



LOCAL 44 NEWSREEL



VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

IATSE LOCAL 44

NOVEMBER, 2004

RONNIE CUNNINGHAM
BUSINESS AGENT

ELLIOT JENNINGS
SECRETARY/TREASURER

JACK THOMAS
PRESIDENT

NEW LOCAL 44 OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES SWORN IN



Front Row from left to right: John Samson, Mary Gullickson, Bob Carlyle; **Middle Row:** Peter Angles, Joseph Recchia, Jeff "JC" Machit, Erin Hennessey, Brenda Meyers-Ballard, Craig Raiche, Elliot Jennings, Jeannie Gunn; **Back Row:** Michael Van Dyke, Gary Oseransky, Robinson Royce, Gene Owens, Ronnie Cunningham, Jack Thomas, Michael Clark, John Matheson; **Not Pictured:** Stacey McIntosh, Emily Ferry, J.D. Streett, George Paine, Barry Kingston

Full Listing of Officers... page 2
Craft Meeting Schedule... page 7
Family Picnic is October 31... page 9

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world. "

-Mahatma Gandhi

Meet Your New Representatives

The election is over and the new officers were sworn in at a special Executive Board meeting on Thursday September 30th, 2004.

Officers:

Ronnie Cunningham, Business Agent

Elliot Jennings, Secretary-Treasurer

EJennings@local44.org

Jack Thomas, President

Stacey McIntosh, Vice President

Executive Board:

Erin Hennessey, Propmaker Representative

Gene Owens, Propmaker Representative

Michael Van Dyke, Propmaker Representative

Peter Angles, Property Representative

Gary Oseransky, Property Representative

Joseph Recchia, Property Representative

Emily Ferry, Property Master Representative

Craig Raiche, Property Master Representative

J.D. Streett, Special Effects Representative

Jeff "JC" Machit, Special Effects Representative

Brenda Meyers-Ballard, Set Decorator Representative

Robinson Royce, Set Decorator Representative

John Matheson, Coordinator Representative

John Samson, Coordinator Representative

Mary Gullickson, Sergeant-At-Arms

Delegates:

Erin Hennessey, Propmaker Delegate

Gary Oseransky, Property Delegate

Craig Raiche, Property Master Delegate

George Paine, Special Effects Delegate

Brenda Meyers-Ballard, Set Decorator Delegate

Barry Kingston, Coordinator Delegate

Trustees:

Bob Carlyle, Trustee

Michael Clark, Trustee

Jeannie Gunn, Trustee

Executive Board members can be reached by e-mail at
eboard@local44.org

THE LOCAL 44 NEWSREEL IS BACK!

Finally! It's been almost seven months since the last issue of the Local 44 Newsreel.

The Officers and Executive Board Members are eager to re-open lines of communication with all of our members.

We hope to make the Newsreel more informative, useful and current.

At the Executive Board's direction, this issue was printed in-house utilizing the Local's existing printing technology as a cost-saving measure.

Please bear with us as the Newsreel evolves.

Better yet, write a letter to the editor, or call us with suggestions for articles you'd like to see.

Newsreel submissions are welcome! Submissions must be in the office by: **November 15, 2004.**

Please be sure your contact information is clearly marked.

E-mail: newsreel@local44.org

Fax: 818-769-1739, Attn: Newsreel

**Mail: Local 44, Attn: Newsreel
12021 Riverside Drive**

North Hollywood, CA 91607

Questions? Call 818-769-2500 X122

**NEW LOCAL 44
BUSINESS OFFICE
HOURS:
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
CALLBOARD HOURS:
5:30 AM - 8:00 PM**

BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT

By Ronnie Cunningham

Firstly, I want to thank our members for their trust and confidence in allowing me, once again, to act as your Business Agent. I am honored, and I will do my best in service to all.

We all know how much work needs to be done, and our executive board is diligently addressing a number of important issues. Soon, we will conduct long overdue craft meetings and I look forward to hearing your individual concerns.

This issue of the NEWSREEL heralds a significant change in its content – it will now include brief reports of various actions taken at our executive board meetings.

Hopefully, we will accommodate similar allowances in the near future. Also keep in mind, that the official minutes of the e-board meetings are available to all members wishing to read them. One recent change that you might not yet be aware of, is that any member in good standing may “observe” an e-board meeting. Right now, the number of observers is restricted to just three members, but we’re already discussing options to greatly increase that number.

It is my intent, working in concert with our executive board, to ring in a new era of openness and transparency. Hopefully, that will

encourage our members to become more actively involved in the affairs of this local. We must spare no effort to reduce apathy among members.

With regard to the IATSE, I intend to open a dialogue with President Short that will suggest ways to reduce the number of concessionary agreements, as well as the number of concessions that our union affords “organizational” productions. I will also suggest that HBO no longer warrants a concessionary contract, and every effort should be made to sign them to the Basic Agreement.

MOVING FORWARD

by Elliot Jennings, Secretary-Treasurer

The conclusion of the never-ending election is here. There has been the perpetual struggle with apathy that tends to grip all campaigns, and which had perhaps greater foundation in this election, one that was marred by setbacks. To the credit of our participating members, the voting remained relatively stable, surprisingly up in the second round, and slightly off in the final round. For those who chose to participate, I think I can speak for all candidates in expressing thanks for your involvement.

