

# Blue Light Reports

Trustee Local 798 **JAMES P. MOSS**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

By now, you have all received a copy of the changes made to the National Pipe Line Agreement. I hope you are as enthusiastic about them as I am. These changes were made possible by a concerted effort of many people, taking over nine months to accomplish.

I want to recognize General President, Bill Hite and Assistant General President, Steve Kelly for their unwavering support and persistence. Without them, these changes would not have been possible.

I have asked Interim Business Manager, Danny Hendrix and Interim Financial Secretary, David Barnett to visit our jobsites to explain these changes and answer questions from as many of our members as possible. If it is good enough to do, it's good enough to tell. I believe that our members should be fully informed about the agreement they go to work under, each and every day. And I am sure their visits will facilitate that.

The amount of work we have this year just continues to grow and next year looks as good or better. What a great time to be a Pipeliner! We all know that manning this work is a challenge and we are using travelers and recruiting unorganized hands to become members in order to meet this challenge. I heard a statement the other day about new members and it goes like this: "If you want 'em to be good Union Members then treat 'em like good Union Members."

I ask all members of the UA on our jobs, travelers and 798 alike, to remember that statement and practice it at all times. When we do, we will have made a great step in regaining market share that will serve us well, now and far into the future.

Let's go to work!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Fraternally,*



*James P. Moss*

Interim Business Manager **DANIEL C. HENDRIX**

Brothers and Sisters

For the past couple of weeks, David and I have been making jobsite visits to the Rockies Express Project and other jobs out in that region. It has been our pleasure to share with

the membership the positive changes that were recently made to the National Pipe Line Agreement. We have also had the opportunity to hear your concerns and get your input

on some of the workplace issues that you face on the pipeline. The hands, welder foremen, job stewards and the Business Agents on all Local 798 jobs are to be commended for the hard work and professionalism you bring to the job each day.

It has been a real challenge to man the work in our jurisdiction with qualified people when work is so abundant everywhere. A big thank-you to our sister UA Locals for your help. As of this writing, we are utilizing over 90 travelers on our work and we appreciate your help. This is the first time in decades that we have been able to repay the sister locals for using our hands in the past.

We have had many requests recently from helpers wanting to change their classification to Journeyman. Our policy states you must have 240 documented hours performing journeyman work and five letters from Journeymen members *witnessing* the work. Documentation must be on the Steward

Report or PIBF report. It is *your responsibility* to make sure those hours are being properly documented by the job steward. We are looking for well-rounded individuals who have been properly trained and can perform *all journeymen tasks in the pipe gang*.

Dispatcher Jimmy Pedigo will retire August 31. I would like to thank Jimmy for his years of service and wish him all the best. I'm proud to welcome our new Dispatcher, Kevin Leeper, on board. I feel Kevin will be a great asset to this office and the Local Union.

I hope to see you at the September meeting on the 14th, or in the field soon. 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 article after just returning to the office from visiting spreads 3-7 of the Rockies Express Project. Together with Interim Business Manager Danny Hendrix and Business Agent Phillip Wallace, we were able to update the members about the recent changes to the National Pipe Line Agreement, which I've highlighted below, and other important information. We are looking forward to visiting with many other jobs in the coming weeks with the same information and updates.

Due to the full employment our membership is experiencing at this time, and the prudent expense measures now in place, Local Union 798 is becoming financially stronger by the

week. Also, with this full employment now upon us, I am seeing the majority of the members who owe initiation fees stepping forward and taking care of those payments as they were always obligated to do, but through lack of enforcement, had not done so. Webster's Dictionaries definition of "initiation" is "the rites, ceremonies, ordeals, or instructions with which one is made a member." In short, initiation into any organization in whatever form or another is an act of dedication to that organization to show that you do believe in the cause. So, to those who have not yet made an attempt to meet this obligation, I urge you to step forward and show your dedication to and belief in Local Union 798, so

that as your Interim Financial Secretary-Treasurer and, as part of my duties, I won't have to pursue internal union charges to collect the outstanding sums due.

By this time, with the mail-out that Local Union 798 sent to the membership, you should all be aware of the rig rate settlement and the 2009-2010 wage increase packages just negotiated on July 12 in Washington, DC. The wage increases across the board for welders, journeymen, and helpers are 4 1/2 % as of January 1, 2008, 5% as of January 1, 2009 and 7% as of January 1, 2010. These percentages are on the total packages, which include hourly rates, \$42.50 of the per diem, and the benefit package. This is a 16.5% total package increase in a 2 1/2 year period. Here's another way to look at this: the total high scale package will increase in the next 2 1/2 years by \$10.75/hour for journeyman in the median pay scale state of Minnesota, and \$6.53/hour for helpers in the median pay scale state of Minnesota zone 1. This healthy wage package increase would not have been achieved if not for the hard work and involvement of many people behind the scenes fighting for you, the membership. I would like to personally take this opportunity to thank General President Bill Hite, Assistant General President Stephen Kelly, UA Pipeline and Gas Distribution International Representative Phil Stephenson, Local 798 Trustee James Moss and the UA's legal counsel, O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue, namely Jim O'Connell and Ellen Boardman, for their tireless and countless hours spent to achieve this success.

