

# LOCAL 44 NEWSREEL



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

IATSE LOCAL 44

MAY, 2005

RONNIE CUNNINGHAM  
BUSINESS AGENT

ELLIOT JENNINGS  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JACK THOMAS  
PRESIDENT

## VICTORY IN BURBANK



*Flanked by shop stewards and representatives from local labor unions and guilds, Business Agent Ronnie Cunningham addresses 200 workers and community members outside Burbank City Hall.*

### BURBANK CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS INVESTIGATION OF FOREIGN FILM SUBSIDIES

On April 26, 2005, the Burbank City Council voted 3 to 2 in favor of a resolution that endorses filing a Section 301(a) petition with the United States Trade Representative.

Against strong opposition from representatives of the studios and producers, the City Council majority stood with Burbank's citizens and with entertainment workers.

The passage of this resolution builds momentum in the campaign against unfair and illegal foreign subsidies of film and television production, which have hurt U.S. workers and communities.

Local 44 members turned out in force to support the passage of this important resolution.

For more coverage, see stories on Page 3, 8 and 9.

**Notice to Downey Employees... Pg. 4**  
**Craft Meeting Schedule... Pg. 7**  
**R.I.P. Six Feet Under... Pg. 10**

*“If you shoot at mimes, should you use a silencer?”  
-Steven Wright*

## LOCAL 44 SHOP STEWARDS

### CBS Studio Center

Tibor "Ted" Barti  
Arthur Eishtadt

### Universal Studios

Michael Cappello  
Robert "Inky" Intlekofer  
(Property)

### Sony Studios

Chic Chaldu

### Paramount Pictures

Tony Chavez

### Warner Bros.

Dennis Christensen  
Rick Manson (Property)  
Coy Lawson (Property)  
Gene Owens Jr.  
John Petros

### Santa Clarita

Andrew DeMuri

### Field Stewards

Ralph Fierro  
"Grande" Gonzalez  
Leonard Hancock Jr.  
Jay Hirsch  
Art Piatt

Joe Recchia

David Roesch  
Tomas Sallvin  
Randy Severino  
Anthony Syracuse  
Dennis Ullman  
Ken Wilson  
Michael Todd  
Arthur Chavez  
Greg "Tiny" Hamlin  
Brian Kelner

### Alpha Medical

Alex Hernandez

### CBS Television City

Andrea Joel

### Disney Studios

Kenneth Knight

### Fox Studios

James "Jimmy" Meyer  
Greg "Tiny" Hamlin  
Bryce Vardanian

### Las Vegas, NV

Bobby Zeletes

### SAT

Alex Vuckovich

### NEWSREEL SUBMISSIONS

**The deadline for the  
next issue is:  
June 1, 2005**

**Please be sure your contact  
information is clearly marked.  
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North Hollywood, CA 91607**

**Questions? Call 818-769-2500  
X120**

**LOCAL 44**

**WEBSITE:**

**[www.local44.org](http://www.local44.org)**

**LOG ON AND STAY  
CONNECTED!**

## LOCAL 44 OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

### Officers:

Ronnie Cunningham, Business Agent  
Elliot Jennings, Secretary-Treasurer  
Jack Thomas, President  
Stacey McIntosh, Vice President

### Executive Board:

Erin Hennessey, Propmaker Representative  
Gene Owens, Propmaker Representative  
Armando "Grande" Gonzalez, 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  
Otto Lungren, Trustee  
Jeannie Gunn, Trustee

**Executive Board members can be reached by e-mail  
at [eboard@local44.org](mailto:eboard@local44.org)**

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# BUSINESS AGENT'S COLUMN

By Ronnie Cunningham

On Tuesday, April 26, the Brothers and Sisters of Local 44 came out in force at Burbank City hall to show their support for the filing of a 301a petition, a measure to launch a federal investigation into runaway production and its adverse effects. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those of you who participated in this rally, or supported this issue in other ways. Together, we are going after the illegal subsidies offered by other countries, resulting in the devastating loss of jobs our members have experienced in the past several years. Below is the speech I gave urging the members of the Burbank City Council to formally back our efforts.

*Madam mayor and members of the City Council:*

*Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you again on behalf of almost six thousand members of the IATSE. Many of them live in Burbank, and many more of them used to work in Burbank before their jobs were outsourced to foreign countries. Many of them would be currently employed here in Burbank on Warner Brothers' new "Superman" feature were it not being made in Australia with heavily subsidized labor.*

*My name is Ronnie Cunningham. I am proud to stand before you as the democratically elected Business Representative of the Affiliated Property Craftsperson, Local 44 of the IATSE. Local 44 is the largest IA local in Hollywood, and most importantly, it is a democracy. I am here to make sure you know the truth about what my members want.*

*Local 44's members simply want to once again be able to earn a middle-class living by working in their respective crafts. They know that aggressive foreign subsidies to film and television production are the reason their jobs have been relocated to other countries. They know that this is wrong and unfair, and they want it to stop.*

*The AFL-CIO has called for the vigorous enforcement of U.S. trade laws, and has also directed its affiliates, of which the IATSE is one, to initiate legal action against foreign subsidies which cause domestic harm in the United States. This means that the various unions which make up the AFL-CIO are supposed to be doing exactly what FTAC wants to do. My members are still waiting for the IATSE as a whole to follow these instructions. In the meantime, they have had the courage and integrity to do so on their own.*



**Left to right: Peter Lawrence, Victor Espinoza, Ronnie Cunningham, Kon Iliov, and Mike Clark at Fox.**

*In an advisory vote at our general membership meeting on March 12, 2005, FTAC's legal petition under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 asking for federal investigation of foreign film and television production subsidies was overwhelmingly supported. On April 13, Local 44's Executive Board unanimously passed a formal resolution reaffirming the member's support of FTAC's filing and the AFL-CIO's policy. There should be no question in anyone's mind about how the members of Local 44 feel. They want to find out the truth about these foreign programs which have robbed us of our livelihoods. They want this investigation.*

*When you are told that a particular labor organization opposes this resolution, you cannot take that information*

*at face value. You need to ask another important question – did the members of the group actually vote on this position? The odds are that if they did, the position would be completely different. Unlike some other union or guild executives, who are just parroting the words of studio representatives, I can truthfully and with great pride say that Local 44 members voted to support FTAC's resolution. That's an extremely important distinction, because only when votes are taken will you hear the true voice of the members.*

*It is your job to use your influence as the "Media Capital of the World" to ask for the truth to be discovered. As you yourselves have said, that is not unreasonable. Indeed, it is most reasonable and responsible. It is your obligation to the voters who have elected you and who have been deeply hurt by these foreign production subsidies.*

*The members of Local 44 of the IATSE have spoken. I ask you for all our sakes to please hear their voice, and pass the FTAC resolution.*

In a victory for labor, the City Council voted 3 to 2 to endorse the filing of the 301a trade petition. In the coming months, Local 44 in concert with Hollywood locals and others, will be raising the money needed for legal fees to move forward with the filing.