Passions were high during this campaign and it may be difficult to let go of those emotions now that the dust has settled, but I encourage all members to make their best attempt to do so. There has been a significant change in the look of your leadership, and though some familiar faces

are returning, others are taking their positions for the first time. Even under the most auspicious circumstances, it would take a couple months to familiarize oneself with the working of the system, the player’s personalities, and the immediate needs to be addressed.

One thing was made abundantly clear after the initial round of voting; change in the old ways of operating was the general desire and...the members would be watching.

To that end, give everyone, including those you may disagree with, an opportunity to establish an administration. Be diligent in your oversight, but I call for your restraint in destructive criticism during the initial months. Effective change is a moderate, deliberate process to a final goal. It involves time.

We hope to make this a more



transparent Union, and I fully expect this newsletter to play a significant role in informing the members about the Local. Expect to see synopses of the Executive Board Meetings, explanations of the Contracts, updates of pending legislation which affect the Union, and budgetary reports, among others. Also, expect to see more efficient use of our website. We welcome your input and suggestions.

Together we can make this a proactive Local. Thanks for your support and participation, now and in the future.

"I don't want any yes-men around me. I want everybody to tell me the truth even if it costs them their jobs." -Samuel Goldwyn

LETTERS TO THE LOCAL

The viewpoints of the individual members expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of Local 44, its officers or staff.

To the Editor:

It's finally over, but frustration is what I keep hearing from the membership. The questions of why did we have to have three elections, why the irregularities, what are the costs of these three elections, and why the problems with the mailings and the chad ballots?

It is such a shame that in the end, only 2664 (General), 2681 (Rerun #1), and 2,545 (Rerun #2) ballots were mailed back in a local of over 5,000 members. I hear the complaints but see only a few actively participating.

Participating in an election by mailing in your ballots is an easy way to have a say in the direction of our organization. Every single vote does make a difference.

Hats off to the people who have given of their time and energy to serve on the election committee and address the election issues.

It was great to see so many members running for Local 44 offices.

We are an industry that has seen local jobs drop in massive numbers, members living out of their cars, and health insurance benefits cut. We must get involved or we will have nothing for our future or our children's.

"Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all – the apathy of human beings."

-Helen Keller

Sincerely,
Mary E. Gullickson

Congratulations to the new officers of Local 44!

All of us now need to be aware of what we need those officers to do for us, and how we can help them do it right. We must let them know that it is important to set up committees of the rank and file: 1) To keep abreast of how our jobs are being out-sourced and what we, both as individuals and as a Local, can do about it. 2) To coordinate with other locals when there are causes that affect all of us - like pending legislation. 3) To find set and prop building establishments which are operating without an agreement with Local 44 or the International, and organize them. 4) To find politicians both locally and nationally who will help us keep our jobs and encourage our membership to support them.

All these important issues need to have involvement from the membership, not just the executive board. The members need to tell the executive board what is important to us. We need to tell our delegates to the convention what we want them to stand up and say on our behalf. We don't want rubber stamps who meekly follow the New York issued policies. We

need to say "no" to policies that are not good for us. But that will only happen if you make your voices heard. For those of you who are afraid to rock the boat because you are working, there is not much I can ever say to persuade you to be active in this union. But, I hope that you see the importance of being united on issues that affect our membership.

We need to change our constitution. A new version has been presented to the executive board for adaptation and approval - but it has been on the table for a year and they have not been able to get even the election article changed. As Brother Postel has pointed out recently, we broke almost every rule written in our constitution about elections - partly because the version that remains unchanged is dreadfully out of date.

I had a fairly satisfactory time being an executive board member, and I am sorry that I can not be your president. I hope to remain available to any member of the local who needs to talk with me about problems or situations. Be well, and thank you for encouraging me all these years.

Fraternally,
Erik L. Nelson

Submissions should be typed or printed neatly and should include contact information. Letters may be edited for content and length.

Entertainment Firearms Permit – Transition Underway

Here is an important news update for those Property Masters and their assistants who need to rent, transfer, and handle prop firearms, but who do not possess a Federal Firearms License (FFL).

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 231, legislation to authorize the California Department of Justice to issue an Entertainment Firearms Permit to motion picture industry employees involved in the transfer and handling of prop firearms from prop houses to production set and back.

This new permit will most likely not become fully operational until sometime in December 2004, at which time there will be an application and background check with the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ).

In the meantime, Property Masters and their assistants who need to rent, transfer, and handle prop firearms – and do not possess an FFL – will continue to use the Entertainment Firearms Background Clearance Program. This is an interim, temporary program the CA DOJ set up in early July 2004, in response to the stricter enforcement policies announced by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) in May 2004.

The **Newsreel** will cover this story in greater detail in a coming issue. If you have immediate questions, you may want to call two Local 44 members who are quite well-informed about weapons and the Firearms Permit issue: Roland Bleitz at I.S.S. 818-951-5600; or, Michael Gibbons at Gibbons Ltd. 818-566-4253.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jack Thomas



Brothers and Sisters,

Now that the elections are finally behind us, it is time to remember that we all belong to one union no matter what craft we work in or what candidate we voted for. The democratic process has spoken and given us its results. We must come together and do our best with them for the remainder of the three-year term.

As I write this, the new administration of our local has been in office less than two weeks. We are still in the process of getting up and running, but I want you to know that the best interests of the local and the individual members are the primary concern of your elected officers and

representatives.

