, WV. 3.37 miles of 8". Superintendent: Paul Yeakel. Welder Foreman: Justin Seyler. 90% rates. Working 6-10s.
- Otis Minnesota, LLC:
  - Trout Run, PA. Fab and install launcher and receivers (4", 8", 12"). Superintendent: AJ Niedermaier. Welder Foreman: Jack Niklas. 90% rates. Working 5-10s.



The new year has started with much optimism in the pipeline industry. In 2020, we had the perfect storm hit. A worldwide pandemic and many major projects either canceled or delayed, crippling our work. We expect another storm soon, but this storm will be positive for union pipeliners. With America asserting itself as an energy giant, many infrastructure projects, from LNG facilities to AI data centers, are ongoing or planned. It takes pipelines to supply each of these, and we will build them.

With the combination of job optimism and recent immigration policies, gas companies have raised concerns over workforce issues. We have assured them that Local 798 will meet their needs with the highly skilled workforce that they desire. Your organizing team and some of our members have been attending open houses for upcoming pipeline expansion projects. We have had great conversations with clients about using union labor to build these projects. We are now hearing from gas companies that have not bid work to union contractors in years. There is a grave concern that they won't have gualified people to staff the work. This is the opportunity we have been waiting for. By utilizing our current membership, the Local 798 Training Center, sister locals, and our organizing efforts, Local 798 can and will provide the best pipeline professionals to the contractors and gas companies to build American energy infrastructure.

The nonunion Welders and Helpers also sense this major uptick in the workload. They are tired of being treated poorly and paid even worse. They are starting to realize that the union is not bad and that the contractor has filled their heads with negative propaganda all these years. The United States is the only place on earth where poor people shun labor unions, free healthcare, and free pensions because rich people tell them to. Let that sink in a minute. If you get the chance to visit with some nonunion Welders, extend the hand of brotherhood to them. Let them know about your experience with the union. They are Welders and Helpers who do the same work we do, but sadly, they get paid way less and receive little to no benefits. They are not the enemy. The "robber baron" contractors are the concern.

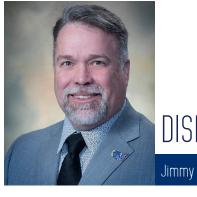
With an excellent work outlook, what can we do to be prepared? We can do just like the men and women out there on these jobs today that have great production and excellent repair rates. Thank you for your superior craftsmanship. You know who you are, and your work is much appreciated. Our workload will increase when we can show America that we are the best pipeliners in the world. If your skills need to be refined, visit the Local 798 Training Center. Farron and the instructors are there to help you with any welding process used in our industry. Remember, a better you makes a better us.

Steward School is fast approaching. Make plans to attend! Welder foremen, pipemen, and superintendents will be there. You should be there also. I heard a guy say once that he couldn't afford to go to Steward School. Another guy told him, "You can't afford not to go to Steward School." There is a lot of truth in that statement. It is a fantastic way to meet new people and learn more about our local union. You will get out of the local union what you put into it.

We will have organizing classes on Tuesday, April 8, after the Lincoln Barbeque. It will be a good opportunity for you to understand what your organizing team does and how you can help. Sign up when you receive your Steward School packet or online. Advocate, collaborate, and educate!

If someone is 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.



# DISPATCHReport

Jimmy Dick

918-610-2761

Change is on the horizon, and it's no secret. We've seen a significant increase in members coming to our facility to prepare for the upcoming work season. I commend all those who have dedicated their time to sharpening their downhill welding and building trades skills. This past January was one of the busiest months I've witnessed at the training center since taking on this role. There's no greater satisfaction than seeing our members actively engaged, keeping their skills sharp, and taking full advantage of our top-tier training facility.

As of now, our contractors are actively bidding on several mainline and facility projects. I want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of facility work. With the rise of artificial intelligence, the demand for energy will surge. We're already seeing the impact of new metadata centers under development. Contractors are bidding on projects to construct power stations designed for AI facilities, which require far more power than traditional stations. The energy scale needed to sustain AI operations will be a game changer for the American energy sector. Recently, in North Louisiana, construction began on a massive 4-million-square-foot data center-one of the largest in the United States. Facilities of this magnitude will rely heavily on fossil fuels, further straining an already burdened energy grid. To put it into perspective, powering AI requires ten times the energy needed to run a standard search engine.

Several major projects are set to launch this year, creating ample job opportunities for our members. Once again, I strongly encourage everyone to refine their skills and prepare for the work ahead. Every year, we say the same thing: this is the time when the rubber meets the road, and our members will be called upon to step up. There's no greater feeling than helping a hardworking man or woman secure a job that supports their family and future. I'm committed to putting in the effort, and I ask you to do the same. When you get that call for a job, be ready. Ensure your equipment is in top shape, have the proper gear for the work, and show up prepared. We have one shot to prove that we are the best-and we are.