Teamsters Local 399 along with the Teamsters' International has raised \$50,000. Two years ago, Ornamental Plasterers Sculptors & Modelers Local 755 enacted a \$5 assessment to their members, raising over \$10,000; they plan to do the same this year. Additionally, Studio Utility Employees Local 724 has raised over \$5,000. In the coming months, Local 44 will be asking members to contribute to this cause. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per quarter. With your help, we can continue to take the necessary steps to curb the tide of runaway production.

# **IMPORTANT: LIFE INSURANCE CHANGE AS OF APRIL 1ST, 2005 IF YOU ARE SUSPENDED, YOU DON'T HAVE LIFE INSURANCE THROUGH THE UNION.**

**STAY IN GOOD STANDING AND YOU'LL STAY  
COVERED BY LOCAL 44'S LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.**

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DOWNEY STUDIOS EMPLOYEES**

For those of you who worked at the Downey Studios in the last year, possibly for Dreamworks; air and mold testing has shown toxins, molds, and other things you may have been exposed to.

These are symptoms of mold and other toxic exposure injuries which you should be concerned about:

1. Higher incidence of infection
2. Dermatitis/rash
3. Headaches
4. Memory or verbal problems
5. Dizziness
6. Depression
7. Gallbladder pain
8. Diarrhea
9. Laryngitis
10. Irritant cough
11. Shortness of breath
12. Chest tightness
13. Constant sinus infections that do not respond to antibiotics or return after you have finished taking antibiotics.
14. Sore throat
15. Headaches that do not respond to pain killers
16. Congestion, head and chest
17. Pimple-like bumps that look like a pimple but have a clear fluid in them and pop up just about any place on the body
18. Canker sores in the mouth – usually more than one at a time
19. Red raised solid rash on arms and legs or bumpy rash any place on the body
20. Loss of balance – can't walk straight and bump

into walls or objects

21. Crying for no reason, depression, severe emotional distress
22. Extreme irritability
23. Lack of concentration, memory loss, difficulty speaking, you lose track of what is being said or forget what was said before you can write it down, find yourself staring at the computer, unable to remember what you were doing, forget what you were saying or slurred speech.

We are having a meeting at the Local 44 hall at 7:00 PM on May 25, 2005. There will be an attorney present to talk to us. Please come if you are having any of these symptoms.



*Roofing contractor removes roof materials at Downey Studios while film crews work inside unprotected.*

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# CONTRACT SERVICES, MPIPHP, AND THE LOCAL

By Elliot Jennings

Last month certain members received a notice in the mail that they were going to be dropped from the roster for lack of activity. The calls flooded our offices with irate and confused members. The problem was...we didn't send out the notice, it was sent by Contract Services. Still members demanded answers from us!

Before updating this particular situation, let me diverge into a related area. Probably 25-30% of all the problems or complaints members wish for the Local to address is not our jurisdiction.

People mistakenly believe that the Local, Contract Services, Safety Passport, and the Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans are somehow connected; they aren't a coordinated group.

The Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans (MPIPHP) are run by a Board of Directors comprised of both the Producers and Union Labor Leaders. The MPIPHP, using information provided by *employers and payroll companies*, keep track of your hours worked and contributions to your plans. The Local does not exchange information about individual members with the MPIPHP.

Your retirement and pension are handled through the MPIPHP; please consult them when you are nearing retirement; months in advance is not too soon. These people are much more qualified to answer your questions and are more accurate on procedures or recent changes than are your Local officials. And that's what they're there for.

Contract Services is an arm of the Producers. The Producers are in charge of "the Roster". The Industry Experience Roster tracks the number of days, with the aid of *payroll companies*, that an individual works in the Motion Picture Industry and determines their eligibility to work. The Producers maintain "the Roster" and the Local has little influence over their decisions.

The Safety Passport Program is a subsidiary of Contract Services. The

Producers, by contract, pay for the training of members of the Motion Picture Industry. Each year, Locals in the Industry submit desired courses for their member's training, along with desired course requirements and possible funding. This helps promote Industry labor standards keeping union members better trained than non-union crews.

Occasionally, as in the recently required Industry-wide safety training, the Producers may want training for their own interests (e.g. removing some of their own liability).

The Local's major functions are to represent you in wages and conditions of employment, to fill calls for hiring personnel (and screen the hiring of members available to work), and to help provide information for members seeking work.

The Local is not your employer! For unemployment, mortgage or other loans, the *payroll company or production company* is your employer. We are not your expert advisors on retirement, pension, or medical problems. You need to contact first, the MPIPHP or Contract Services.

## THE NEW BIG ISSUE:

Contract Services recently sent letters to Local 44 members (along with 9 other IA Locals) that were going to be dropped from "the Roster" for lack of activity for the 2-year period of 2003 through 2004, unless you got 5 qualified days before April 24, 2005.

Local 44, along with the West Coast IA, are protesting this move. Where does this come from?

According to the Basic Agreement; Paragraph 68c;

"A person shall be removed from (the Roster)...if such person has not been employed at least 5 days...within a consecutive two year period." The truth of the matter is, the Producers have *never* on such a mass scale exercised this option.

Why is this happening? You want the stated reason or the real reason? Contract Services is saying that it is in



the Agreement and they are just trying to clean up their books. The real reason: money. Contract Services is required to pay for each individual who is trained; if you're not on the Roster, they don't have to train you. Also, Contract Services must make certain Federal and State compliance requirements; if they remove people from their population, their compliance percentage improves.

What does this mean if I haven't worked 5 days in a two year period? You're probably going to be dropped, barring a successful protest by yourself for cause (e.g. you were disabled), or by the IATSE.

Great! Well, all is not lost, even if the protests fail. The bad news is you've been dropped from the Industry Experience Roster; the good news is you are still a member of Local 44 (one of the advantages of our organizations being disconnected). The bad news is you didn't get five days work in two years; the good news is, if you are a member in good-standing, the minute you get 30 days again within a year, you are eligible to be back on "the Roster".

Yes, you will have to redo your 30 days of qualifying, however, you are still a Local 44 member, not a permit, and the minute you re-qualify, you're again on the Roster. *You will not have to pay another initiation fee*, and we at the Local will make every attempt to get you your days.

A warning to those of you whose status has been "**Honorary Withdrawal**" or "**Inactive**": get five qualified work days every two years! This may become an annual procedure of Contract Services.

