

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this report I am in awe of the things this Local has accomplished in the last few years, especially these last few months. We are setting records in terms of the number of man-hours worked compared to historical data. As many of you know, 2008 was a watershed year for our Local, because the work was abundant, and our members were able to provide for their families. Let me provide some numbers for comparison. In May 2008, our members worked 573,957 man-hours, and in May 2017 our members worked 1,082,030 man-hours. In my opinion, these numbers are astounding, because we have never seen this amount of work during the first half of the year! In addition, in June of this year we worked 1,222,506 man-hours. These numbers top June 2008 numbers, which were 840,945. Can we keep pace with 2008? I believe it will be close depending on the various projects waiting for approval: Atlantic Coast, Atlantic Sunrise, Mountain Valley, and Nexus. These are exciting times for our Local. The amount of work available has led to an increase in our membership and as of June 2017, we have 7,294 members. I encourage everyone to welcome these new members into the fold, and teach them the importance of belonging to our pipeline family. We must lead by example and demonstrate the high standards we follow on the ROW and in the community.

I attended the final public comment forum for the Keystone XL in July, and as usual, the opposition groups were out in full force spreading misconceptions and misinformation. I implore each of you to become a member of our 798 Action Network, and submit letters in support of the Keystone XL. I know I ask this in every report, but it is vitally important to combat these opposition groups. For example, one of the most ridiculous comments I heard was as follows: "When the pipeline came to North Dakota the crime rate increased, they brought in drugs, and the men kidnapped women for sex trafficking." I have heard these comments in two different meetings, and it offends me! My father was a Helper and operator for many years, and as a child my family traveled with him all over the country. We must make our voices heard to protect our livelihood and way of life for our families. I would like to thank Business Agent Philip Wallace and Organizer Justin Hornback for attending the meeting as well. The Nebraska Public Service Commission has scheduled public hearings for August 7-11 to take formal testimony on the proposed route of the Keystone XL. UA International Representative David Barnett, will be a formal intervenor during this process, and I thank him for his service. Ellen Boardman, legal counsel for the UA, will also be in attendance.

We will be holding a regional membership meeting on Sunday, September 17, at the Lincoln Electric headquarters located at 22801 Saint Claire Avenue in Euclid, OH. Beginning at 1 p.m., lunch will be provided and the membership meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. The Ladies of 798 will also host a meeting beginning at 2:30 p.m. Lincoln Electric personnel will offer tours of their manufacturing facility. These tours are based on a first come, first served basis from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. To participate in the tours, you must be at least 12 years of age for safety purposes, and wear closed-toed shoes. Lincoln Electric has a couple of rules they have asked our membership to respect: no alcohol or tobacco use will be permitted on the property; and no firearms or camera will be permitted within the building. Members, their families, and friends of the industry

are all welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there. Local 798 office personnel will also be on site to accept dues payments, sell merchandise, and answer questions.

In closing, I want to give special thanks once again to our hard-working office staff. They amaze me with their commitment and dedication to our Local. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve this great Local and if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call.