

# LOCAL 44 NEWSREEL



VOLUME 17, ISSUE 5

IATSE LOCAL 44

JULY, 2006

ED BROWN  
BUSINESS AGENT

ELLIOT JENNINGS  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

ERIK NELSON  
PRESIDENT

**IMPORTANT:  
YOU COULD  
LOSE YOUR  
UNION  
PROTECTION  
DETAILS  
INSIDE**

## ALTERNATIVE METAL SUPPLY LOCAL 44'S NEWEST SIGNATORY SHOP



*Left to right: Carl Hicks, Asst. Business Agent; Beau Warner, Propmaker; Paul Ahrens, Asst. Business Agent; Shaun Tramondo, Propmaker, Owner of Alternative Metal; Ed Brown, Business Agent, Pete J. Yatron, Propmaker; and Anthony Pawluc, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer, at Alternative Metal Supply*

**FAMILY PICNIC: OCTOBER 15TH, 2006**

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***“Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons.”***  
***-Woody Allen***

## LOCAL 44 SHOP STEWARDS

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818-236-1641  
Arthur Eishtadt  
818-236-0372

Las Vegas, NV

Bobby Zeletes

ISS

Leigh Dennis

SAT

Michael Bottoni  
818-236-6242

Universal Studios

Michael Cappello  
818-215-4303  
Coy Lawson (Property)

Lennie Marvin

Denise Grisco

Sony Studios

Chic Chaldu  
818-236-0581

Paramount Pictures

Tony Chavez  
818-262-9213

Warner Bros.

Dennis Christensen  
818-953-0300  
Steve Lampke (Property)

Santa Clarita

Andrew DeMuri  
818-236-0917

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“Grande” Gonzalez  
818-261-2886  
Jay Hirsch  
Brian Kelner  
Thomas Krausz  
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Anthony Price  
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David Roesch  
Tomas Sallvin  
Randy Severino  
Anthony Syracuse  
Michael Todd  
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818-236-1172

CBS Television City

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818-236-5553

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818-467-1966

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Ron Hall, Ed Langdon, and Milt Wilson

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**The deadline for the next**

**Newsreel is:**

**Monday, August 7, 2006**

**Please be sure your contact information is  
clearly marked.**

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Otto Lungren, Trustee  
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*“Americans will put up with anything provided it doesn't block traffic.”*

*-Dan Rather*

# Business Agent's Report

By Ed Brown

Moving into summer and onto the 2006 season we look forward to another very busy television and feature production year. There is every reason to believe that the work will be plentiful throughout the remainder of the year. As you know, we recently had our craft meetings and I would like to give an overview from those meetings.

It has again been brought to our attention the issue of personal information such as social security numbers on time records being left unattended or unsecured. If you are on a production and are aware that these records are being left in unsecured locations such as boxes or open slots on P.A.'s doors, please make us

aware immediately! We want to document these events so they can be addressed and corrected before any of this information gets into the wrong hands.

At the craft meetings we had great response to the distribution of “Weingarten Rights” cards. For those that are not aware, these are your rights to union representation during any investigative meeting by management that may result in any disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to know and invoke your Weingarten Rights when necessary. It is not required of management to inform you that you have the right to be represented at these investigative meetings, so be informed beforehand. We are in our second printing of the Weingarten cards which are available at the hall or we can provide them to you when we're in the field.

A reminder to all Property Masters and any Property Persons handling weapons. It is time to get or renew your State of California Entertainment Firearms Permit. Information on how to do this is available on our website.

We had a very good response to the “Welding Class” interest list and are still accepting names for those interested. We are targeting a start date sometime in August/September. Please contact us to be included. As well the seminar for “Negotiating Better Terms” had a similar response and we are still accepting names for that seminar, with a target date of September/October.

At the craft meetings I stated that the hall doesn't have any photographs of the membership on the walls, and I believe this needs to be corrected. After all, this is your house! If you



have photographs of members on set or on location that reflects our membership and our work, please get them to us. We will have your photos duplicated and get the originals back to you. We can then have them mounted and placed in the hall for future generations to come.

Starting this past June 20th the hall has an in house Workman's Comp. attorney at your disposal. Her name is Cheryl Wallach from the law firm of Levy, Stern & Ford and Workman's Comp issues are her field of expertise. She will be at the hall every third Tuesday of the month from 2PM-5PM. Please contact us to make an appointment or call in during those times to speak to Cheryl directly.

