

# Blue Light Reports

Trustee Local 798 **JAMES P. MOSS**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

By the time you receive this, you should have already received my financial report as Trustee, which is mandated by the Constitution of the United Association, along with a copy of the new Constitution. The report is positive and clearly shows an increase in the assets of the Local Union from the year ending December 31, 2005 to the year ending December 31, 2006.

Another positive development are some recent benefit improvements and other changes made by the Trustees of your benefit funds. They are described in this edition of the *Blue Light* and include an increase in benefits to PIBF and Welding School participants. As I'm sure you will agree, these are all signs that Local 798 is headed in the right direction.

I'm sure everyone is excited at the tremendous amount of work we have this year. While this is indeed a welcome opportunity, we have a great responsibility to perform. Every member must shoulder this responsibility using their best efforts. We must always remember that we don't lose

ground to the non union workforce when times are bad, we lose ground when times are good. It is therefore imperative to man our jobs when called for dispatch.

Finally, I want to let you know that Brother Mike O'Connell, Business Manager of Local 562, who has served as a Trustee of our benefit funds for several years is retiring in September of this year. He will be replaced as Trustee by David Barnett, Interim Financial Secretary of Local 798. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mike for his help and support as a Trustee of our funds. I also want to congratulate him on his many years of service to his Local as well as the United Association. We all wish him well and hope his retirement is a long and happy one.

*Fraternally,*



James P. Moss

Interim Business Manager **DANIEL C. HENDRIX**

Brothers and Sisters

The work should be in full swing by the time you receive this issue of the *Blue Light Reports*. We have already set some new records for man-hours. We recorded 386,746 hours for January, the highest that has ever been reported for that month. We also have over 1 million man-hours reported for the months of January, February and March 2007. The work outlook remains very strong for 2008 and beyond.

As our industry flourishes, so does the non-union. Brothers and Sisters, you must not work non-

union for sub-standard wages and conditions. If you find yourself in need of a job, working for a non-union pipeline contractor is **not an option**. If non-union contractors want the most skilled craftsmen for pipeline work, they must pay the wages and the benefits you deserve and be signatory to the National Pipeline Agreement.

The UA is experiencing a shortage of qualified welders nationwide. If your skill set does not include the necessary building and trade skills, we have the finest training center for welders in the

world! We strongly encourage you to contact the center and find out what you can do to upgrade your skills. On a similar note, if you know any non-union pipeline workers, invite them to become a part of this great organization. If they are skilled welders who can pass our downhill welding test, they ***need to belong!*** If they want to join in any classification – a helper, welder, or journeyman – please have them call the office at (918) 622-1900 and request an application. By joining the ranks of organized labor, they will ***increase their wages, build pension credits*** for the future, and have ***health care*** for themselves and their family.

Our union's strength flows from its member,s participation. How can you participate?

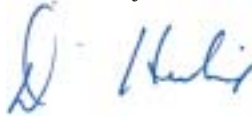
- > ***Man the work*** when called. Be there on the day and time required. The consequence of not showing up on that day, drug-free and ready for work, not only is a money loser for you, but also the contractor, and the next member on the list. Everyone loses.
- > ***Pay your monthly dues*** in a timely fashion.
- > ***Understand your agreement.*** One of the functions of the job steward is to make sure that the agreement is adhered to. As a member, it is your obligation to abide by it, so please take

some time and familiarize yourself, and I believe we will have more unity and fewer problems in the field.

- > Last, but not least, we must continue to cultivate a ***spirit of fraternity*** amongst ourselves. With the abundance of work, there will be a large number of new members that may be unfamiliar with the scope of our work. Please extend a hand of friendship by sharing your knowledge of the work. We are all pipeliners, away from home, trying to provide a living for ourselves and our families. After all, we are Brothers and Sisters.