Many of you share my opinion that our requests to economize the local's operations fell on deaf or otherwise unresponsive ears in the past. I'm here to tell you that this is not the case now. I believe that when we members pay our dues we have a right to expect the funds will be properly managed and the services we are supposed to get will be forthcoming. When I sit down to co-sign the local's checks, I do so from the point of view that I am the last member to have a chance to question what is being spent and what it is buying us.

It is reasonable for us to expect that the office staff we pay for will take our calls and respond to

our needs in a timely and appropriate manner. We are doing our best, but please realize that we are not yet fully staffed and the "timely" part of this concept will be improving.

On a personal note, I wish to thank you, my peers, for giving me this opportunity to serve our professional community. I look forward to addressing the needs of the local and the individual members to the best of my ability.

Property Masters' Corner

By Craig Raiche

Dear Fellow Property Masters,

This is my first Masters' Corner report in over six years and I'd like to thank Brother Erik Nelson for "holding down the fort," so to speak. He did an excellent job keeping us informed and he did an excellent job as an e-board craft representative. He also conducted a very clean and respectful Presidential campaign in the midst of our highly contentious election process. We owe him a debt of gratitude for all his efforts - so, again, Erik, thank you.

By now, all masters should be aware of efforts by various state and federal agencies to further restrict our ability to access, transport and use firearms in the motion picture industry. All property persons working (or hoping to work) as an assistant property master are affected as well. If your "info" needs updating on anything specific to this matter, please call your choice of firearm rental facilities such as Gibbons Ltd., ISS, etc.

I cannot possibly overstate the importance of pa-

tronizing only union propshops. Our Constitution and By-Laws prohibit all members from using non-IA facilities. The manufacturing of any prop in an unorganized shop can result in certain fines and/or penalties.

As of this writing, our newly elected e-board members have met only twice. I have faith that we'll soon be chugging along on all eight cylinders. The buzzword of this new board is "accountability" and specifically how it relates to both the financial as well as the informational aspects of this local.

Please make every effort to attend the Prop Master's Craft Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 14th, 11 AM - 12:30 PM. We were the only craft in Local 44 to achieve a quorum at our last round of craft meetings. Let's make it two consecutive quorums and show this local what members of one mind can do. **I GUARANTEE THAT YOUR NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE AND IMMEDIATE ACTION ON OUR COLLECTIVE CONCERNS - IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL-GAME.**

Stay Tuned & Stay Interested,

Craig Raiche
Property Master Representative

"I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something." -Jackie Mason



TAKE CONTROL: Millionaire Kids

By Elliot Jennings

A brother in 44 and I were discussing the future of Social "Security". How our children, perhaps even we, may not enjoy full benefits at retirement.

He mentioned his oldest daughter was twelve. I informed him that if he could afford \$1,000 a year over the next three years, his daughter could retire with a million dollars!

I'm not suffering from heatstroke! I'm simply using the law of compound interest and time. Here's how:

At age 13, open an IRA for your child. Yes, it's possible; I opened one for my youngest, at age eight.

Most of us, or our spouses, have a side business outside the union, (if not, initiate one, to benefit from the tax advantages). Employ your child in the business; filing papers, taking inventory, cleaning the work area, etc., until that child has made \$1,000 for the year.

You may place into their IRA every dollar earned (annually now up to \$3,000). Do this every year for three years, or until your child is 15. If you never contribute another dollar the rest of that child's life, at age 65 the account *could* be over a million dollars!

These calculations are based on the assumption that the account will generate 11-12% annually over its lifetime. Where does that figure come from? In the present economic climate it sounds bizarre, but that is the average rate of return of the stock market since its inception! The two years of 25-35% drop in the market was pre-

ceded by two years of 20-50% increases, and the effects of 9/11 on the market didn't help. Below is a synopsis.

Age	Contribution	Year-end Value
13	\$1,000	\$ 1,120
14	\$1,000	\$ 2,374
15	\$1,000	\$ 3,779
25	0	\$ 11,738
35	0	\$ 36,457
45	0	\$ 113,228
55	0	\$ 351,670
65	0	\$1,092,234

Understand nothing prevents you, or your child, from adding each year to their account, thereby increasing their nest egg. However, for \$3,000 you've given one amazing gift to your kids.

For those new in the business or unencumbered, put money away now, before bills or responsibilities slow you. For you "veteran" members, put as much as you can away; even a modest return over 10-15 years is better than relying solely on government handouts or even a pension.

*The market has averaged 12.5% over the past two years coming out of the recession.

"Take Control" will appear periodically as a guide to empower members through sound financial planning.

SAFETY PASS UPDATE

The B (Aerial Lift/Scissor Lift) course has been added to the required course list for Property Masters and Drapers. These members have until December 31, 2004 to complete this course and remain active on the Contract Services Roster. Additionally, Property persons have until October 31, 2004 to complete the B Course. The B Course is being given at the Glendale Safety Pass facility (833 Sonora Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201) Monday through Friday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM, and on Saturdays 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

For all other crafts, the deadline for course completion has passed. If you have not completed your courses, or did not file for an extension before the June 30th deadline, you have been suspended from the Contract Services Industry Experience Roster, which may affect your ability to work. (The Safety Pass program DOES NOT affect your standing in Local 44.)

To become active on the Industry experience roster, you must complete all required courses. Information, online registration and applications are available at www.csatf.org. You can also call the Safety Pass Office at 818-502-9932.