Contact Information:  
MPIPHP: 818-769-0007, 310-769-0007  
Contract Services: 818-995-0900  
Safety Pass: 818-502-9932

# HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH CHANGES LATELY?

Divorced? Remarried? Have children? We all have changes that occur to our lives. We often forget that we need to inform others of these events. As a member of Local 44 and the Motion Picture Pension and Health Plans; you have beneficiary cards to fill out. Has it been 5, 10, 20 years since you filled one of these out? Remember to update:

1. Local 44's Life Insurance Policy.
2. The \$10,000 Motion Picture Industry Health Plan life insurance.  
(Available to all eligible members)
3. Your Pension Plan beneficiary.  
(Who receives your pension or donations)

These are all separate filings. Filling out one does not change the others. Call Local 44, and MPIPHP (for both forms) and make sure your information is current.

## IF YOU ARE WORKING OUT OF TOWN...

If you work on a project being produced outside of Los Angeles under an agreement where contributions would normally be sent to a different IATSE or Basic Crafts plan, you may be able to have contributions made instead to the Motion Picture Industry Pension, Individual Account and Health Plans. This is possible under a recent "Home Plan Amendment" passed by the Directors of the Plans. You must meet certain qualifications, and the employer, union and other plans must agree. If you are or will be in this situation, you should contact us at the Local 44 hall, and we will provide you with the details.

## NEW RETIREE CLASSIFICATIONS

On March 22, President Short of the International approved the four By-Law amendments for Retirees. A detailed explanation was posted in our March 2005 Newsreel. Below is a chart that we hope explains the changes that went into effect the second quarter 2005. These rates apply through the end of 2005.

Category	Special Condition	Age	Experience in Years	Quarter Rate for 2005
Retired	Form Filed with International	65+	25+	free
Voting Retiree	Pays per capita to International	65+	20+	\$20
Pensioner*	Collecting an unreduced pension	Under 65	20+	\$58
Reduced Active	Allowed to work 39.5 hours a month without reducing their pension benefits	65+	20+	
Property Propmaker				\$72
Prop Master				\$74
Coordinator				\$78
Set Decorator				\$86
Inactive	Members not in any of the above categories	Under 65	Under 20	Must pay regular inactive craft rates until qualified for other categories

\*A Pensioner who was 62-64 years old by December 31, 2004 will be considered a Voting Retiree.

Again, if you have any questions regarding your status, please call the Business office.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jack Thomas

Brothers and Sisters,

When this administration took office, we did so with fiscal responsibility and open accountability as our major goals. We have set the process in motion to maintain both of these practices as our standard operating procedure and feel that a better relationship now exists between the members and the officers of our Local as the result of these efforts. But face it folks, restoring things to "normal" may be an improvement over what was going on, but there is still more work for your officers and representatives to do.

In the past, I have written about how important it is to the Local to prevent another costly 2004 election catastrophe. I am happy to report to you that this process has begun. Last month, your Executive Board reviewed a proposed revision of Article IX – the article covering elections - submitted last year to the past

Executive Board by the Constitution Committee. We went through it paragraph by paragraph, until the Board was in agreement on every proposed revision. This body of work was turned over to Elliot Jennings and his staff, who will be rewriting the article with the proposed revisions so our attorney can review it. There are some legal questions that require clarification so we can put some final touches on it, but for the most part, the hard work is done on this article. We will continue to meet and work on the rest of the Constitution until this task is complete. One of the major goals of this administration is to have a working document that is up-to-date and in compliance with current federal and state laws and the International's Constitution and Bylaws.

On another note, your first of two craft meetings for 2005 will be held in June. This will be an



opportunity for the members to meet with their representatives and their delegates before the International Convention being held in July. We want to properly represent you, the members, but we need your input before the convention, not your complaints after it's over. Let us know what is important to you, and what actions you would like us to take as your delegates. It is vital that you participate in the process of governing your own Union.

One final thought for you – our current contract expires on August 1, 2006. Negotiations between the IA and the producers usually begin about one year prior to the expiration date, so we anticipate that talks will begin sometime between this coming July and September.

The Executive Board will be calling for the formation of a committee from each craft to address the concerns of their crafts' members and bring them to the attention of the Business Agent so he and his assistants can bring them to the negotiating table. If you wish to participate in your contract negotiations by serving on one of these committees, please contact your Craft Representative by phone or email. Once again, participating in this process is vital. It is the only way to have informed representation at the negotiating table.

## CRAFT MEETINGS SCHEDULE

All meetings will be held in the upstairs assembly room at the Local 44 Hall, 12021 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, CA 91602 at 7:00 PM

<b>June 2, 2005:</b>	<b>Property Masters</b>
<b>June 14, 2005:</b>	<b>Special Effects</b>
<b>June 16, 2005:</b>	<b>Property</b>
<b>June 20, 2005:</b>	<b>Set Decorators</b>
<b>June 21, 2005:</b>	<b>Coordinators</b>
<b>June 23, 2005:</b>	<b>Propmakers</b>

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# STRAIGHT TIME

By Craig Raiche

## A Report on Three Meetings In April

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

**On April 13th**, Local 44 delegates discussed an agenda and agreed four possible actions for our upcoming International Convention. All four will be proposed in the form of a convention resolution. We want our union to determine a program that will effectively reduce occurrences of identity theft. We want our union to determine a personal identification system that is based on something other than our Social Security Number. We want our union to determine a more equitable distribution of votes that will allow delegates a voting strength proportional to the number of members they represent. We want our union to allow election of its International Officers by a vote of its members – not by its convention delegates.

It was also suggested, and agreed, that Local 44 attempt a meeting of delegates from all 18 West Coast Locals. Invitations for a “1st Inter-Local Delegates Meeting” have already been mailed and the initial response has been very positive. We hope this meeting will produce a more unified “Hollywood Delegation” at convention.

**On April 18th**, in order to identify and mitigate any problems or misunderstandings in our current Basic and Local Agreements, the IATSE, AMPTP, CSATF and MPIP&HP came together in Palm Springs for our annual “Quarterly Meeting.”

Representatives of the Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans offered a report that included the following information: IA Pension funds stand at \$2.2 billion, IAP funds at \$1.65 billion, and our Health funds at just over a half-billion dollars. Currently, IA health care costs are rising at 9% for active members and 12% for retirees. They set the current “national average” rise in health care costs at 13.5% and attribute the IA’s lower rate to our consistent and devoted use of Motion Picture Health Facilities. Savings from our new “Coordination of Spousal Benefits” provision have greatly exceeded all expecta-

tions - perhaps by more than double their original estimate of \$3 million annually.

Contract Services offered a report detailing those members who’ve actually completed their Safety Pass Training Courses. Unfortunately, their statistics were challenged as inaccurate by a number of locals including ours. CSATF stated their desire to work with each Hollywood Local to correct their data. Prop Maker Erin Hennessey inquired the wisdom of allowing non-rostered “permits” to work without having taken the same safety training courses that all rostered members are required to complete.