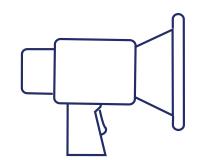
Our union boasts the best welding school in the nation, with top-tier instructors and leadership. We all pull in the same direction, and I encourage you to pull with us and be ready when the workload begins. I'm excited about what 2025 has in store. If you ever need assistance, don't hesitate to contact the Dispatch office. Whether pipeline work, facility projects, or building trades,



I've had multiple discussions with contractors about our members' ability to take on facility jobs. My response is to get the work secured, and we will get it manned while you focus on getting the job done.

Our local is home to some of the most skilled craftsmen in the industry. No job is too big or too small for Local 798. Success starts with good communication, and I'll continue to emphasize its importance. If you're a heli-arc Welder and I don't know you yet, ensure I do. This year alone, we had a 798 crew complete over 2,000 heli-arc welds with zero repairs—an incredible achievement by our Welders and Michels facility team, utilizing rig trucks for heli-arc welding at full scale and rates. These kinds of projects showcase the exceptional talent within our membership. We are not just a pipeline local!

To build a successful career, be a versatile Welder—proficient in stainless and carbon welding and master both stick and TIG processes. This versatility will open doors and set you apart in the industry. If I can help in any way, never hesitate to call. That's what we're here for. Stay safe, stay prepared, and stay humble.



# YOUR VOICE MATTERS STAND WITH PIPELINERS LOCAL 798 ACTION.LOCAL 798.ORG



Southeast region Business Agent Dale Crabtree and Director of Organizing Chad Simmons participating in the Louisiana Pipeliners Gumbo Cookoff, serving up good times, great gumbo, and connecting with our partners in the pipeline industry.



# April 11, 2025

# APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 P.M.

#### **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

Nomination and Election of an Election Committee. The Election Committee will oversee the 2025 Election of Officers and 2025 UA Convention Delegates election for the 2026 UA Convention. Therefore, Election Committee members are not eligible to seek election as a Local 798 Officer or UA Convention Delegate.

### NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF AN ELECTION COMMITTEE

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

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

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

The secret ballot election will be conducted during the April 11 membership meeting. Election Committee members should plan to attend a meeting on Saturday, April 12, at 9 a.m. at the Local Union 798 office.

#### 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. on Friday, April 11.

**MEETING NOTICE** 

Renaissance Tulsa Hotel at 6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133



€ 918-280-4800
∰ PIBF.org



## Keep Pension Credits at Current Rates — Avoid Rate Breaks & Maintain Health Insurance Coverage

Pension improvements in recent years increased the accrual rate for all past years, provided the participant did not have a break in service of two years or more. A break in service is a year in which your hours/converted hours are less than 400. A great way to avoid these breaks and to continue earning valuable pension credits is to consider working in building trades. The contribution rates can be lower than traditional pipeline work, but the converted hours worked can keep your pension moving forward at current rates. In addition, incoming hours also ensure continued current health insurance eligibility and earn credits for retiree health insurance coverage. To be eligible for retiree coverage, at retirement, you must have 20 pension credits with two of the last five years prior to retirement with over 400 hours.

Renée **Vause** Director Additionally, you can qualify for retiree coverage with 25 pension credits and proof of continuous coverage. Pension credits are earned based on total hours worked for the year, earning one pension credit with hours 1,200 and over; 1½ pension credits with hours 1,800 and over (permanent plan provision); 1¾ pension credits with hours 2,080 and over; two pension credits with hours 2,200 and over (through December 31, 2025, unless extended by the Board of Trustees).

# New Pension Tax Table Installed

Pension tax tables are updated in the first quarter of each year. The new federal tax table for 2025 is scheduled to be installed effective March or April 1, 2025. Please review your deposit amount as of that date and after and let us know if you need to make any changes. Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana state tax tables will also be updated effective March or April 1, 2025.

## 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 2024 claims. Don't leave money on the table! Remember to file for reimbursement of your 2024 claims by April 15, 2025.

## PIBF at Steward School

PIBF's presentation Thursday afternoon at Steward School will include the PIBF, PIPF, and 401(k) plan year in review and guest speakers from the Trust Company of Oklahoma who will cover helpful information on our 401(k) plan, along with a presentation about Navigating Social Security and Medicare, and Sav-Rx who will cover your prescription plan, specialty Rx and preauthorization for Rx. 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 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.

# **RAFFLE TICKETS**



\$10 Each or Six (6) for \$50



LINCOLN

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 take place during the Membership Meeting on Friday, April 11. Lincoln is donating a Lincoln Frontier 400X Pipe welding machine, and Miller is donating a Miller Pipe Pro 400 welding machine. Tickets can be purchased from the Local 798 website, 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.