CRAFT MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 13, 2004

L.A. Equestrian Center*

Grand Prix Room

480 Riverside Drive

Burbank, CA 91506

Propmakers 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Special Effects 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Property 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Sunday, November 14, 2004

Local 44 Hall

Upstairs Meeting Room

12021 Riverside Drive

North Hollywood, CA 91607

Set Decorators 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Property Masters 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Coordinators 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

***PLEASE NOTE: The Saturday Meetings are being held at the LA Equestrian center, call the hall or log on to www.la-equestriancenter.com for directions.**

**AGENDA: Meet new officers, financial report, and general information
Please bring your union card and meeting card.**

**REMINDER: NEXT QUARTER'S DUES NEED TO BE IN
THE OFFICE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2005**



2005 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FOR UNION MEMBERS

The 35th Annual Scholarship of the Richard F. Walsh/Alfred W. Di Tolla/Harold P. Spivak Foundation

This scholarship is open to the son or daughter of a member in good standing of the IATSE, who is a high school senior at the time of application; and has applied, or is about to apply for admission to an accredited college or university as a fully matriculated student, which will lead to a bachelor's degree. An application and more information is available on-line at: www.iatse-intl.org. (click on "Membership Services" on the left side of the webpage, then click on "Scholarship Foundation.")

The deadline for filing the application and all required materials is December 31, 2004.

Union Plus Scholarship Program

Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$1.8 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their

secondary education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

Members of unions participating in any Union Plus program, their spouses and their dependent children are eligible for the Union Plus Scholarship Program. The scholarship program is open to students attending or planning to attend a college or university, a community college, or a technical college or trade school. The deadline for filing this application and all required materials is January 31, 2005.

The Union Plus Scholarship Program, additional scholarship opportunities, and education financing services are available at the Union Plus website: www.unionplus.org (On the left side of the Union Plus webpage, click on "Education Services.") You may also speak with a Union Plus financial aid counselor by calling 1-877-881-1022

If you do not have internet access, or are having trouble navigating these websites, please call the hall at 818-769-2500 ext. 120 and we will fax or mail an application to you.

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

- Sir Winston Churchill

NES DONATES TO THE BENEVOLENT FUND

Local 44 was delighted recently to receive another generous donation to the Benevolent and Retirees Fund from NES Studio Equipment. "It's great for us to be able to give back to the people who give so much to us," said Lance Sorenson, President of NES.

NES Studio Equipment is truly an original operation. The company offers a complete line of high reach equipment (booms, scissor lifts, forklifts, etc.), as well as compressors, generators, light towers, and Gators. And their inventory consists of over twelve million dollars in equipment; with an additional \$2.3 million in new fleet added in 2004.



Above: A birds eye view of the NES fleet in Van Nuys

But what really sets NES apart, is their commitment to the entertainment industry. In fact, NES is currently the only major equipment rental company that is solely dedicated to the business. "For most companies, 80% to 90% of their revenue is generated by industrial and construction. For them, the entertainment business is just the icing on the cake," notes Sorenson. "For us, it *is* the cake."

NES is also the only equipment rental shop that is on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. "As anyone in the industry knows," said Tim Moore, Operations Manager, "the ability to

respond immediately to our customers' needs can mean the difference between getting 'the shot' or spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for unnecessary downtime."

By aligning itself with Teamsters Local 399, NES has the distinction of being the only *union* equipment rental shop of its



NES President, Lance Sorenson (Right) presents a donation check to Elliot Jennings

kind. "Unionism is important to us," said Sorenson, "and it's important that all crafts industry-wide know that we are union. We take care of our people."

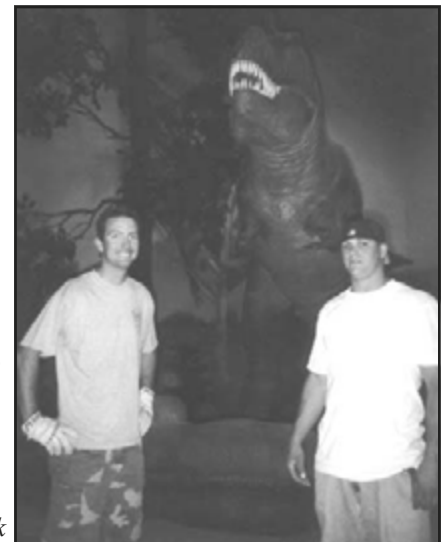
For over six years, NES has been one of a kind in the industry. Sorenson and the NES team are genuinely committed to providing the best service possible to entertainment professionals, while contributing to the well-being of the industry and its unions. For more information about NES, log on to: www.nesstudioequipment.com or call NES at (818) 771-9351

Local 44 Goes to the Zoo

The recently opened dinosaur exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo reflects the touch of experienced Local 44 greensmen who designed and installed the habitat for the robotic dinosaurs. Zoo officials met with Local 44 member John Kauffman of Green Set, Inc., in the designing stages of the exhibit. They brought a hand-drawn diagram of the proposed display for the dinosaur replicas. Green Set researched plants that existed during the time period that dinosaurs lived and created the entire ecosystem. Over 20 silk trees were specially designed for the exhibit. The realistic habitat includes ground foliage, ferns, shrubbery, rocks, soil, and 21 foot swamp trees. Greensmen Peter Nesmith and Mike Needham installed and dressed the vegetation at the exhibit.