I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join us for the September 14 informational meeting. I know most of you will be working but make every effort to attend. Although David and I have been extremely busy, we do look forward to visiting with you on the job in the field in the near future. As always, I'm proud to say ***"I work for you, the finest pipeliners in the world."***

*Fraternally,*



*Daniel C. Hendrix*

Interim Financial Secretary -Treasurer **DAVID L. BARNETT**

Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing this report from the Local 798 office in Tulsa, OK while performing my duties as Interim Financial Secretary-Treasurer. The work season is now upon us and the majority of our members are on the jobs at this writing. With full employment now here, I would like to take this opportunity to address an important matter. Members who are behind on initiation payments, or those who have chosen just not to pay for their initiation, will now be contacted to make payment. I have begun the process of pulling the weekly steward reports and checking each individual member and their payment status. Where delinquencies are found, you will be contacted and you will be expected to become current on these initiation payments. There is no good reason for anyone to have had a card out of this Local for over one year (seven years in some cases) and still owe on an initiation fee. In keeping with this

policy, new initiates have signed promissory notes and are expected to make timely payments on their initiation fees so their book is paid within one year. Additionally, those members who refuse to meet their obligation of paying their initiation fees need to understand that they will be subject to internal union disciplinary charges filed with the UA if they do not become current. I urge you to act now to satisfy all your financial obligations as Local 798 members!

I am pleased to report that Local Union 798 is four times more financially solvent now than it was one year ago. Our strength depends in part on good internal financial stability. I am personally reviewing and authorizing all payments that are made in this office on a daily basis. This, and other checks and balances that are now in place, will ensure that the Union's treasury is spent wisely and appropriately.

I would like to encourage all members to participate in the Oklahoma State Pipe Trades Annuity Fund 401(k) program. This program is a valuable asset that can set aside additional money and serve as a supplement to your retirement. Even a deduction of \$.50 per hour from your wages will accumulate quickly and because of the pre-tax nature of the deduction, will hardly be noticed as a difference in your net pay. Members may obtain forms to enroll in this program from the job steward or from the contractor for whom you work.

Danny, myself, and the staff at Local 798 have been very busy processing new applications and gearing up for what appears to be a very big work season. We have brought on board new helper members who are familiar with the type of work we do or have a feel for the outdoor construction work environment. They know they are expected to travel, show up for work everyday, be drug free, and perform the duties they are assigned in a productive way.

As many of the new members enter our work force for the first time, let's take the time to show them the correct way to go about their tasks. They may need advice on the easiest or most efficient way to go about their job, or the safer way to do it. Whatever their needs at learning their new task, I feel quite sure the help will be much appreciated. I also know that there's not a more knowledgeable group than our members to show them how to build a pipeline the right way. The other crafts are experiencing the same challenges we have with new workers entering the pipeline work force. To our newer members, pay close attention in the safety orientations held by the contractors, ask questions, and don't take any chances around equipment that you shouldn't be taking. We encourage all employees to get involved in weekly safety meetings. Oftentimes, you can learn better ways to go about a job from others doing the same work. And, remember, there is always a safe way to get the job done!

Since the late 1970's, the number of union members has been on a decline in this country. Many people are not aware that the formation of unions started in the late 1800's; since then, membership levels have fluctuated greatly. Many things tend to go in cycles and I truly believe that we are on the verge of an upswing in union membership in this country. Unfortunately, it sometimes takes a deterioration of our daily "bread and butter" – those things that affect our lives on a daily basis – before we are really ready to do something about it. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2006, full-time wage and salary workers who were union members had median weekly earnings of \$833, compared with a median of \$642 for wage and salary workers who were not represented by unions. Health care has gotten to a point that it is out of reach for most Americans. The income levels are so far apart between the worker and the Executive that we really live in two different worlds. When this occurs, the only thing that will bring American workers back to their rightful place is by becoming Union members and fighting for what is needed. The only thing that the politicians who make our laws recognize are numbers. The best way to form numbers with a common cause is through Union membership. From those of us who have been members of Local 798 for a number of years to those of you who are just now joining, let us take this opportunity to welcome you as members and say, emphatically, you made the right choice!

Hope to see you in the field during the work season!

*Fraternally,*



*David L. Barnett*

## 24 HOUR ANSWERING SYSTEM FOR THE DISPATCH OUT-OF-WORK LIST

# 918 663-3200

You may place yourself on the out-of-work list by calling the dispatcher during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., central time) at (918) 622-1900.

You may also place yourself on the out-of-work list after business hours by dialing the 24-hour out-of-work list answering service at (918) 663-3200. The recording will instruct you on the information you should leave, which includes your name, book or social security number, and the reason for your termination (laid-off, fired, quit, or missed welding test). You will be placed on the out-of-work list as of the date and time of your call.