I have been getting quite a lot of valuable input from members daily and I want to thank those that have sent words of support. There is a great deal of good work that needs to be accomplished and I truly believe that we are on the right road to making that a reality. I want to reaffirm to you, this is your Union and your time and effort are the investment that keeps this motor running. As always, remember to use Union Signatory shops and support the Union lifestyle.

It's about you!  
Fraternally,  
Ed Brown

## Have You Visited Our Website?

We announced it, but have you visited it lately?

Local 44 has totally revamped the look and usability of our website. We have a website master on staff, who is constantly trying to bring new features to this area of communication.

We are trying to make this our new area of information dissemination.

We are investigating paying your financial obligation on line.

We have established member only access. This allows members to view contracts and wages, and to enter the various issues-oriented chat rooms.

We will send payment reminder emails and bulletins to those who are signed-up.

We recently passed a milestone: over 500 members are now signed in.

**Check it out! Participate!**



# Article 9 and Other Positive Events

By Elliot Jennings

Lost in the shuffle of recent events and the perceived chaos of our Union, is the positive progress we are making.

What should be a banner headline is the redrafting of the Constitution and By-Laws; our ruling governing legal document, seriously due for an overhaul, and finally being addressed.

That will be the focus of this article, but first let me point out other significant progresses, much of it done in the last few months.

After over a decade of uncontrolled overspending and waste, we gave our Local a budget to work off last year, since that time and through last month, we have put over \$1,000,000 back into the union coffers.

With controls and oversight, we are now able to start offering programs and benefits back to our members.

We increased our life insurance in May without going over our budget constraints. Active members and those retired after July 15, 1991, will now receive \$6,500; up from \$5,000.

The Picnic is back. There is a greater participation and involvement by all four Locals (44, 80, 728, and 729) in an attempt to provide more and offset the costs. A creative use of sponsorships has been implemented.

We have hired a web master to make the internet a responsive and 21<sup>st</sup> century tool for our members. Payments may soon be available on line, as well as merchandise purchases. We want to make this effective

and resourceful for our members.

The Executive Board voted on creating a strike fund; putting money aside for future needs.

All Retirees have been informed of the benefits this Local provides, and we are investigating long-term health care proposals.

But one amazing event, overshadowed, is the retooling of our Constitution. This is our legal document, and it has not been effectively changed since 1939!

We are now in the process of an overhaul to bring it into compliance with the International Constitution and Federal laws. We have the first Article rewritten; the one covering the Elections.

Anyone in our Union during the elections of 2004, realize how many problems we had. Much of it was due to poor and antiquated rules.

Using that knowledge as a springboard of experience, this Article has gone through Committee, been culled over and approved by the Executive Board, has been delivered and approved by the International, indicating it doesn't interfere with any of their rules, and is now present to you, the members.

You will be receiving your copy of the new Article 9, and the additions or changes to a Section each of Articles 6 and 7, in the mail. Included will be your ballot and a secret envelope. The vote on this Article will be counted by an independent agency.

You must vote to approve or reject the changes in their entirety; you may not approve or disapprove just a portion. Read and vote soon. This is a very important responsibility

of your membership. Your decision affects not only you, but those following you. Remember, it's taken almost 70 years to accomplish this!

If you approve these changes, they will be in place in time for the next elections, hopefully saving time, frustration, and debacles.

Here is what these first changes do:

In Article 6; you have basically a clean-up issue.

Article 6 consolidates language found in different areas of the "old" Constitution into one area. Also, it lists a new category (spelled out in Article 7) as an Officer of the Local.

In Article 7; it allows for the election (by the membership) of Alternative Delegates and Executive Board Reps for each craft.

Often, especially during busy seasons, a working Rep is on a show working a late shift or they are on location, or there is a family emergency, keeping them from attending a meeting. By creating Alternates (which many Locals have), who only get to vote and talk when the regular Rep is absent, it allows the Board or Delegation to be fully staffed.

In Article 9; we have the election changes.

One significant addition is the creation of an independent Election Committee.

The Election Committee will be in place for three-year terms, and will control most of the responsibilities of overseeing elections. This

should eliminate problems like those of the last election, where internal office mistakes caused problems and a Committee was formed to try and straighten things out *after the fact*.

The nominating process is made simpler, but still requires a petition process.

It allows for a Special Election Issue of the Newsreel to allow each candidate one "free" mailing of his or her positions.