Housed in the former Koala House, the Dinosaur Den's purpose is to help zoo visitors connect the extinct dinosaurs to living creatures housed at the zoo. The exhibit will continue through November 21, 2004

Right: Peter Nesmith and Mike Needham (right) pose in front of their handiwork



"All I can say about life is, Oh God, enjoy it!"

-Bob Newhart

FAMILY PICNIC RESCHEDULED

Due to inclement weather on the evening of October 16th, and early morning October 17th, the conditions at Calamigos Ranch were unsatisfactory. Although the rainfall had subsided before the picnic was slated to begin, the rain left many areas of Calamigos under several inches of standing water.

We took the necessary steps to coordinate with the other Locals and to notify vendors and members about the postponement.

Good news! We have rescheduled the picnic for Sunday, October 31, 2004. PLEASE HOLD ON TO YOUR TICKETS, THEY ARE STILL VALID.



JOIN US ON OCTOBER 31, 2004

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

LOCAL 44, 80, 729 & 728



FAMILY PICNIC

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Kids and adults are encouraged to wear a Halloween costume. The day will include trick-or-treating and Halloween themed events.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

\$8 In Advance

\$10 At the Gate

Children Under 5 Get in FREE

Tickets from October 17th

Will be Honored.

**Purchase Tickets at the Business
Office or from Your
Shop Stewards**

CALAMIGOS RANCH

327 S. Latigo Canyon Road,

Malibu, CA 90265

Detailed directions at:

www.calamigos.com

FALL BACK! 

**DON'T FORGET TO SET
YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN
HOUR ON THE NIGHT OF
OCTOBER 30TH!**

Remember to wear comfortable clothes and bring lawn chairs, swimsuits and towels if you desire.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

Many of our members have expressed an interest in the content of the monthly Executive Board meetings. Below is a summary of the most recent meetings. These are only brief highlights and do not contain great detail. They are meant to give an overview of things that were discussed, not a fully accurate account. Any member wishing to read the minutes of the Executive Board in their entirety, may do so by appointment through the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

Thurs., Sept 30 – Special Meeting

After all officers were sworn-in, it was suggested that each individual introduce themselves to the other board members. Each Executive Board Member expressed their reasons for running, qualifications they felt they brought to the Board, or their desires to change the way the Board and the members work with each other.

Upon conclusion of introductions, the discussion was opened to any questions or comments. A great deal of important and long-delayed issues were brought up, including the soon coming picnic, election costs, office staffing, and office jurisdictions.

A motion was made and passed calling for two "special" E-Board meetings to address these issues.

Motion passed for two meetings on Monday Oct. 4th and Wednesday Oct. 6th.

Mon. Oct. 4th - Special Meeting

Discussion: Whether to mail unapproved transcripts of the meetings to individual E-Board members for advance ratification or whether they would stay in the office. It was decided to keep them in house.

Discussion: Regarding Local 44's policy currently allowing for certain cash transactions to be conducted was discussed.

A motion was made to defer further discussion of this matter until our first "regular" meeting of the E-Board (Oct. 13th).

Motion passed.

A motion was made to pay all E-Board stipends by check...not cash.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Debate over "Office Policies" developed and approved by the previous E-Board with legal counsel ensued. The

"Policy" was passed among the E-Board members.

Discussion: As an offshoot of the "Policy" discussion, talk moved into the control of the Call Board; whether supervision belonged to the Business Agent or Secretary-Treasurer.

A motion was made to table the Call Board matter to (Oct. 6th).

Motion passed.

Discussion: B.A. Cunningham requested that Mr. Steven Kramar, attorney at law, be brought on board to replace David Adelstein. Talk over the cost and needs of a second attorney took place.

A motion was made and passed to hire Mr. Kramar and retain Mr. Lewis Levy on an hourly basis pending review of finances.

Motion passed.

Discussion: B.A. Cunningham made nominations for his two Assistant B.A.s. The Executive Board determined that they would not accept Assistant B.A.s who also held positions on the E-Board. As both nominees were E-Board members, one withdrew his nomination for consideration, the second agreed to step down from his E-Board position if selected.

A motion was made to accept the second Assistant B.A. nominee.

In a split vote, the Assistant B.A. nominee was denied.

A motion was made that Ron Cunningham have new names for a vote on 10-06-04 and the E-Board would move to staff the Assistant positions.

Motion passed.

Discussion: B.A. Cunningham requested the E-Board hire an additional office assistant to work in the Business Agent's area.

A motion to accept the second office assistant passed with the restriction of 40 hrs. per week and review after three months.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Realizing the Picnic was two weeks away, and the Board was "planning" on short notice, emergency funds were discussed.

A motion to allocate \$7,500 for emergency Picnic funds.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Secretary-Treasurer Jennings requested hiring an assistant to replace the vacated Irv Brown position, but with the duties of that job expanded. The E-Board asked for payroll figures and Mr. Jennings' cost-cutting plan for the office before considering his assistant. The position was tabled until October 6th.

Oct. 6th - Special Meeting

A motion to table the approval of prior meeting's (Oct. 4) minutes until the "regular" meeting Oct. 13th was made.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Whether mailing previous meeting minutes to E-Board members would expedite approval at following meetings. It was determined not to mail packages for security reasons.