## Improvements in Health & Welfare and Local 798 Training Center Based on Board Meeting Held on June 19, 2007

1. **Dental Improvements** (in addition to cleaning and exams) – *effective August 1, 2007*
  - a. \$500 per calendar year per family member
  - b. \$100 deductible
  - c. 50% co-pay
  - d. Cleaning and exams remain at 100%
2. **Preventative Immunizations** – *effective immediately – June 19, 2007*

Meningitis vaccine – 11 years old and up  
(This is in addition to the immunizations for Hepatitis A and B, Cervical Cancer, and Shingles that was passed at the Board meeting on 12-12-2006)
3. **Vision Improvements** – *effective August 1, 2007*

\$200.00 per calendar year for each family member
4. **Cap Raised** – *effective January 1, 2008*

Raise Cap on Health care Plan to:  
\$400,000 annual  
\$750,000 lifetime
5. **Stipend Increase - Local 798 Training Center** – *effective week ending 7-6-2007*

The stipend has been increased from \$150.00 per week to \$300.00 per week for trainees learning downhill welding at the Local 798 Training Center.

### NOTICE TO MEMBERS ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND APPLICATION PROCESSES

Local Union 798 is committed to nondiscriminatory treatment of all members working in the pipeline construction industry. No union member will be permitted to interfere with Local 798's compliance with its equal opportunity goals. Any member who interferes with Local 798's equal opportunity efforts will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion from Local 798. We encourage all persons interested in joining Local 798 as a welder or other journeyman, or as a helper to contact the Local 798 office to obtain an application for membership. Please call 918 622-1900 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. central time Monday thru Friday.

### **Member Alert!!**

All members should keep their contact information on file with the Local 798 office updated and accurate. It is very important that we have your current address and phone numbers on file so that we can reach you by mail or phone. Please notify the Local Union Office in writing of any changes to your personal information as soon as they occur.

## Labor Shortage Causes Suspension Rule To Be Lifted

Action taken by the PIPF Board of Trustees on June 19th changed the existing suspension rules for retirees. The existing rules state that a retiree will be suspended for one month when the retiree works 120 hours or more in work covered by the National Pipeline Agreement, whether working union or non-union in the industry. The existing rule allows retirees to work union building trades without suspension.

The Trustees unanimously approved a temporary modification to the existing rule that will allow **retirees to work in union employment** covered under the National Pipeline Agreement **without a suspension of pension benefits** from June 1st through December 31st, 2007. If necessary, the rule will be reviewed and extended for 2008.

Previously, when a retiree worked in covered employment or building trades work, the retiree's pension was increased the following year based on the hours reported to the Fund Office. This plan provision has been changed to allow retirees to receive their monthly pension benefit while working. The change also applies to building trades work. The new provision requires the Fund office to compare the benefit of receiving the monthly retirement amount paid to the retiree while working to the cost of increasing the benefit the following year. Depending on the calculation, a member may or may not receive an increase in the retirement benefit or may receive a prorated increase in the retirement benefit.

As in the past, the Fund office will provide an explanation of the calculations to the retirees in August or September of the following year for the work performed during the current year.



The following have submitted Thank You cards or notes to Local 798.

**May 2007**  
 Andy & Eddie Mae Clendenin  
 Bobby & Linda Nobles  
 Elvin & Loraine Loggins  
 Darla Durham  
 Daniel Mrosowski & Family  
 Ronald Miller & Family

Guy, Maria, Chad & Danny Williams  
 Richard & Klynn Sowell  
 David & Cindy Loyd  
 West Carroll Rodeo Association

**June 2007**  
 Millard Jones  
 Jerry M. Jones

**RETIREMENTS**

Name	City / State	Trade Level	Initiation Date	Month Retired
William J. Scott	Athens, AL	Spacer	June 30, 1965	January 2007
Howard W. Fredregill	Belmont, OH	Helper	July 17, 1974	April 2007
Warren G. Jones, Jr.	Bellevue, NE	Welder	January 4, 1968	May 2007
Benjamin R. Sparkman, Jr.	Collins, MS	Welder	July 7, 1965	May 2007
Raymond E. Box	Claremore, OK	Welder	March 4, 1998	June 2007
Roswell J. Hart	Mount Pleasant, MI	Welder	February 20, 1961	June 2007