It calls for the use of an independent Election Service Provider to count the ballots, overseen by the Election Committee.

It cleans up the run-off election process, the installation of officers, and the legal procedures for election protests.

This has been an arduous task and long-overdue, but one that will benefit you and other members. Please vote to approve these changes, this is not just myself, but the entire Executive Board who is encouraging this.

We hope to present one Article at a time for revision. When the election process is cleaned-up, we will begin on the next update and clarification.

## PHOTOS WANTED

Local 44 is looking for photos to hang in the hall. If you have some interesting pictures of crews or shows you have worked on and would like to share them with your fellow members, please let us know. We will make copies and return them to you.

## LOCAL 44 DIVE CLUB

Some members have expressed an interest in forming a dive club based here at the local. Give Asst. Business Agent Carl Hicks a call at (818) 769-2500 ext. 117 if interested, and we'll see what we can put together.



# THE FAMILY PICNIC IS BACK!

**Local 44 is proud to announce the return of the Local 44, 80, 729 & 728 Picnic at Calamigos Ranch! As in years before, the picnic will feature rides, games, live music, door prizes, plenty of delicious food, a TV room for sports fans, swimming, and all kinds of activities for the kids!**

**Date: Sunday, October 15th, 2006**

**Doors Open at 10:00 AM**

**Where: Calamigos Ranch  
327 S. Latigo Canyon Road, Malibu, CA 90265  
(Six miles from the PCH or Ventura Freeway)**

**Ticket prices: \$12 through Shop Stewards or at the Hall; \$15 the week prior to the event at the Hall; and \$20 at the Picnic gates.**



# President's Message

By Erik Nelson



Having abandoned the local to go on my honeymoon I have been out of the loop on several things that have come up in my absence, and I hope to catch up on them quickly and make comments on our website. But, one important matter is coming up in which I encourage you to participate. The cleaning up of our electoral process. This was to be in the mail to you several months ago, but due to the more controversial issue that grabbed everyone's attention it has been put off to now. And now is when we must act.

Vote for the approval of the changes to the Constitution in the form of the three amendments being presented to you. We need the membership's approval on these changes and you should help out.

It doesn't cost you anything to mark your vote and send it in the proper envelope in a timely fashion. It could cost you again in the inefficient and inaccurate election process that has gone on in the past. Please vote.

## Using the Permit List

We are going to hit permits this Summer season, it is going to happen.

What happens when you get a "turnover"? A turnover is the point when the Call Board has run out of available members to fill a call in time, and the hiring member may call in a permit.

***A call must be "turned over" through the Call Board to be "legal".*** (See the article on Supervisors).

Just because you "heard" another show was hiring permits, is not a way to hire your cousin on your show.

The Call Board keeps a permit list and we encourage supervisors reaching the turnover point to use it. Is this legal? Yes it is.

Under the "Basic Agreement"; Section 68 (Seniority); sub-section (b) (Hiring, Lay-Off and Rehire), it states: "...[work goes to Industry Roster members first, then]; in the event there are insufficient available qualified persons...to meet the employment needs..., Producer [or his hiring agent] *may secure employment from any source.*"

The Local 44 Permit List is "a source"!

This list has the names of individuals who are looking to gain work under our Local's control. It includes people who have 30 or more days and are waiting for Contract Services to place them on the Roster, others who have already obtained 1 to 29 days of

work in 44's jurisdiction, members from other IA Locals who have moved into the LA area, those who have non-union movie experience, or other applicable outside experience, and yes, brothers, cousins and siblings of members.

The list includes the name of the person seeking employment and their phone number, plus; the name of the member who recommended them, any days accumulated working for 44, and any work experience or background that gives them skills for consideration.

The hiring person can scan the list and determine whether to hire someone based on knowing the name of the one who recommended that person, or whether that person's work or background is a factor.

There is one other advantage to using this list. We can screen out potentially poor candidates. Unlike calling and asking the Callboard not to send you a specific *member* you don't like, which is illegal (that's blacklisting unless you file a "no hire" letter with labor relations), a non-member has no such protection.

If you hire a permit and you find them dangerous, incompetent, or unreliable; let the Callboard know. If it happens more than once, or the situation was too egregious, we have the ability to remove that person's name from our list. This is the closest thing

we currently have to insuring that we have a quality crop of new members.