The Producers and L.44 then met in a private session. Set Decorators, Robinson Royce and Brenda Myers-Ballard, presented a strong case to support their view that Producers are not fulfilling their contractual obligation to provide a “prominently placed” screen credit for Set Decorators. The Producers acknowledged the valuable contribution of Set Decorators to the art of filmmaking... and declared THEY would decide what does or does not constitute a prominent screen credit - even as they allowed the right of all Set Decorators to grieve them on this issue.

On behalf of all Property Masters and the American Entertainment Armorers Association, Gregg Bilson and I updated the Producers’ awareness of our increasing difficulties in acquiring modern firearms in this country. We sought monetary support from the Producers to effect legislation that would exempt firearm handlers in the U.S. entertainment industry from restrictions intended only for John Q. Citizen. Again, the Producers acknowledged our problems... and claimed THEY, too, were spending money on legal services for the same purpose - therefore, they denied our request for monetary support.

Special Effects Person, “J.C.” Machit, requested a title change from the classification of “prop shop” to “mechanical effects.” He also proposed the logical addition of a new classification for “Special Effects Supervisor.” The Producers tried to play “dumb” and made feeble excuses to deny his request.



Patently clarifying each of the Producers questions and contentions, Messrs. Machit, Cunningham and Jennings all held fast to our position. In the end, and by request of the Producers, Mr. Machit agreed to submit a written proposal on this matter at a later date.

Lastly, we sought re-confirmation of the Producers contractual obligation to inform all prospective employees of any “special working conditions” PRIOR to their employment. The Producers acknowledged this obligation and will remind all production companies of the same. The Producers suggested that if anyone’s future deal memo fails to state which agreement or which special conditions are in effect, the employee should bring it to the attention of Labor Relations. (I strongly suggest you first bring it to the attention of our Business Agent as well.)

**On April 26th**, a couple hundred active and concerned members from a host of motion picture unions (SAG, DGA, IATSE and TEAMSTERS) crowded the Burbank City Hall to seek city council support for a “301(a) trade action.” Such action would initiate a U.S. federal investigation of possibly illegal foreign trade subsidies in our own motion picture industry. Again, Lo. 44 B.A., Ronnie Cunningham, was among those speaking in favor of the motion. The City of Burbank voted to support this fast growing “grass-roots” rank and file union movement and, in my opinion, so should we all.

For more information relative to FTAC and its 301(a) trade petition, please read my accompanying article. Thank you.

Stay Tuned and Stay Interested,  
Craig Raiche



# WHAT IS FTAC'S 301(a) PETITION ALL ABOUT?

By Craig Raiche

Basically, it's all about reducing runaway production. Before I attempt further explanation there are two things you should know. Firstly, within the context of trade law, the ONLY difference between the terms "bribe" and "subsidy" is that a subsidy is government sanctioned. Secondly, The Film and Television Action Committee needs our monetary support in order to file this trade action.

A "301(a)" is a provision of United States trade law. It provides remedy for trade practices that violate existing agreements such as NAFTA and GATT. The 301(a) petition would be sent to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) requesting that he investigate Canadian Government subsidies to U.S. film and television production companies.

Once the petition is filed, the USTR must decide within 30 days whether an investigation is warranted. If the investigation determines that Canadian film subsidies are in violation of our trade agreements, the Canadian Government will be asked to rescind its subsidies. If Canada refuses, the USTR would then file a "dispute settlement" with the World Trade Organization. The WTO would likely issue its decision in just 4 to 7 months.

Without generous subsidies as an incentive to produce films and television shows in Canada, more producers will stay in the USA. Many trade experts believe a 301(a) investigation WILL find Canadian subsidies in violation of international trade agreements. Such a result could quickly convince other foreign governments (such as Australia and New Zealand) to rescind their subsidies as well.

The cost of filing a 301(a) is somewhere between a quarter and half million dollars. Other expenses would certainly be incurred, but in no case is the cost expected to exceed \$750,000 in order to see this action through to its final conclusion. Of course, nothing can be done in this regard until FTAC raises enough to cover the initial filing fee.

FTAC counts some 150,000 supporters across the U.S. including:

- Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters Locals 399, 391, 355, 509, 592
- Laborers International, Studio Utility Employees Local 724
- Maryland Production Alliance
- Plasterers Local 755, Modelers, Sculptors
- IBEW Local 40
- IATSE Local 484 - Studio Mechanics, Texas
- IATSE Local 695 - Production Sound Technicians
- IATSE Local 871 - Script Supervisors
- IATSE Local 44 - Property Crafts Persons
- City Councils of Burbank, Santa Monica, Pittsburgh and Jersey City
- Thousands of rank and file members of The Teamsters, DGA, IATSE, AFTRA, WGA, and SAG
- Numerous industry vendors and suppliers

For information on the Film and Television Action Committee and yet more info on the Burbank City Council Meeting, 301 trade actions, runaway production and other related issues, please contact FTAC online at <http://www.ftac.org/>

Other FTAC contact info:

Phone: 800-863-6134, Fax: 818-509-0360

Film and Television Action Committee:

11271 Ventura Blvd. Suite #418

Studio City, California, U.S.A. 91604

## SET MASTERS HAS BECOME SIGNATORY TO THE I.A.T.S.E.

Set Masters is a full-service fabrication shop. Set Decorators and Property Masters are encouraged to consider them for any fabrication needs. (Please see the next issue of the Newsreel for additional coverage.)

Set Masters

11650 Hart Street

North Hollywood, CA 91605

818-982-1506 Office

818-982-1508 Fax

## ART DIRECTOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Art Director Jim Newport has first-hand knowledge of the devastation caused by the last December's Tsunami; he was in Phuket, Thailand when disaster struck. Newport, who has been visiting Thailand for the past fifteen years, decided to take action to help rebuild the community he has grown to know and love. In conjunction with friend Boyd Willat (CEO Willat Ergonomic Technologies), and the Wilderness Conservancy's Project Care, Newport created a fund to rebuild the Ben Hat Kamala School in the village of Kamala Bay. The school, which formerly served to educate 374 students between the ages of 3 and 12, was effectively leveled by the Tsunami. Anyone wishing to contribute to the reconstruction of the school, should make checks payable to: Wilderness Conservancy, Re: Project CARE/Kamala School Fund. Mail donations to: Project Care, 1224 Roberto Lane, Los Angeles, CA 90077-2334

# R.I.P. "SIX FEET UNDER"

It's the final season for the popular HBO series "Six Feet Under," and many, especially the tight-knit crew will be mourning the loss. "This has been a really wonderful experience," mused Set Decorator Rusty Lipscomb, "it's not often that you get this level of trust and closeness with your coworkers, but there hasn't been a day that I didn't want to come to work."