A motion was made to have prior meeting minutes available for review 15 minutes before the start of meetings.

Motion passed.

Discussion: B.A. Cunningham read-dressed his need for Assistant B.A.s and requested reconsideration of his previous nominations. The E-Board requested different considerations for the positions.

Discussion: Secretary-Treasurer Jennings readdressed his need for an Assistant. He also stated that it was too early to present the E-Board with his recommended restructuring of the Office.

A motion was made to hire Paul Ahrens as Assistant Secretary Treasurer on a 56 hr. flat for a three month trial basis (Jan. 5, 2005).

Motion passed.

Discussion: Regarding B.A. and Secretary-Treasurer salaries.

With legal counsel advice: A motion was made to form a 5 member committee to investigate all aspects of B.A. and Secretary Treasurer salaries and report back in 60 days.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Call Board jurisdiction. President Thomas stepped down as chairman and handed the chair to Vice-President McIntosh in order to address the Board. Discussion about whether responsibility for the Call Board belonged to the B.A. or the Secretary-Treasurer.

A motion was made that the Secretary-Treasurer oversees the Call Board.

In a split vote, the motion passed.

Discussion: Whether to outsource the writing and printing of the Newsreel to create a quality magazine.

A motion was made that the Secretary-Treasurer attempt an in-house run of the Newsreel on its new initial run and report any problems or recommendations.

Motion passed.

A motion was made that the Secretary-Treasurer obtain estimates from other printing companies in the event in-house publishing of the Newsreel has problems.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Cost and preparation of Calamigos Ranch for Picnic. The Secretary-Treasurer distributed a cost sheet of last year's expenditures. Ticket and prize giveaways were reviewed.

Discussion: ISS and SAT contract negotiations.

A motion was made to allocate \$1,500 for a luncheon for ISS members to air their grievances and concerns.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Alpha Medical contract negotiations.

Discussion: Donation to Actor's Fund of America dinner. E-Board stated that the previous Secretary-Treasurer was to have responded with a donation. Request was made for Secretary-Treasurer Jennings to follow-up.

Discussion: Allowing the E-Board meetings to be "miked" while in session so that more members could listen to proceedings from outside the Boardroom. The discussion was tabled until 10-13-04.

Discussion: Grievance on Pirates of the Caribbean.

Discussion: Before the disbanding of the Election Committee, there is a request to meet one final time in order to get the Committee's input and observations on the just-finished election process.

A motion was made to allocate the Election Committee no more than six hours' pay to meet and bring in their observations and recommendations to the E-Board. No legal counsel present.

In a split vote, the motion passed.

Discussion: Request to designate the Local 44 office a non-smoking facility. Discussion was tabled until 10-13-04.

Oct. 13 – Regular Meeting

Discussion: A committee report was given on the amount in the retainer for Union legal services.

Discussion: S.A.T. and I.S.S. contract negotiations. There is an unlevelled playing field with non-IA shops; they are requesting a hybrid contract.

Discussion: Secretary-Treasurer Jennings presented E-Board with Boardroom "Book of Motions" with prior E-Board motions in synopsis dating back the prior 18 months. Book to be updated and left in-house.

Discussion: Secretary-Treasurer Jennings presented figures for members in arrears, and payment contract created for large sum situations. Talk moved into the need to check membership cards.

Discussion: Independent analyst report of computer system. Review of capabilities, costs, problems, and recommendations with current set-up. A request was made to have a complete report done by the analyst.

Discussion: A Canadian film came to shoot scenes in the L.A. area, and brought their own crew here. Discussion about the ability to restrict foreign/distant production companies from shooting locally.

Discussion: Due to B.A. absence, the selection of Assistant B.A.s and office jurisdiction of staff was tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion: Review of latest Newreel edition. E-Board requested to review each issue prior to mailing to membership. The run of Newreel scheduled for 10-14 was postponed until review of final draft on 10-20.

Discussion: Review of Picnic. The costs of prizes were discussed. Question of overall cost of the event and future Picnics were discussed. Approval of overtime for staff to man the event was brought up.

A motion was made to approve staff overtime for the Picnic.

Motion passed.

A motion was made for the Secretary-Treasurer to provide the E-Board with full financials of Picnic for future decisions.

Motion passed.

A motion was made to designate the Union office a non-smoking facility.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Request to begin a "Deal Memo" database. Also, requests to have copies of Production/Studio/Office Policies information made available.

Discussion: Craft meeting scheduling was addressed.

A motion was made to schedule craft meetings Nov. 13th and 14th.

Motion passed.

Discussion: The election cost charges that were yet unpaid. MKA has requested to answer questions on charges to E-Board.

A motion was made to call a Special E-Board meeting to include; a representative from MKA to discuss election costs, a member of Election Committee to discuss their findings, and approval of Newreel.

Motion passed.

A motion was made for entire Election Committee to be at Oct. 20th meeting.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Handout of Office Staff compensation was given.

A motion was made to table Office Staff compensation for a Special Meeting.

Motion passed.

Discussion: A "Roberts Rules of Order" training course was offered for E-Board members.

A motion was made to table the discussion.

Motion passed.

Discussion: The previous Secretary-Treasurer's restricted access to computer information allowing the generation of reports.

A motion was made to lift the previous access restrictions.

Motion passed.

A motion was made to create a reduced version of minutes to motions made, by whom, whom seconded, and the vote count, and mailed to each E-Board member.