Names are only held on the list for 6 months, unless someone acquires "days", then they remain for a year.

If you use our list (we can fax you a copy, or give you the first ten names and numbers over the phone); it is then your responsibility to call these individuals for work.

If you hire a permit from anywhere, you need to call to inform the Callboard. We will fax you a form to fill out so that it is "legally" recorded on our turnover list.

When laying off personnel, ***a permit must be let go first***, before any member! Also, if you hired a permit and laid them off, you may not rehire them unless you again place a call with the Hall and have a turnover! A permit working once on a show doesn't allow the supervisor to rehire that permit again at will.

We appreciate your efforts in using our resource.

## Before You Go on Location...

Be sure to call Motion Picture at 818 or 310-769-0007 to make sure your hours will be reported correctly.

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# You Could Lose Your Union Protection

*The following is an urgent communication regarding a court ruling that could affect you and your work status!*

These are excerpts of letters from both International President Tom Short and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, regarding the “Kentucky River” Decisions:

**From President Short:**

“...let this letter serve as an urgent notice to each and every local union of this International, that this matter is an inherent danger to this and every labor organization in the nation. The severity of these decisions could potentially impact and cost us tens of thousands of OUR jobs – we could lose our heads of department positions altogether. Whether you are Republican, Democrat or Independent, I cannot emphasize enough how critical this issue is to all of us, regardless of your political affiliation. Every local union must make every possible effort to defeat the three potentially destructive decisions that are due to be made before the end of this summer.

As President Sweeney states, this is a critical fight and we must be engaged in this process. I must urge you in the strongest terms to contact your State and Central Labor bodies to obtain any information you can to assist in the efforts to preserve our existing contractual protections.”

**From President Sweeney:**

“...at stake are collective bargaining rights for thousands of workers...”

The three pending cases will redefine the term “supervisor.” Since workers classified as “supervisors” do not have federal protections. A broad definition will strip thou-

sands...of their existing contract protections...

At issue is whether more experienced and skilled workers who give direction or assign work to co-workers are supervisors...such that they are excluded from the protections of federal law. These decisions have the potential to affect...nurses in health care, skilled journeymen in building and construction, and similarly-situated workers in broadcast...

...We need to mobilize our members, allies, elected officials and community leaders...The Labor Board needs to know that this is an issue that really matters.

...Union members can also become engaged in this fight by contacting their members of Congress and asking them to appeal to the NLRB for oral arguments in the pending cases...

We cannot afford not to act. We cannot watch...the promise of organizing and the benefits of collective bargaining [be taken] from ever growing numbers of American workers.

I urge you to join us in this critical fight.”

## WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Call or write your Congress Member and Senator asking them to appeal to the NLRB for oral arguments in the pending cases.

Stay tuned to our website, [www.local44.com](http://www.local44.com) for updates and action information on this developing situation as it becomes available.

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## The “Kentucky River” Decisions

There are three National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) cases that are referred to as the “Kentucky River” decisions because they will stem from issues left open by the Supreme Court’s *Kentucky River* decision in 2001.

The three cases are:

*Oakwood Healthcare Inc.* (UAW), *Golden Crest Healthcare Center* (USW) and; *Croft Metals, Inc.* (Boilermakers).

The decisions could seriously affect workers’ rights to join or form unions, and their status within unions; as the decisions will affect the way the term “supervisor” is interpreted by the Board.

The above-mentioned cases involve circumstances with nurses in a hospital and a long-term care facility; and “load supervisors” at a manufacturing facility.

A broad interpretation of who a “supervisor” is could allow employers to strip workers of their right to union protection. This could be dramatic with health care workers, construction, and other fields like the entertainment industry, where higher skilled workers direct the work of other skilled employees.

Supervisors don’t have rights under the National Labor Relations Act to have union protection, and employers often try to classify workers as supervisors in order to deny them the right to union representation.

In these decisions, workers who give instructions to lesser-skilled workers as to how or when to do their duties are vulnerable to reclassification. For example, if you are a gang boss or foreman doing construction, a leadman with a crew, a Prop Master, Set Decorator or Coordinator who direct the actions of, or the time of a call for other workers on a crew, you are in real danger of being falsely categorized as management under a new interpretation of the law.

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# PREDESIGNATING A DOCTOR FOR WORKER'S COMP INJURIES

**Take control of your own treatment, predesignate.**

Most of us never think about who is going to treat us if we get hurt on the job. Recent changes in the Worker's Comp laws have made it critical to notify your employer, in writing, of who you want to treat you in the event of a workplace injury.