"Six Feet Under" is famous for its portrayal of a dysfunctional family in the mortuary business. But the family behind the scenes could teach the Fishers a thing or two. "Everyone works together so well," said Lipscomb, "it's a truly collaborative effort, and I think that's what makes the show a success." And just to add a little extra "family" to the collection of talented craftspeople working on the show; one of Lipscomb's Leadmen is also her husband. Chuck Lipscomb hired Rusty to work on the gang for *The Gong Show Movie* twenty-six years prior. "He kept trying to lay me off, but when he did, the Prop Master needed help and kept me around - I guess it was just meant to be," Lipscomb laughed. Additionally, Leadman Nigel Boucher, a long-time friend of Chuck and Rusty, works with three of his sons on the Set Dressing crew.

While this crew may put the "fun" in "funeral" from time to time; a great deal of energy and effort goes in to each episode. "It's an ambitious show,"



**Set Dressing Crew back row from left:** Victor Patron (Swing), Chuck Lipscomb (Leadperson), Laura Richarz (Asst. Set Decorator), Suzuki Ingerslev (Production Designer), Rusty Lipscomb (Set Decorator), Nigel Boucher (Leadperson), Phillip Thoman (on Set Dresser) **Front row from left:** Paul Boucher (swing), Mark Boucher (swing), Tony Piller (swing), John Boucher (swing)

explained Lipscomb, "in five seasons, with twelve or thirteen episodes a season, we've done 700 sets. It's a good thing we all like each other so much, because we put in a lot of hours together. And our production Designer Suzuki Ingerslev, is the best."

The sets are as diverse as the characters on the show, and each one has a distinct personality. "One of my favorites was doing the loft of Brenda's brother, Billy," said Lipscomb, "he was so driven and creepy and the space reflected that. They brought Billy back in the fifth season, and the set was totally different - because of the changes in the character. It was really a wonder. It takes all the departments, construction, props, set dressing, painters, everyone working together to create that kind of cohesive vision."

And the unique subject matter on "Six Feet Under" keeps things fresh and interesting. "We deal with a lot of different, quirky things," said Assistant Property Master Monica Perez, "you end up learning a lot about death and the way different people deal with it - and somehow we end up laughing all the time. I'm really going to miss that."



**Construction Crew Back row from left:** Richard Piscuskas (propmaker), Suzan Katcher (painter), Gary Costin (propmaker), John Ogden (propmaker), Tomas Sallvin (general foreman), Sean Millerick (laborer), Tom Lynch (propmaker foreman), Toby Swinehart (painter), Tim Durrell (propmaker), David Holowach (greensman), Doug Anderson (plaster foreman) **Front Row from left:** Zach Romero (laborer), Wayne Lamb (toolman), Mike Wells (construction coordinator), Suzuki Ingerslev (production designer), Jason Lamb (propmaker), Hayden Mounger (propmaker), Al Coombs (labor foreman)



**Property Crew from left:** Dave Scott (property), Monica Perez (asst. Prop Master), Ritchie Kremer (Property Master)

## **DAVID ROESCH: SAFETY MINDED**

David Roesch is serious about workplace safety. A recently retired Propmaker, Roesch started in the entertainment industry in 1959 and was sworn in to Local 44 in 1964. He has served as a Local 44 representative on the Industry-wide Labor Management Safety Committee since 1996 – the longest run for any Local 44 member serving on the committee.



“I started for selfish reasons,” Roesch joked, “I knew this Safety Passport thing was in its infancy, and I wanted to be involved. I wanted to make sure it was going to get done – and be done with input from labor.”

As most members know, the Safety Passport Program, now “Safety Pass,” took quite some time to be transitioned into its current incarnation. It also took a massive amount of effort on the part of people like Roesch to make it a workable system. “It works now, it’s here for our benefit, and it’s going to stick around,” Roesch said. “I encourage our members to take advantage of all of the classes, even if they have to do it on their own time. It will make a difference in the long run.”

Now that Roesch is retired, he is looking for a successor to carry on his work on the safety committee. “I’ll be there as long as I can be helpful, but not being out in the field, I no longer have direct contact with the members and their safety concerns on a daily basis. It’s not an easy job – most employers won’t pay you to take off one day a month to go the safety meetings, but it’s so important that Local 44 in particular, has a voice on that committee. We are the nuts and bolts of the backlot.”

Over his career as a safety representative, David Roesch has had a number of hard-fought victories. The Pass Program was a major challenge, but Roesch has also been an advocate for, among many other things, getting members up to speed on fall protection, and cleaning up MDF sawdust and chemicals in the workplace. The next issue Roesch will be focusing on, is identifying and labeling foam used on sets. “Some of it is really toxic and it can become a dangerous cocktail of chemicals if you’re not careful,” Roesch explained. “Right now it’s not properly labeled, if it’s labeled at all - it’s a big issue.”

Roesch encourages all members to take charge of their own personal safety. “Too many accidents are caused by people not paying enough attention to their surroundings – we’re responsible for what happens on the set. If you see something that appears unsafe, report it to the Local, you will remain anonymous, and you will be doing a service to yourself and those around you.”

If you are interested in being involved with the Industry-wide Labor Management Safety Committee please contact the Local at 818-769-2500.

**TO THE BEST OF  
LOCAL 44’S  
KNOWLEDGE,  
THE FOLLOWING  
SHOPS ARE  
NON-SIGNATORY:**

**Applied Effects**

**Culver City  
Custom Props**

**Flix Fx Inc.**

**The Hand Prop  
Room**

**KNB**

**Stan Winston**

**Any Key Personnel using  
these non-signatory shops  
in connection with Local  
44 Jurisdiction work will  
be the subject of  
appropriate  
disciplinary action.**

## **ATTENTION PROPERTY PERSONS AND PROPERTY MASTERS: FIREARMS SAFETY/HANDLING COURSE AVAILABLE**

**A Contract Services sponsored Firearms Safety Handling Course open to Property Persons and Property Masters will be held at Local 44 in June. More details will follow in the next edition of the Newsreel and on the website ([www.local44.org](http://www.local44.org)).**

**Please call 769-2500 ext. 120 for applications and additional information**

# REMEMBRANCES



## GERALD EDWARD ADAMS

I am very sorry to report that Mr. Gerald Edward Adams passed away on March 12, 2005 at his home in Las Vegas, Nevada following a long illness. Born in 1933 in San Diego, Jerry showed an early interest in show business by stage managing and acting at the Old Globe theatre in San Diego and at the La Jolla Playhouse while still in high school.