**IN MEMORIAM**



Name	Age	Passed Away	Trade Level	City / State
Lynn E. Coffman	77	April 12, 2007	Retired Welder	Cleveland, TX
James H. Keith	59	April 13, 2007	Welder	Winnsboro, TX
Enoch Duggins	86	May 22, 2007	Retired Welder	Tulsa, OK
James A. Haynes	55	June 4, 2007	Helper	Bald Knob, AR

**UA BURIAL BENEFIT CHANGES**

In accordance with the resolution approved at the 2006 General Convention, effective April 1, 2007 the UA Burial Benefit has been changed to a group term life insurance policy. This change means that the benefits now paid upon a member's death are not considered taxable income to the recipient. Because these benefits are no longer taxable, the Burial Benefit Insurance amount payable has been changed:

Length of Continuous Membership	Life Insurance Benefit
6 months < 5 years	\$495
5 years < 10 years	\$765
10 years < 15 years	\$1,080
15 years < 20 years	\$1,170
20 years < 25 years	\$1,305
25 years < 30 years	\$1,710
30 years < 35 years	\$1,935
35 years and over	\$2,250

Additionally, a member can now complete a Beneficiary of Burial Expense card so their benefits are paid to the person of their choice. If a Beneficiary of Burial Expense card is not on file, benefits will be paid in the following order:

1. To the funeral home if there are unpaid amounts owed for burial expenses.
2. To repay the person who paid the burial

expenses for the member, or the person who is responsible for the payment of these expenses. The person who paid, or is responsible for, the burial benefits may include the member's estate or trust.

3. If none of the above apply, or the member's designated beneficiary is not living at the time of the member's death, or the person who would receive payment above dies before receiving payment, any benefit will be paid to the first person(s) in the following order, who is living at the time of payment:

- The member's spouse
- The member's children
- The member's parents
- The member's brothers and sisters
- The personal representative or the member's estate.

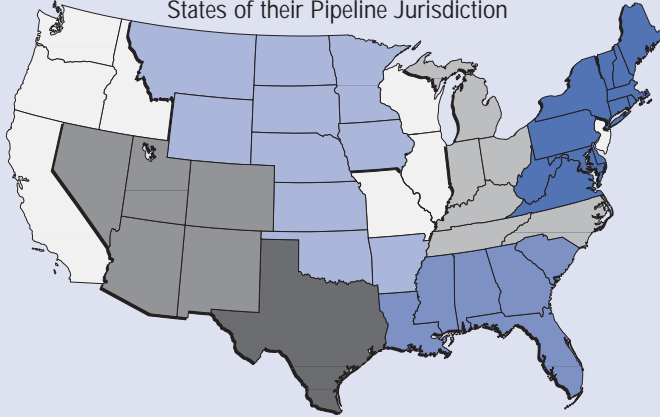
If two or more persons become entitled to payment of the benefit, the benefit will be divided equally among them.

Remember, to be eligible for the Burial Benefit, you must be a current member in good standing. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within 90 days prior to their death will not be eligible for the death benefit.

If you have any questions regarding the changes in these policies, or if you would like to request a Beneficiary of Burial Expense Card, please contact the Financial Secretary-Treasurer's office at the Local Union.

## Pipeliners Local Union 798 Business Representatives

Answering Service Phone 918/663-6520  
States of their Pipeline Jurisdiction



- Phillip W. Wallace** 501/724-5018 918/663-6520 Ext. 313  
Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Missouri, Nebraska,  
North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming
- Chris Lancaster** 731/549-3300 918/663-6520 Ext. 303  
Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee
- Chad Gilbert** 970/565-8746 918/663-6520 Ext. 307  
Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah
- Rick Taylor** 304/587-2191 918/663-6520 Ext. 314  
Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,  
New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia
- Darrell Turner** 256/463-7953 918/663-6520 Ext. 308  
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina
- Black Schroeder** 409/753-2264 918/663-6520 Ext. 304  
Texas

## September Informational Membership Meeting

An informational membership meeting will be held at the Pipeliners Local Union 798 Union Hall, 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK on Friday, September 14, 2007 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

## 798 Hospitality & Motel Accommodations

The 798 Hospitality will be held at the Tulsa Radisson Hotel – 10918 East 41st – beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 14, 2007. The Tulsa Radisson Hotel has provided us with a substantially discounted room rate of \$65 per night for our members who wish to make reservations. We recommend this facility for all our members during their stay in Tulsa. The Radisson's phone number is 918 627-5000.



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

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