To the members of other UA sister locals who are traveling in our jurisdiction and helping us man our work, we would like to thank you for taking that bold step to help us out. To the members of Local 798, we would like to encourage you to give a helping hand wherever and whenever necessary to these Brothers and Sisters. As Local Union 798

Brothers and Sisters, we have an obligation and responsibility to man the work in our jurisdiction, and we are doing all that is possible to meet this task. We are encouraging our contractors to look ahead in planning their work so that jobs are spread out, as much as possible, so that the manning challenges now being placed on every craft can be better achieved.

I have received some complaints and concerns from a few of the contractors about a limited number of members not following safety rules. Brothers and Sisters, safety is not just a job requirement of the contractor and their clients; it is a right and a privilege. One of the reasons our forefathers fought and organized was to be provided with a safe and secure work environment. Our Union's very roots are tied to these ideals. When your employer provides you with Personal Protective Equipment and requires you to wear it, know that someone has sacrificed so that you would be afforded this privilege. One related story that comes to mind was when the men on the pipeline right of way fought for the right to have individual drinking cups so that the whole crew didn't have to use the same dipper to get a drink of water. That seems far-fetched in the United States today, but less than 60 years ago that was the case. I hope you take full advantage of your right to work safely and you are able to go home to your families with all of your fingers, toes, and sight intact.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you on the right of way. Work safe, work proud, work Union! If I can be of any assistance to the members of Local Union 798, please feel free to contact me in Tulsa, 918-622-1900.

*Fraternally,*



*David L. Barnett*

## DISPATCH REPORT

Brothers & Sisters;

My name is Kevin Leeper, and I would like to introduce myself as your new Local 798 Dispatcher. I am a second generation Pipeliner, and a 20 year member of this local. My father, Chick Leeper, is a retired welder member of 798.

Jimmy Pedigo will be retiring as of August 31, 2007. As a member, I would like to thank him for all the years he has worked tirelessly to secure work for our membership. As his successor, I cannot thank him enough for his patience and guidance in orienting me to this very important job. He is truly a role model for me and will be sorely missed.

I would like to thank Danny Hendrix for his confidence in appointing me to a position that allows me to serve this great membership. I will work diligently to maintain the Dispatch office in a manner that will promote honesty and integrity and afford equal opportunity for all members.

I can be reached by phone at (918) 610-2761 or by e-mail at [Kleeper@local798.org](mailto:Kleeper@local798.org). I look forward to hearing from each of you.

*Fraternally,*



*Kevin Leeper*

## LOCAL 798 MEMORIAL WALL

The Ladies of 798 have plans to erect a Memorial Wall for our fallen 798 members. This memorial is dedicated to all 798 members who were killed while on a job or traveling to or from a job. While the proposals are being completed, the Ladies of 798 are requesting your help to gather the names that are to be honored on this memorial. Since there is not a specific program that the Local can pull these names from, they have turned to the members of 798 to help remember each and every man or woman that gave their life while working as a proud Local Union 798 member.

Please submit any names you may remember to the Ladies of 798 at [ladiesof798@aol.com](mailto:ladiesof798@aol.com) or by mail to P. O. Box 125 Bixby, OK 74008 or contact Norma Kay by phone at: 918-366-7798.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

In January 2008, following the conclusion of the Fall 2007 semester, the Pipeliners Voluntary Scholarship Fund will award ten general scholarships of \$2,000 each. A screening committee will select the winners from the qualifying applicants. Any Local 798 member or his/her immediate family relative (spouse, child, or grandchild) who is currently attending at least the first semester of an accredited college may apply. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible.

The Voluntary Fund has sponsored the Scholarship Program since 1969. The Scholarship Fund owes its success to the generous contributions of the Local 798 membership. Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

The Harry Faucett, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$5,000 will also be awarded. It has been funded by Voluntary Fund donations, memorial donations in dedication to Harry Faucett, and through the generous contributions and sponsorships made at the annual golf tournament. This scholarship is awarded to the highest-ranking applicant meeting the qualifications for the Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program. Only applicants who have maintained a minimum 3.2 GPA in their college level coursework will be considered for this award.

Application forms for the 2007/2008 Scholarship Program are now available for students enrolled in the fall semester. Written requests should be addressed to Pipeliners Voluntary Fund Scholarship Program. All requests must be postmarked by November 16, 2007. Applications may also be downloaded online from the Local Union website at [www.local798.org](http://www.local798.org) through November 16, 2007. It is available under the Local 798 Online, Good Works section.

An instruction sheet accompanies the application and appraisal forms. Particular attention to the rules, and compliance with the requirements is necessary in order to be eligible for consideration in the final screening process. Completed forms should be returned along with copies of all previous college transcripts. It is the applicant's responsibility to have the college or university registrar's office immediately mail in a transcript of their grades upon completion of the fall semester. Sufficient time is allowed for receipt of fall transcripts, but a cut-off date is necessary to process all files through the screening committee. Applicants will be disqualified if all materials, including the application, appraisal forms, and transcripts, are not received by the January 25, 2008 deadline.