He served a stint as a cook in the U.S. Army and then began a long and successful career as a Set Decorator in the motion picture and television industry. In 1982 and 1983 Jerry won back-to-back Emmys for Set Decoration of a Lee Remick, made for television film entitled "The Letter" and the highly acclaimed "The Thorn Birds." He received four additional nominations for the Emmy. He spent much of his 35 years in the business at Universal Studios and decorated such shows as "Banacek", "The Scarecrow and Mrs. King"

and many "Colombo" episodes. Jerry retired and moved to Las Vegas in the early 1990's

One of his favorite pastimes was chatting about the early days of television, about Hollywood and about the great old films with stars he had worked with over the years. He will be sorely missed.

**BILL CALVERT**  
**SET DECORATOR**  
**BORN: 11/9/1911**  
**DIED: 3/29/2005**

**DANNY CAPPA**  
**BORN: 12/6/1942**  
**SWORN IN: 12/6/1979**  
**DIED: 3/11/2005**

**RYAN EFFNER**  
**PROPMAKER**  
**BORN: 10/28/1964**  
**SWORN IN: 11/19/1990**  
**DIED: 4/18/2005**

**EDWARD KARAS**  
**COORDINATOR**  
**BORN: 3/31/1923**  
**SWORN IN: 5/5/1952**  
**RETIRED: 8/1/1986**  
**DIED: 3/26/2005**

**LEONARD LACASELLA**  
**FLOOR COVERER**  
**BORN: 1/8/1913**  
**SWORN IN: 11/20/1964**  
**DIED: 4/14/2005**

**JOHNNY LATTANZIO**  
**COORDINATOR**  
**BORN: 9/11/1923**  
**SWORN IN: 1/22/1982**  
**RETIRED: 4/1/1998**  
**DIED: 4/11/2005**

**WILLIAM PANCAKE JR.**  
**PROPMAKER**  
**BORN: 2/25/1962**  
**SWORN IN: 12/4/1996**  
**DIED: 4/9/2005**

**CHARLES SCHULTHIES**  
**SPECIAL EFFECTS**  
**BORN: 10/28/1922**  
**SWORN IN: 2/1/1957**  
**RETIRED: 4/1/1986**  
**DIED: 4/28/2005**

**RICHARD WRIGHT**  
**PROPERTY MASTER**  
**BORN: 9/22/1939**  
**SWORN IN: 2/23/1995**  
**DIED: 3/31/2005**



## CHARLES "CHUCK" SCHULTHIES SR.

Charles "Chuck" Schulthies Sr., Special Effects and long time member of Local 44 passed away on April 28, 2005.

In his early days, dad worked on the family farm in Indiana before starting out on his own. He did a stint as a tumbler and wire act in the circus, worked as a longshoreman and lineman in World War II before going into the studios in 1946. The shows he worked on looks like a who's who in Hollywood. In 1954, he settled down at MGM and worked on such movies as *Ben Hur*, *How the West Was Won*, *Mutiny on the Bounty*, and *Ice Station Zebra*, just to name a few. He retired in 1985 at the age of 62, but remained active in the business until 1995. I counted at least 65 different shows he worked on during his life.

Dad leaves behind his loving wife Eden, sons Jeff and Charles, and daughters Phyllis and Kim. He also leaves behind his sister Lillian and brother Henry, who reside in Indiana. We also mourn the death of Ed Karas who was one of dad's oldest

and best friends.

The above picture was a gift to dad from John Sturgis on the set of *Ice Station Zebra*. John wrote: "Dear Chuck, I know there were days like this and thank you for coping with them. - John (These were the days when gentlemen made movies)

-Charles Schulties Jr.

**For complete tribute articles, and updated, detailed information on funeral and memorial services, please log on to our website at [www.local44.org](http://www.local44.org) and click on "In Memory Of."**

**GERALD MOSS**  
**PROPERTY MASTER**  
**BORN: 6/29/1955**  
**SWORN IN: 12/3/1973**  
**DIED: 4/20/2005**





**RYAN EFFNER**

We search for reasons. Why so young? Why the Good ones? The optimists. The positive minded people that help us through.

We search for words. They come easy when you think back on Ryan: happy, witty, craftsman, honest, true, egalitarian, sagacious, tenacious, irrepresible, objective, venerable.

Ryan loved words. He used them not to intimidate, but to even the plain between you and him until a free exchange of thoughts and ideas was achieved - always ending in laughter. Ryan used words and wit to make you feel better, all the while his hands worked wonders.

One more word applies: Benchmark. As builders, we all use this to keep our elevations true, level. As humans, we use people like Ryan to measure ourselves. Ryan's benchmarks were his union brothers and sisters, his friends, and, most important of all, his heart: his fiancée Margareta - a love that stayed by his side through all his medical challenges and surgical procedures.

Could any of us ask for a finer measurement?

So just WHY, does it pass that someone like Ryan leaves our circle so young? I think Ryan just had a higher calling. Some intended purpose much more grand then our silly little existence here.

I think Ryan now knows the curtain didn't come down on his time; rather, the curtain went UP. For Ryan, all the questions are now answered, the great mysteries solved. The searcher has come home. The student is now a Teacher. Thank you Ryan, and thank you Margareta, for being his strength.

-Frank Kilmartin



**DANNY CAPPA**

Property person Danny Cappa passed away on March 11, 2005. He is survived by his wife Sally Cappa, father Tony Cappa, brothers Jerry Cappa and Dr. Steven Cappa, son Robert Cappa, and stepdaughters Gigi Robles and Nemia Robles Cuaresma. He was a wonderful man who will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

"Danny loved music, good food, travel; and he especially loved working in the motion picture industry. He left us much too soon, but he always lived life to fullest." - Peter Angles, coworker and friend

# 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 though the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

**Tues. February 22nd, 2005 – Special "Budget" Meeting**

Armando "Grande" Gonzales is sworn in as the new Propmaker Representative replacing Mike Van Dyke.

**Motion:** To respond to IA President Short's letter on Casting Directors requesting more time to formulate answers.

**Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** Whether the Executive Board meetings should be miked.

Arguments were made that the Boardroom was near capacity of occupation with the number of guest allowed. There were times when the Board needed privileged dialogue and the belief that the mikes could be left on.

**Motion:** That procedure for member attendance be left as is, without miking the meetings.

**On a split vote motion passed.**

**Discussion:** On how the three members were chosen now that there were more interested visitors than spaces available. Present method was the first three requests in writing delivered to the Secretary-Treasurer. The Board wished to allow as much access to new attendees as would be fair.

**Motion:** Three members are allowed to any regular meeting; members attending one meeting would not be eligible for the following meeting unless there is an opening. All attendees must submit (in writing) a request before noon the Wednesday before the next meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer will pull the names at random.

**Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** How are representatives and delegates to be paid when attending conventions or other union events?