If you predesignate: You will be allowed to see your personal physician right after you are injured. You may switch doctors later, if necessary. The doctor that you predesignate must have treated you in the past and have your medical record. The doctor must be your Primary Care Physician and must agree to be predesignated. It may also be useful to predesignate the doctor's Medical Group.

If you don't predesignate: Your employer usually will have the right to choose the doctor who treats you for at least the first 30 days after your employer learns about your injury or illness. You can end up with a doctor who works for the employer or the employer's insurance company and may not have your best interest in mind.

The information for this article was taken from: "A Guidebook for Injured Workers" prepared for the CA Commission on Health and Safety and Worker's Comp.

For more information please check out, [http://www.dir.ca.gov/DWC/dwc\\_home\\_page.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DWC/dwc_home_page.htm) we'll have this link on the local's Homepage.

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## UNION-MADE

There is an outcry against patronizing Wal-Mart because unlike the founder of that organization, Sam Walton, who wanted the best-made *American* product at the best price; the new leaders of that chain look for the cheapest product, usually foreign, losing American workers jobs.

For years, even decades, this Local was guilty of a parallel action. We were buying non-union because it was cheaper (cheap being the operative word).

We had foreign-made, non-union shirts and hats, printed by non-union shops. Your Newsreel was printed by a non-union print house, with non-union paper, even the skilled repair of some of the building was from non-union workers.

### **NO MORE!**

Does it sometimes work out on paper to cost a little more? Yes. But as any good union member can attest, the savings is in the quality.

For the first time the shirts you buy are American made and printed at a union shop. The Newsreel is printed at a union print shop. We use union electricians from CBS and 729 painters to do our building repairs.

We are starting a directory of union houses and links (if you discover union facilities for products or services; send us their information). We found a union dry cleaner!

We are going to keep you informed of outside union activities and actions. As Local 44 members you are part of a greater whole; the union movement! You belong to the AFL-CIO, a group of 9 million nationwide.

**UPS is  
Union  
FedEx is  
Not!**

The decent wages and living standards you enjoy were hard fought! Go the extra mile to support that idea. Buy Union-made. Avoid non-union when you can. Get involved in unionism; one day a year donating your time to a union cause can make all the difference.

## PLEASE HELP US OUT

With a new busy season ramping up, please help us out by doing your part.

Call when you start or stop a job: When we get a work call to be filled by the Callboard, we often spend hours calling members listed as out of work, who already have jobs. Conversely, we sometimes can't fill calls only to have a couple members call a day or two after saying they were laid off and they didn't get a call. Your supervisor may call you in, but don't count on it. It's still your responsibility.

Update your information: Many of you don't keep us updated with your changes of address or phone numbers (especially with the practice of switching cell phone providers) and we therefore lose contact with you.

On Will Call?: If you put yourself on Will Call with our Callboard it is your job to remove that classification. Will Call status is for those who need a short duration relief from work calls (going out of town; or longer like being on disability), without losing their position on the call list (you are skipped for work calls with this status). If you don't tell us you are again available for work, we may never call.



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# ALTERNATIVE METAL SUPPLY

## LOCAL 44'S NEWEST SIGNATORY SHOP

Alternative Metal Supply is a newly signatory shop specializing in metals, tools, abrasives, welding, rigging, and safety supplies; as well as fabrication. The 15,000 Sq. Ft. supply and manufacturing house is the brainchild of Shaun Tramondo, a Local 44 Propmaker who spent twelve years in the Warner Brothers metal shop. "Alternative Metal Supply originally started out just supplying raw materials," Tramondo said. "We were trying to facilitate all of the fabricators such as myself that were getting taken advantage of."

Tramondo left his job at Warner Brothers about four months ago to concentrate on Alternative Metal full time. The decision to take the shop signatory was an easy one. "We all know that this is a brotherhood, and if we want to be in this business we have to support it. There's too much runaway production and too much stuff out there that is hindering our work," Tramondo said.

According to Tramondo, one of Alternative Metal's biggest strengths is their knowledge of the industry, "We have very talented workers and we know the business. We know how to work quickly, within a constrained timeline, and we know the level of

quality needed. We also know where we might be able to cut corners to save our clients money. I think because we're part of the family, we know how to service the family, where an outside metal shop may not."