## September Informational Membership Meeting

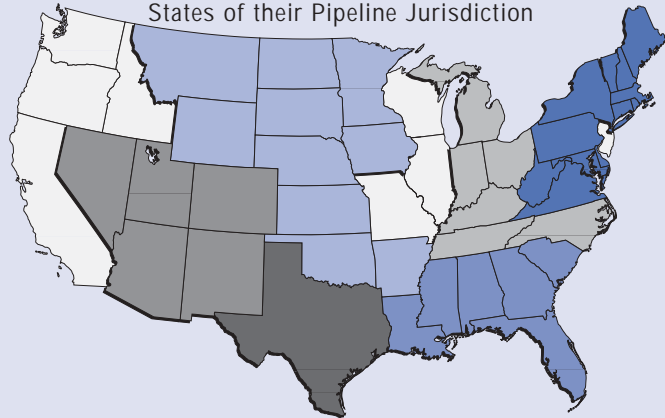
An informational membership meeting will be held at the Pipeliners Local Union 798 Union Hall, 4823 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK on Friday, September 14, 2007 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

## 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.

## 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

# SHORT AND PERSONAL



Mark Cazaux  
Jack H. Ingram  
Richard & Janet Hayes

Billy "Pockets" Soles  
Shirley Thornhill & Darwin & Family  
Clyde A. & Betty L Dye

### July 2007

Charles "Chig" Johnson & Family  
Charles "Rusty" Johnson  
Clay, Chasity, Camen & Caley Francis  
Benjie Easterling

### August 2007

James T. Allen  
Paul Davis  
Bryan Fox  
Tami Eyre & Family

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

### June 2007

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dean Dickerson

## RETIREMENTS

Name	City / State	Trade Level	Initiation Date	Month Retired
Terry R. Stiles	Bald Knob, AR	Welder	August 2, 1975	June 2007
Todd DeVille	Monroe, LA	Helper	July 26, 1982	July 2007
Larry D. Fuller	Forest, LA	Welder	May 26, 1976	July 2007
Alisa K. Gowdy	Woodward, OK	Helper	December 22, 1989	July 2007
Anthony D. Housley	Wewoka, OK	Spacer	November 9, 1970	July 2007
Robert W. Spears	Talala, OK	Welder	May 11, 2001	July 2007
Dennis E. Branham	Lester, WV	Helper	April 21, 1986	August 2007
Johnnie Feeler	Crane, TX	Welder	June 24, 1965	August 2007
Billie R. Ford	Genesee, PA	Welder	August 19, 1999	August 2007
Ronnie N. Gossett	Chanute, KS	Welder	June 5, 1961	August 2007
Charles T. Lavender	Odessa, TX	Helper	June 4, 1975	August 2007
Thomas E. Maples	Kingsville, TX	Welder	March 22, 1982	August 2007
Billy J. McCloskey	Devine, TX	Welder	August 18, 1998	August 2007
Robin L. Plants	Pittsburgh, PA	Helper	December 27, 1989	August 2007
Roy J. Welch	Saint Amant, LA	Welder	May 6, 1999	August 2007

## IN MEMORIAM

Name	Age	Passed Away	Trade Level	City / State
Rayfaul Fulton	72	May 9, 2007	Retired Helper	Colorado City, TX
Vernon Williams	76	June 10, 2007	Retired Welder	Wellston, OK
Stephen Germain	58	June 15, 2007	Helper	Gladstone, MI
Glen Hutchinson	71	June 16, 2007	Retired Welder	Port Royal, PA
Selmon Corkern, Sr	89	June 20, 2007	Retired Welder	Franklinton, LA
Stanley Carter	58	June 21, 2007	Welder	Dayton, TX
August Kuehn, III	78	June 26, 2007	Retired Welder	Hallettsville, TX
Billy Thornhill	72	July 9, 2007	Retired Welder	Oak Grove, LA
Lee Martin	63	July 11, 2007	Retired Helper	Jasper, TX
Henry Hudnall	64	July 15, 2007	Retired Welder	Dekalb, MS
Bobbie Triplett	75	July 17, 2007	Retired Welder	Fairview, WV
Carol Whipple	75	June 5, 2007	Retired Helper	Garnett, KS
Thurman Herring	86	August 5, 2007	Retired Helper	Cottondale, AL
Robert James, Jr	81	August 11, 2007	Retired Welder	Cledenin, WV



*Seven thousand times has the labor movement stumbled and bruised itself. We have been enjoined by the courts, assaulted by thugs, charged by the militia, traduced by the press, frowned upon in public opinion, and deceived by politicians. But notwithstanding all this and all these, labor is today the most vital and potential power this planet has ever known, and its historic mission is as certain of ultimate realization as is the setting of the sun.*

-Eugene V. Debs (1894)

### **Union and Fund Offices and Training Center Observe Labor Day**

Pipeliners Local Union 798, the Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund, and the Local 798 Training Center will be closed to observe Labor Day on Monday, September 3, 2007.



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