**Discussion:** Extensive discussion took place regarding the AMPTP-IATSE "Quarterly" meeting in Palm Springs.

**Motion:** At conventions and out-of-town events representatives or delegates shall be paid on the following formula: salaried crafts shall receive 1/5<sup>th</sup> their weekly rate per day including on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day; hourly crafts shall receive their craft's highest hourly rate on a ten-hour day (eleven straight hours), and their 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> days shall be 1 1/2 days paid on a ten-hour day. Idle days and travel

days will be considered work days.

**Motion passed.**

**Motion:** To authorize the expenditure of the cost of sending President Thomas to Palm Springs. To provide a vehicle for the representatives (including possibly two Assistant B.A.s) for a one-day trip.

**On a split vote motion passed with two abstentions.**

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Secretary-Treasurer Jennings presented the Board with a proposed annual budget for 2005 with the highest discretionary areas left open for approval and discussion as requested in an earlier meeting.

The budget was to attempt to run the office expense on dues income and the benefits area on initiation fees. The dues income was based on last year's membership numbers and initiations were based on 150 new members, slightly less than the last 3 years average.

Three major areas of loss or controllable variance were identified; lost collection of per capita tax (an area already fixed in an earlier E-Board decision to bring current over three years); the salaries of the Local and; the benefits and events the Local supplied the members.

The operating costs of the proposed budget were \$100,000 over income based solely on dues (down from \$500,000 in 2004).

**Discussion:** Over whether the outside audit would provide insight into salary areas that

could or should be made. Would we draw the \$100,000 shortfall from the social services/event portion of the budget while awaiting the recommendations of the auditors. Should office staff be reduced or effected now or after the audit conclusions.

**Motion: To accept the operational portion of the budget as discussed.**

**Motion passed.**

The E-Board was given a spreadsheet for the social services/events portion of the budget, with 2004 figures and empty spaces for 2005.

It was pointed out that the salary of both the Retiree Coordinator and the Disability Director were categorized in the Benefits portion as both these positions were to perform benefits for the members not necessary operating of the Local.

It was suggested to self insure (on life insurance) our high-risk members (Retirees). Regular members could be covered by an insurance company, and Retirees out of a set-aside account of the Local's.

It was noted that we currently covered Suspended members with life insurance and that costs about \$9,000 extra a year.

**Motion: To alter the insurance coverage, removing Suspended members, effective end of March 2005.**

**Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** Whether to suspend the Retirees Medicare co-pay and move the money over to increase the life insurance policy. The Board did not want to cut a benefit that all Retirees used.

**Discussion:** Follow-up on self-insuring. The Local averages less than 1% deaths in its population yearly (40 a year over 10 years). If \$200,000 were put in a fund and money was left over it could carryover yearly increasing the benefit paid. It was decided not to attempt self-insurance until we were making some positive income, possibly next year.

**Discussion:** Savings (rainy day funds). Proposal to put away money in "new" areas; savings, litigation; strike funds. Board suggested creating a contingency fund for expenses or events not budgeted for.

**Discussion:** The Picnic. Was a picnic a viable option this year? It was pointed out that the picnic had been eliminated in 2001 under a general membership quorum. Under the tight finances, it was decided to suspend the picnic for one year.

**Discussion:** Trimming back some Retiree functions. It was decided to have only one trip to Vegas or Reno instead of two. Golf games would be cut back from 2 a month to one, and the Day at the Races would be eliminated.

**Motion: To accept the funding for the social services as directed leaving about \$45,000 as a contingency fund for unexpected emergencies.**

**Wed. March 9th, 2005 – Regular Meeting**

**Reading into the Minutes:** Charges were read

into the minutes from one member against two other members for alleged misconduct.

**Presentation:** An update of the Local's financials were presented and discussed. It was noted that for the first time in 5 years our investment brokers were able to move \$200,000 into investments.

**Discussion:** The rewriting of the Constitution and Bylaws were presented from Committee that had researched the work under the prior administration. Was it necessary to create a "new" committee? It was determined to take the material as presented and review the work. Of particular concern was the section on Elections, as the prior work had been complete before the last Local 44 elections were held.

The current CBLs are often in conflict with higher documents (i.e. the International CBLs and new governmental legislation). The proposed CBL should be reviewed before being sent to the International and then the membership for approval.

**Motion: To have the entire Board meet Sat. April 23, 2005 to begin work on approving the new Constitution for Local 44.**

**Motion passed.**

**Presentation:** Business Agent Report.

A letter was read concerning Local 44's attempt to have Coordinators, Special Effects and Propmakers take a scaffold erection course at Safety Passport. The letter stated that after July 31<sup>st</sup> to resubmit the request.

The Business Agent updated the Board on a number of grievances.

Two of the seven non-union shops highlighted in the Newsreel had approached Local 44 for discussion on organizing; one, Set Masters, appeared close to signing.

**Discussion:** Over the policy of Local 44 allowing or endorsing mailings to go out to the membership on Local 44 letterhead and envelopes. It was pointed out that the Local brought in thousands of dollars by allowing mailings and that at no time did the companies that sent out the mailings have access to the members addresses (it was sent out by the Local's mailing house).

It also appeared as though one mailing's letterhead and envelopes had been created outside the Local as there were errors in spelling and content in both.

**Motion: That all outside entities (who pay for Local 44's mailing list) use their own letterhead and envelopes.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: That all outside entities who want an endorsement of a standing officer of this Local must get prior approval of the Board.**

**Motion passed.**

**Presentation:** Secretary-Treasurer's Report.

To date \$55,000 had been recovered from Suspended and Dropped members.

When the Sportsman's Lodge was secured for the General Membership meeting, the park-

ing was not part of the package. The Board had to decide to pay a flat rate or per car fee.

**Motion: To pay \$2,000 for parking for members to the General Membership meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Motion passed.**

It was pointed out even with the additional parking cost, Local 44 would save \$3,000 over previous years.

**Discussion:** Some Retirees had received notes from the Local claiming their Medicare benefit was suspended this year.

It was discovered that one of the Local's employees at the request of one of its officers had sent the notes out in anticipation of the benefit being removed. When the benefit wasn't taken away, efforts were made to contact those who received the notice. The remainder of the discussion revolved upon how memos and notices were to go through channels in the future.

**Presentation:** On how the SDSA event, which honored Marvin Marsh went and how Local 44's representation was positively viewed.

**Presentation:** The response to the notice in the Newsreel for the forming of a committee to investigate entry onto Studio lots had been dismal. The idea of a committee was being shelved at this time.

**Discussion:** Final preparation for the General Membership meeting. There was to be an LED readout of the membership attendance so it would be known if we reached 547 to make a quorum. There would be a generic agenda for the members for the first time and a budget handout. Shop Stewards would man all the tables and doors so that Local 44 would not have to pay for additional office staff. The exception would be Anthony Pawluc who was the main coordinator with the Lodge personnel.