# 2025 STEWARD SCHOOL CONFERENCE

### **RENAISSANCE TULSA HOTEL**

6808 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133

We are thrilled to invite you to Steward School 2025. The week will be packed with informative sessions and activities designed for professional growth and family enjoyment. If you are considering future roles as a Job Steward, Welder Foreman, or Pipeman, your attendance is highly encouraged.



Registration packets have been sent by mail. You may also register on the home page of the Local 798 website at: www.local798.org.



**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS** 

Renaissance Tulsa Hotel 1-800-264-0165 Starting at \$114/night Parking is complimentary for Pipeliners Local 798 guests. Use code **RENTN** during your stay to take advantage of this offer.

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION BY MARCH 21 AND MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



DAY 01	MONDAY - April 7, 2025
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7:30 a.m.

24th Annual Charity Golf Tournament – The Club at Indian Springs





DAY 02   TU	ESDAY - April 8, 2025
):00 a.m 2:00 p.m.	Registration Check In – Local 798 Training Center

10:00 a.m 2:00 p.m.	Registration Check In – Local 798 Training Center
Noon	Lincoln Electric Barbeque – Local 798 Training Center
1:00 p.m.	COMET Class – Local 798 Training Center
1:00 p.m.	Advanced Organizing Class – Local 798 Union Hall
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Registration Check In – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel

	DNESDAY - April 9, 2025
8:00 a.m.	General Session – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel
5:00 p.m.	Ladies of 798 Charity Basket Auction – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel



DAY 04   TH	IURSDAY - April 10, 2025
8:00 a.m.	General Session – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel
1:00 p.m.	PIBF Session – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel
7:00 p.m.	Retiree Banquet – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel



DAY 05   FRIDAY - April 11, 2025		
8:00 a.m.	General Session – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel	
Noon	Miller Electric Crawfish Boil – Local 798 Training Center	
Noon - 3:00 p.m.	Slick Rig Contest – Local 798 Training Center	
6:00 p.m.	Ladies of 798 Hospitality – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel	
7:00 p.m.	Regular April Membership Meeting – Renaissance Tulsa Hotel	

# Short & Personal

# thank you

*Frank Bowker* thanks the loyal members who contribute to and support the Voluntary Fund. "The support I received when my daughter passed away, and all the heartfelt prayers for my family will live in our hearts forever. God bless you all."

**Joel Keller** thanks all his Brothers and Sisters who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. The check he received went a long way. His wife and child are doing well after surgery. He would like to recognize his cousin, Wesley Taylor, and uncle, Bobby Taylor, for submitting the letter. "God bless 798."

*Ed Coker* extends his appreciation to all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund. Special thanks to Greg Rose, Terry Langley, Justin Wallace, and Randy Mathis. "I pray the new year finds us all in good health and prosperity."

**Wendell Coker** thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the assistance he received following his recent heart surgery. Special thanks to Terry Langley and Justin Wallace.

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

*Carey S. Strickland and Family* thank all Brothers and Sisters of Local 798 for contributing to the Voluntary Fund and for the check they received following his wife's hip surgery. Special thanks to Mike Strickland and Todd Hartle.

*The Family of Kenneth Kilcrease, Sr.,* Patsy, Kenny, and Burt greatly appreciate the condolences, prayers, and the bible gift. Brother Kilcrease was a 70-year member of 798.

**Becky Fuller** thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the help received after Calvin's passing. "He always said he wanted a BBQ if he ever passed away, so that's exactly what he got after his service. He was so proud to be a member of 798."

**Joe Spradlin** thanks the Voluntary Fund and all contributors for the help received following his surgery. "God bless you all."

The Nichols Family greatly appreciates the help received.

*Dave Glaviano* thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund for the check he received after his surgery. Special thanks to Danny Hendrix, Justin Wallace, Phil Lancaster, and all his friends who called.

*The Buster Chapman Family* thanks everyone who contributes to the Voluntary Fund. "We appreciate it!" Special thanks to Jimmy Sanford.

*Marshall Cain* thanks the Voluntary Fund for the check he received in his time of need. "I would like to say how blessed I am to belong to such a caring union."

**Brenten McCann** thanks the Voluntary Fund for the generous gift he received following his father's passing. "I am proud and honored to be part of 798." Special thanks to Danny Hendrix and Justin Wallace.

**The Herman Hattaway Family** thanks the Voluntary Fund for the monetary gift received after Herman's death. "We appreciate your care and sympathy during this difficult time."

**Dustin Burrow and Family** sincerely thank the Voluntary Fund for the generosity received during their time of need. "A financial burden was lifted during a stressful time."