Motion passed.

A motion was made to add an appendix to the minutes of all motions made and sequentially numbered.

Motion passed.

*"It is not length of life, but depth of life."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

IN MEMORIAM

Bert Allen
Set Decorator
Born: 1/15/1919
Sworn in: 2/1/1951
Died: 4/22/2004

Mitchell Baron
Special Effects
Born: 10/13/1953
Sworn in: 11/24/1976
Died: 4/23/2004

Martin Becker
Propmaker
Born: 5/7/1955
Sworn in: 4/24/1975
Died: 8/18/2004

Leon Biegel
Died: 8/6/2004

Alvine Brown
Sewing Person
Born: 1/23/1908
Died: 6/20/2004

Alfonso Bruno
Propmaker
Born: 1/6/1930
Sworn in: 1/14/1960
Retired: 2/1/1993
Died: 7/17/2004

Theodore Claire
Property
Born: 6/6/1911
Died: 5/9/2004

Edmund D'Alessio
Propmaker
Born: 10/11/1927
Sworn in: 1/13/1975
Retired: 7/1/1995
Died: 6/23/2004

Anthony Dwyer
Born: 7/20/1901
Sworn in: 6/16/1939
Died: 4/29/2004

Michael Forster
Propmaker
Born: 5/11/1964
Sworn in: 12/1/1992
Died: 7/13/2004

Jack Hamilton
Property Master
Born: 6/3/1912
Sworn in: 8/27/1947
Retired: 4/1/1975
Died: 4/28/2004

Joe Hand
Propmaker
Born: 6/26/1921
Sworn in: 8/9/1965
Retired: 2/1/1992
Died: 4/13/2004

John Lasalandra
Propmaker
Born: 9/21/1955
Died: 9/5/2004

Michael Milgrom
Property Master
Born: 9/28/1947
Sworn in: 11/23/1973
Died: 8/28/2004

Christopher Newkirk
Propmaker
Born: 10/28/1959
Sworn in: 4/24/1978
Retired: 5/1/1995
Died: 9/8/2004

Dale Newkirk
Special Effects
Born: 1/10/36
Sworn in: 3/8/1976
Retired: 2/1/1998
Died: 6/24/2004

Frank Schepler
Propmaker
Born: 3/18/1948
Sworn in: 10/1/1981
Retired: 9/1/2003
Died: 4/9/2004

Harry J. Smith Jr. (J.D.)
Propmaker
Born: 12/29/1963
Sworn in: 2/11/1991
Died: 3/5/2004

Walter Wiley
Coordinator
Born: 6/22/1914
Sworn in: 4/24/1978
Retired: 5/1/1995
Died: 6/18/2004

Robert Worthington
Special Effects
Born: 1/8/1919
Sworn in: 11/3/1976
Retired: 2/1/1987
Died: 8/7/2004

C. Kenneth Zimmermann
Property Master
Born: 1/12/1941
Sworn in: 3/14/1977
Retired: 4/1/2004
Died: 9/12/2004



Thomas Ritchotte, Propmaker

Thomas Alfred Ritchotte July 10, 1970 - May 17, 2004

With his tool belt by his side and a Local 44 bug on his coffin, Thomas was laid to rest on Wednesday, May 26.

Thomas is survived by his father John, his four brothers and us, his friends.

Thomas was a friend that will not soon be forgotten.

Love yah G Money,
Christopher Ridino

“Happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory.”

-Albert Schweitzer

ORGANIZED LABOR SUPPORTS PROP 72

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO are strongly urging union members and all Californians to vote yes on Proposition 72.

Prop 72 requires large and medium-sized companies to pay for health insurance for their employees. It keeps private health insurance within reach for working families by capping premiums and out-of-pocket costs. It extends health insurance to 1.1 million **working people** and their children who are currently uninsured. The coverage must include prescription drugs, preventive care, and major medical. It does not create a new government-run health-care system.

How does this effect those of us covered under union health plans?

As taxpayers and as health insurance plan members we are already subsidizing Wal-Mart and those corporations that are too cheap to pay for insurance for their workers. (The uninsured are often forced to delay treatment and end up in hospital emergency rooms at taxpayer expense. And, up to 20% of our current premium costs actually go to cover hospital costs of uninsured patients who are unable to pay.)

The Labor Federations point out that big corporations like McDonald's, Macy's and Wal-Mart oppose Proposition 72 and are spending millions to defeat it. If Prop 72 is defeated, our health insurance costs will continue to go through the roof, and management will use rising costs as a hammer against us at the negotiating table.

Prop 72 will not take away the health plan we have fought to achieve. It has been compared to the healthcare equivalent of a minimum wage.

Voting Yes on 72 means that small businesses will be protected. Only corporations with 50 or more employees will have to provide health insurance.

For more info, go to
www.SaveYourHealthcare.com or
www.calaborfed.org.

Paul Ahrens
Local 44 Delegate to the L.A. County Federation of Labor

CALL TIME

What can the Call Board do for me?

We can provide lists of future prospects of the shows, availability requests, current shows around town, and past production office phone numbers. The lists WILL NOT be faxed, mailed or transmitted electronically due to security issues, but anyone who is a member (we must verify) may come in to the Local hall and pick up a copy.

The CURRENT SHOW LIST changes on a daily basis with additions and deletions occurring as we become informed of them, it is compiled of the shows "that we are aware of," currently in production.