**Motion: That the Executive Board receive a list showing the term of each signator shop's contract at the next E-Board meeting.**

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

**Discussion:** Whether Local 44 should create a Hollywood West Coast booth at the National Convention with the other IA Locals in the area. When it was mentioned that seldom is the booth a money generator the idea was retracted.

**Discussion:** Methods of fundraising to help alleviate some of the Local's financial strain. Calendars and candy sales were proposed.

**Discussion:** On creating a "members only" section of the website. This was proposed as an information area to place things like contracts, not for a "chat" area.

**Motion: To invite the Local's attorney to the Constitution meeting on Saturday April 23 after 11am.**

**On a split vote, motion passed.**

**Discussion:** On how to best work the Member vs. Members trial at the March 23 meeting. It was noted that all parties had responded and

that they were under the belief they would begin trial at 7pm.

**Motion:** *At the March 23<sup>rd</sup> E-Board meeting, the trial would begin at 7:00 PM and we would suspend normal agenda items; review of minutes and all reports, and concentrate only on deferred and new business.*

**Motion passed.**

**Motion:** *That Local 44 match the \$1,000 already donated to the Flammer children's scholarship fund.*

**Motion passed.**

### **Wed. March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005– Regular Meeting**

**Presentation:** The Trustees presented a request from the independent auditors. They were nearing completion of their investigation, but were calling for an additional \$6,600 to have a computer diagnostic on the Local. Arguments were made that this was too costly. Counter-arguments were that starting with a clean slate was worth the extra cost.

**Motion:** *To hire an outside computer consulting firm at the request of the independent auditors, not to exceed \$6,600 dollars to examine the business and callboard systems.*

**Motion passed.**

**Presentation:** The Secretary-Treasurer read a letter from the International President accepting the new Retiree categories to the Bylaws effective March 22, 2005. The new categories would apply 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2005 (April 1, 2005).

**Presentation:** The Secretary-Treasurer presented the Board with the new Callboard procedures (approved by the Local's attorney). The procedures deal with rotating members who fail to respond to work calls more quickly to the bottom. Methods for handling emergency calls. The ability to protest after-hours calls. Filling calls with rostered individuals who have days but are not yet members.

**Discussion:** Confusion over "Honorary Lifetime Memberships" and not paying dues. It was determined that only 9 members currently have lifetime memberships, but that the criteria for membership was not well established.

**Motion:** *That the Secretary-Treasurer comes up with criteria for honorary memberships.*

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

**Discussion:** Whether there should be credit cards for certain Local 44 officers to eliminate all the reimbursement and petty cash receipts that are turned in each week.

**Motion:** *That the Secretary-Treasurer, President and, Vice-President come up with an office policy for credit cards and petty cash and present their finding at the next E-Board meeting.*

**Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** To recognize the efforts of Dave Roesch who represents this Local on the Industry Safety Committee each month.

**Motion:** *To pay Mr. Roesch \$50 per meeting retroactive to January 2005.*

**Motion passed.**

**Presentation:** Production Designer Jim Newport requesting tsunami relief for a school he works with in Thailand. Discussion on funding was tabled until the next meeting.

**Discussion:** An incident occurred at the General Membership meeting between the Sergeant-at-Arms and one of the Shop Stewards. The Steward disrespected a request of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Motion:** *That the Business Agent speak to the Shop Steward and report back his position to the Board next week.*

**Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** Lists of concerns were read from the members at the General Membership meeting for future consideration.

**Request:** A member just coming off disability had his house burn down.

**Motion:** *To give \$2,000 in relief to this member with the suggestion that when he is financially able he might donate back to the B&R fund in order to continue to aid fellow members.*

**Motion passed.**

### **Wed. April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – Regular Meeting**

*The Board entered to Executive Session to discuss legal matters.*

**Presentation:** FTAC members presentation and resolution. FTAC presented a DVD of interviews with the legal counsel they had retained and read a resolution to the Executive Board they wished for them to adopt.

Discussion ensued with the pros and cons of adopting the resolution with the FTAC panel answering the concerns of the Executive Board.

**Motion:** *To accept the FTAC resolution as presented.*

**Motion passed.**

**Presentation:** Business Agent Report.

We are in discussions for organizing one of the major prop houses. Members of the Board wanted to know what was the structure of the proposal.

A letter was read regarding the removal of members by Contract Services who hadn't shown activity in the past two years. Local 44 was protesting this move. It was to be discussed at the Palm Springs Quarterly next weekend.

The ongoing situation at Downey Studios was discussed and the talks with Dreamworks.

**Presentation:** Secretary-Treasurer Report.

Members who were working-in-arrears was down to 40 compared to 280 back in October when the aggressive collections began.

The new Callboard procedures were in place during the pilot rush. On several occasions during the 3-week phase, work calls got into "rostered permits".

The Trustees were requesting the additional amount of \$600 for the auditor's computer analysis.

**Motion:** *To approve an additional \$600*

*by the Trustees for the auditors.*

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

The Locals phone system had experienced severe problems and had actually crashed twice. This was due to the age of the system. The Board requested, due to the anticipated expense to receive three quotes before moving forward with replacement.

A letter was read from the West Coast IA, noting only 17% of workers in America have health care premiums fully paid. Local 44 was in the 17%.

A resolution was read regarding the L.A. City Business Tax urging both mayoral candidates to clear up the situation involving Entertainment Industry members.

**Motion:** *To approve the City Business Tax Motion Resolution.*

**Motion passed.**

**Presentation:** The Set Decorators spoke on the ongoing problem with Local 800 and the shopper-buyers.

**Discussion:** To set the upcoming craft meeting dates. The Business Agent wished to set meetings in the evening as opposed to weekends.

**Discussion:** To cut the number of Executive Board meetings down and limit the length of time as they were going late into the night.

**Motion:** *To have one Executive Board meeting a month, not to exceed 10PM.*

**On a split vote, motion was rejected.**

**Motion:** *To contribute \$5,000 to the Heartbeat of Hollywood (Motion Picture Home) strictly for gifts.*

**Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** The request of Production Designer Jim Newport for tsunami relief for his school in Thailand. Arguments were made stating that though the Board was sympathetic to the situation that the B&R fund was intended to help members or situations directly affecting members.

**Motion:** *to donate \$1,000 to the Newport Tsunami Relief.*

**On a split vote, motion was rejected.**

It was suggested that a Newsreel article about the effort be published as an alternative.

**JULY 1, 2005**  
**IS THE NEXT DATE FOR**  
**LOCAL 44 DUES.**  
**DUES ARE PAYABLE ON OR**  
**BEFORE THE FIRST DAY**  
**OF EACH QUARTER.**  
**DUES DATES:**  
**JANUARY 1, APRIL 1,**  
**JULY 1, OCTOBER 1**