**Tommy Atkins** thanks the Voluntary Fund for the donation received after Margaret's heart valve replacement. "Thank you for your continued support of the fund." Special thanks to Danny Hendrix and Justin Wallace.

Brandon and Bailey Berry thank all who contribute to the Voluntary Fund.

## RETIREMENTS

Steven T. Fagan, Welder, New Waverly, TX

Keith D. McDonald, Welder, Canyon Lake, TX

Brandon K. McMurry, Helper, Doddridge, AR

Scotty E. Phillips, Welder, Karnack, TX

Guy A. Simms, Welder, Epps, LA

# IN MEMORIAM

Stanley E. "Sam" Straight, 80-year-old Retired Welder of Darlington, PA, passed away December 4, 2024.

*Lee Wes Glaze,* 81-year-old Retired Welder of Tallapoosa, GA, passed away December 8, 2024.

*Herman L. Hattaway*, 82-year-old Retired Welder of West Monroe, LA, passed away December 8, 2024.

Tracy L. Sylvester, Sr., 83-year-old Retired Helper of Kingsville, TX, passed away December 8, 2024.

William H. Grose, 88-year-old Retired Welder of Orlando, FL, passed away December 9, 2024.

**Bobby G. Browning,** 67-year-old Retired Helper of Red House, WV, passed away December 12, 2024.

*Thomas J. Foust,* 67-year-old Retired Welder of Ravenna, MI, passed away December 16, 2024.

*Shelly J. Stephens,* 82-year-old Retired Helper of Morrilton, AR, passed away December 16, 2024.

Joseph S. Greenhill, 49-year-old Welder of Olive Hill, KY, passed away December 18, 2024.

*Kenneth W. Kilcrease,* 88-year-old Retired Welder of Kerens, TX, passed away December 18, 2024.

Danny W. Poole, 72-year-old Retired Spacer of Linden, TX, passed away December 19, 2024.



*Billie R. Ford,* 85-year-old Retired Welder of Deale, MD, passed away December 20, 2024.

*Glenn E. Harrell,* 87-year-old Retired Welder of Wichita Falls, TX, passed away December 27, 2024.

*Frank C. Fuller,* 54-year-old Welder of Wellston, OK, passed away January 3, 2025.

**Robert M. Evans,** 51-year-old Helper of Cedar City, UT, passed away January 4, 2025.

Theo H. Brown, Jr., 89-year-old Retired Welder of Salina, OK, passed away January 9, 2025.

*Gary H. Williams,* 77-year-old Retired Welder of Kingman, AZ, passed away January 12, 2025.

James W. Lay, 85-year-old Retired Welder of Heber Springs, AR, passed away January 13, 2025.

*Shannon L. Johnston,* 54-year-old Retired Helper of Texarkana, AR, passed away January 28, 2025.

*Thomas M. McEnaney,* 83-year-old Retired Welder of Sunderland, MA, passed away January 31, 2025.

# SWAP & SELL

**2012** *Ford F-350 Welding Rig:* Super duty complete welding rig. 142,626 miles. 6.7-liter diesel-deleted, automatic 4WD, XL package with power equipment. 2000 model Lincoln gas welding machine. Asking \$40,000. Contact Morris Fontenot at 281-732-8892 for more information.

**2020 Ford STX450:** 57,997 miles. Very good condition. This is not a cab and chassis but still has original bed. The aluminum bed is by Martins Steel LLC. Asking \$62,000. Contact Joe O'Rourke at 814-823-1966.

Caps by Cindy: Welders/Helpers Caps. Contact Cindy at 918-557-1660.

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

**Red Chevrolet 3500:** 147,000 miles. Duramax diesel crew cab with 4WD. Automatic transmission. Welding bed on back hitch for travel trailer. New tires with less than 3,000 miles. Welding machine, SA-200 F-163. Gas burning. Includes tools and extra parts. Ready to work. Asking \$30,000. Contact John Bradford at 731-610-1723.



Welder members Raymond Hoskinson and Mike Crawford in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. Photo submitted by Helper member Carson Dilbeck.



Central region Business Agent Charlie Yates and Apprenticeship Coordinator Joe Bigley visit the Coshocton County Career Center to engage with students about career opportunities in the pipeline industry, sharing insights and inspiration for the future workforce.

PIPELINERS

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



#148

Patch Logo Summer Cap – Navy W/ White Mesh - Snapback Item # 106 \$18 Black T-Shirt 1949 S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2XL, 2XLT, 3XL, 3XLT, 4XL Item # 306 \$17 **Green T-Shirt I Am Local 798** S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL Item # 301 \$16 **75th Anniversary Pocket Knife** Item # 148 \$93