Family is a buzzword for Tramondo, who comes from a long line of metal workers. His grandfather



*Propmaker Pete J. Yatron works on elaborate ceiling pieces for Ocean's 13*

was a machinist and his brother, Beau Warner works with him at Alternative Metal. One of Tramondo's first jobs was building bullet-resistant stainless steel limousines for a California Senator. When he was eighteen, Tramondo became a laborer and then made the transition to Propmaking.

"One day one of my coworkers said, 'I need a metal lumber rack on my truck,'" Tramondo laughs, "And I've been doing metal ever since."

Tramondo also attributes Alternative Metal's appeal to his extended Local 44 family. "Having the relationship I do with all the talented members out there, I can make the calls to get 30 people working in here tomorrow. So I think my relationship with all the fabricators really secures our ability to perform and to accommodate the clients."

Recent projects for Alternative Metal include *Next, Blades of Glory, Kingdom, Ocean's Thirteen*, and *Spiderman 3*. "We built all the staircases for the whole structure unit that was on Stage 27 for *Spiderman 3*," Tramondo explained, "we knocked that out really fast for the coordinator and were really proud of the work we did."

Large or small, Alternative Metal has the tools necessary to get the job done, "We love doing the structural stuff, but we really like to facilitate the Set Decorators and Masters as well," said Tramondo, "we do a lot of small, fancy work that they can't find or that they rented and need duplicated for re-shoots."

"All of our clients feel confident that they're going to get their product done the way they want it and in the timeline they need," Tramondo added, "and that's what's really important."

Alternative Metal is located at 25371 Rye Canyon Rd., Valencia, CA 91355; Phone: 661-257-4900, Fax: 661-257-4901, Web: [www.alternativemetalsupply.com](http://www.alternativemetalsupply.com).



*Left: Shaun Tramondo on a large Shear and Brake.*

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# 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.*

## A Few Thoughts

I could not help in reading a letter in the last Newsreel by an old friend and propmaster,

Give his thoughts on what has been the past and a bit of a peek into the future for his craft.

I have been a member in good standing for over 50 years myself. I have watched us move from a 6 day week to a 5 day week, from no health plan to one of the best, from no industry retirement to a very ample one. Working conditions and benefits that when I started could only have dreamed about having.

Your local leadership through the years can take credit in part for all these good changes, but not all the credit.

**You** are the reason they were able to get concessions for your work. You and your brothers and sisters in all the other IA locals are the best at what you do in the world. You work the long hours and live away from home. You can put more crews out of Hollywood locals than anywhere else in the world. You make the movies happen.

We pick our business agents and leaders from ourselves and expect them to overnight do and be all the things we desire for us.

They all have made mistakes and did dumb things in the past. All of them (some were dumber than the dirt God made them from) and our new leaders will make mistakes too. It is the nature of the job that they have. You can help them stay on tract by keeping their feet to the fire. They are not your enemy. The Producer is, they the producer would have you going back to the six day week and without benefits. IF YOU LET THEM. You

can help your leaders keep this local together by giving a good days work and reporting any violations to them.

Let old Ronnie go down the road, he served us well for a long time. Made his mistakes, but all in all left the Local better than he found it.

Stop all the in-fighting we have had enough of it in the last few years and get to work keeping your local together.

Bob Richards  
Propmaster Retired

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June 15, 2006

Dear Newsreel,

Sister Bergstrom's letter in the last issue hit a personal cord and a visceral response. There are historic, moral and theological reasons for ridding ourselves of a Work-Comp system that is designed to punish the earning trades and reward "the owner of capital."

In her sketch of a long workday with inadequate rest, increasing the probability of injury, most of us knew what she was talking about. My neighbor, trained by Air Force and Navy for fire and safety, showed me the Calif. Code of Industrial Safety, pointing out, by the Barclay numbers, three basic infractions that the "owner of capital" will not answer to in my case.

At a Gen. Membership meeting over 10 years ago an OSHA agent told us then about how they were being de-funded, as are most government agencies that serve We, the people, making it impossible to keep up with the case loads. This while the "owner of capital" is granted increasing personal largess from our common treasure. But "the owner of capital" wants us to feel guilty about imposing on his largess as if it is our fault. Tell me, will "The owner of capital" do

the tough and dirty? I don't think so.