The AVAILABILITY LIST is primarily for people in Key positions. It is edited on a daily basis. Whenever a production company calls the hall for a list of non-working key crafts members, the production contact information is added to the list. Some producers prefer not to be included on this list and we defer to their request.

The FUTURE PROSPECTS LIST is updated every 2-3 weeks by input from various periodicals and internet resources. It is a list of shows that "should" be coming up in the near future.

We also have a COMMERCIAL SIGNATORY list available. This listing provides contact information for commercial production companies, and is provided for "cold calling" companies to assess their current needs.

We can search our data to find production office numbers for the past shows and provide limited show information (depending upon the current call volume) over the phone upon verification of your membership.

Once again... The lists can only be picked up at the Local hall, upon verification of membership.

Please let the callboard know if you are a Property person and work in one or more of these Specialty Areas: 3rd Broom, Assistant Master, Buyer, Electrical fixtures, Leadperson, On Set Dresser. This will assist us when producers call looking for specific job qualifications within the craft of Property.

The constitution and by-laws requires members to call the Callboard when you are out of work and also when you start a job. Failure to do so can result in a fine. In addition, letting us know when you are available for work gets you back on the job quicker; and it makes it much easier for us to fill work calls if we don't have excessive amounts of people listed as "available" who are, in fact, working.

For example, on a recent evening, a callboard Steward had to stay an hour after closing and make 70 calls in order to fill a two person call, due to the fact that people were on the "out of work" list who were actually back at work.

Changes in Workmen's Compensation

If you follow the news, you know that Governor Schwarzenegger has signed into law an extensive overhaul of the state's workmen's-compensation system. The California Labor Federation, along with pro-labor state lawmakers, was able to negotiate a compromise package that headed off more severe measures that pro-corporate interest groups were threatening to push through.

Under the new law, your employer will have the right to designate which physicians you can use under your workmen's comp claim. However, if you work for an employer that offers group health insurance (union or non-union), you can retain your choice of doctor by pre-designating in writing your choice of physician.

Below, for your convenience, is a form to do just that. (Remember this form goes to your company's H. R. department and not the Local.)

You may want to make copies of the completed form (leaving the "name of employer" space blank) to turn in with your "start" paperwork.

In accordance with the new workers' compensation reform law enacted April 19, 2004, as it amends Labor Code Section 4600, if your employer provides group health coverage (either union or non-union), you are allowed to pre-designate your primary care physician as your personal physician for your workers' compensation medical treatment. If you pre-designate your personal physician, you will be allowed to be treated by this doctor immediately after you are injured. If you fail to pre-designate your personal physician, your employer will select a physician for you.

To pre-designate a physician, complete the following form in full, and send it to your employer's human resources department.

PERSONAL PHYSICIAN PRE-DESIGNATION FORM

TO (name of employer): _____

In the event that I sustain a job-related illness or injury, I designate my personal physician to provide medical care immediately after the injury, and for the purpose of all related care, as appropriate, for the duration of my treatment for that illness or injury.

By making this request, I am not waiving my right to immediate, appropriate and adequate emergency medical treatment in instances where my personal physician is unavailable, nor am I waiving my right to be referred to specialists or other providers as necessary.

Personal Physician: _____
(physician's name, office, clinic or hospital)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Employee's signature: _____

Employee's name (print): _____

Date: _____

(This form can be used for any employer in the state of California that offers group health coverage)

NEW ARRIVALS

Right: Local 44 Propmaker Dan Pearson, is the proud dad of his 3rd daughter, Dallas Nicole, born February 4th, 2004.



Joe Livolsi (Propshop) and his wife Michelle, along with their seven and a half year-old daughter Alexandra are proud to announce the birth of Brandon Lee Livolsi, weighing 9 lbs. and 2 oz. on May 1, 2004 at 6:19 AM at Cedars Sinai.



Left: Local 44 Propmaker Peter Jehle and his wife Cristina, along with their 4 year-old daughter Eden Jehle, proudly announce the birth of their son, Mad-dex Jehle; 7 lbs, 7oz. He was born at Henry Mayo in Valencia on Friday, January 23, 2004.

SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL UPDATES

Are you on the internet? Would you like to receive e-mail updates and/or dues reminders from Local 44?

Currently, Local 44 is able to communicate with members through the Newsreel, our website www.local44.org, and through costly mailers.

A number of members have requested that the local send out quarterly dues reminders. Mailing such a reminder to six-thousand members is not cost effective, as most members are aware of the quarterly dues schedule. However, we will be happy to send a reminder e-mail two weeks prior to the beginning of each quarter to interested members. General information and event updates are also available via e-mail.

Simply send an e-mail to newsreel@local44.org, indicate DUES ONLY, GENERAL ONLY, or BOTH in the subject heading. In the body of the e-mail, please indicate your name, card number and the e-mail address to which you would like the updates sent.

OR send or bring the form below to the union hall:

.....
 Name _____ Card Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

I would like to receive quarterly courtesy reminders of dues via e-mail. (Please note: this reminder is a courtesy. All members remain responsible for prompt payment of dues whether or not they receive an e-mail.)

I would like to receive other updates from the Local via e-mail. (for example, notices of upcoming meetings, union events, Safety Pass changes, etc.).

I would like to receive BOTH dues reminders and other updates from Local 44 via e-mail.