"The owner of capital" may tell me that I am free to work for myself but in looking around it is clear that there is not "enough and as good left in common for others." "God gave the world to men in common... He gave it to the use of the industrious and rational – and labor was to be his title to it – not to the fancy or covetousness of the quarrelsome and contentious. This measure did confine every man's possession to a very moderate proportion, and such as he might appropriate to himself without injury to anybody... Right and convenience went together; for as a man had a right to all he could employ his labor upon, so he had no temptation to labor for more than he could make use of. This left no room for controversy about title, nor for encroachment of the right of others; what portion a man carved for himself was easily seen, and it was useless, as well as dishonest, to carve himself too much or take more than he needed," Bro Locke's Chapter V, On Property, in sum. In the slang of the day, the Perp has become the law; as the singer said, some have done it with a gun, others with a ballpoint pen. Fraternally,  
Tom Ford Rudduck

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Congratulations on making another doofus decision. When the officers of our union can blatantly abuse their position and the union can stand by and pay the guy off says a lot for us. A reluctant member,  
Greg O'Donohue

*Brother Donohue;*

*If you investigated this decision beyond just the surface headline, you might recall the decision to agree to a "settlement" was a 10-5 vote; indicating 5 members agreed with you that*

no matter what financial impact this trial would have had, they were willing to go forward. Brother Raiche, the charging party, abstained, as he felt it was improper for him to vote. Had he voted, I think it is fairly obvious it would have been 10-6. There are 18 voting members (only 16 in attendance that night); the two missing were presumed staunch no votes; so that would have made the vote 10-8. Hardly a mandate to settle is it? And guess what, I can guarantee you that more than a couple Board members, voting to settle, really didn't want to; but voted that way for what they believed was in the best interest of the Local (its finances).

Second, the Board debated for over 3 hours over this decision. It boiled down to basically two camps: justice and trial which would have cost the Local \$2M to \$2.5M dollars (its entire liquid investment accounts); or settle, save the Local its money, remove the distraction of Cunningham's trial, and move forward.

Also, lost in the discussion is that the International said that Local 44 had to pay Cunningham's salary until the trial was concluded. Cunningham said he would take at least 10 weekends (20 days), that wouldn't necessarily mean 10 consecutive weekends. Best case scenario was that this would conclude late September or early October. That means that \$80,000 of the \$120,000 Ronnie got, he would have got anyway. Meaning the settlement amounted to \$40,000 and allowed the Union to do something other than Cunningham all the time for the next 6 months.

Again, before painting the entire Board with your comments, understand you don't know who voted how (unless they told you), and they had to spend hours and days on the decisions, not just have a knee-jerk reaction. It would be nice if angry members would realize how much the Board agonizes over their decisions

for the members, and sometimes your side doesn't come out on top.

Elliot Jennings  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Local 44 IATSE

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Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to start by thanking our Executive Board members that had the foresight and common sense to negotiate a settlement with Mr. Cunningham. It was and is the best thing for OUR local and our legal counsel agreed. It made the best financial sense. I wonder if the membership has any idea of the countless hours our Executive Board members had to endure for the preparation of the trial.

I think the membership is owed a full disclosure of the cost to date for all the extra security, lawyers, overtime, mailings, etc. I am sure it is staggering. The thing is we were just getting started; we would have been in court for years. This would not have been over with just one trial. It would have been the start of countless lawsuits. I think we could have certainly lost EVERYTHING and the lawyers had everything to gain. The settlement was a great way to put an end to the huge manpower burden, financial sinkhole and legal nightmare

All that said, it's time to move on. Thank God it's behind us. Certain members need to put their personal agenda's to rest. Certain members need to stop spending OUR locals money for there own agenda, get over it. As I read the L.A. TIMES 6-11-06, I think of all the shame and embarrassment that has been brought to OUR local. It's time to repair Our image. It's time to work together for the better of OUR local. Its time to get OUR house in order. Its time to get all Hollywood locals united and start talking about the next contract. It's not too soon.

I would like to Thank you

Executive Board members once more for their foresight and good luck to Mr. Ed Brown.

Bob Blackburn  
Construction Coordinator  
Local # 44

If you would like to send a Letter to the Local, please make sure submissions are typed or printed neatly and e-mail [newsreel@local44.org](mailto:newsreel@local44.org), fax: 818-769-1739 ATTN: Newsreel, or mail to Local 44, ATTN: Newsreel, 12021 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, CA 91607. **Submissions may be edited for content and length.**

## RETIREE EVENTS

Retirees, take note of two upcoming events:

After 6 months without, the monthly golf day is being reinstalled. If you are a Retiree (IA or Voting), Pensioner, or Reduced Active member (in-good-standing) you are allowed to participate. You must have submitted your name to the Retiree Department to be eligible.

**The first event will be held at Scholl Canyon Golf Course in Glendale on Thursday, July 13, 2006.**

The start time will be dependant on the number of responses.

A monthly gathering at the Local 44 offices will begin the third Tuesday of each month, beginning:

**July 18th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

It will be held in the meeting room upstairs. This is an informal gathering, for Retirees to come together, meet old friends and discuss issues that are important to them. The Local will supply the coffee, tea, and snacks.

# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We wish to recognize and extend congratulations to all members celebrating a July Milestone as a Local 44 member.

## 50 Plus Years

Cannell, Mel (52 yrs.)	Propmaker	Hansmann, Robert	Propmaker	Sanders, Lawrence	Property
England, Robert (51 yrs.)	Greens	Harne, Mason	Propmaker	Schalk, Steven	Master
Faerber, John (51 yrs.)	Draperer	Hazlett, Kent	Propmaker	Schori, Paul	Propmaker
James, John (51 yrs.)	Effects	Henson, Robert	Propmaker	Sepulveda, Raymond	Property
Lewis, Viola (51 yrs.)	Sewers	Heron, Geoffrey	Propmaker	Shacklett, Robert	Propmaker
Price, Allen (51 yrs.)	Draperer	Hill, Eric	Property	Sheets, Craig	Propmaker
Greenwood, Sydney (51 yrs.)	Master	Holman, Rick	Propmaker	Sliwa, David	Property
		Ide, James	Master	Smith, Julie	Property
		Ingraham, Eric	Propmaker	Storm, David	Property
		Jaynes, Ronald	Propmaker	Tankus, Gary	Propmaker
		Jimenez, Donald	Propmaker	Taylor, Eric	Property
		Jones, Sheldon	Greens	Thackery, Jonathan	Propmaker
		Kilmartin, Frank	Propmaker	Thompson, Susie	Property
		King, Joshua	Propmaker	Thompson, Andrew	Property
		Kiriu, Alan	Propmaker	Trabbie III, Lou	Decorator
		Koenig, Jeanine	Propmaker	Tupta, Robert	Property
		Koenig, Mike	Propmaker	Twiss, Ted	Propmaker
		LaPick, Suzanne	Master	Tyner, Christopher	Propmaker
		Larson, Lance	Master	Waisanen, Tom	Property
		Lawrence, Brett	Propmaker	Walsh, Thomas	Propmaker
		Leal, Arturo	Propmaker	Walton, Dan	Property
		Lopрино, Andrew	Propmaker	Walton, Rod	Propmaker
		Malm, Kelsey	Propmaker	Wormsbecher, Randall	Propmaker
		Martinez, Carlos	Propmaker	Yates, James	Propmaker
		Messina, Kristen	Decorator	Yates, Stephen	Propmaker
		Miyares, Alberto	Propmaker	Young, Ross	Propmaker
		Montoya, Jose	Propmaker	Zelenay, Larry	Propmaker
		Mueller Jr., Paul	Propmaker		
		Naumann, William	Propmaker		
		Newton, Gregory	Propmaker		
		Noble, Merry-Beth	Property		
		Oddone-Remhild, Barbara	Sewers		
		Orabona, Daniel	Propmaker		
		Pamplin, James	Propmaker		
		Paniagua, James	Propmaker		
		Pastorelli, Paul	Property		
		Perriseau, Gary	Propmaker		
		Polanco, Mark	Propmaker		
		Possert Jr., Michael	Propmaker		
		Pullen, Kevin	Master		
		Quilicot, Kenneth	Propmaker		
		Randolph, Prentice	Property		
		Rauch, Paul	Property		
		Reed-Protiva, Sally	Property		
		Reynolds-Wasco, Alexandra	Decorator		
		Richey, Christenna	Propmaker		
		Ritch, David	Propmaker		
		Robertshaw, Darryl	Propmaker		
		Roll, Stephen	Propmaker		
		Roll, Daren	Propmaker		
		Romero, Charles	Propmaker		
		Rousseau, Charles	Property		
		San Nicholas, Ric	Propmaker		

## 50 Year Anniversaries

Mazzola, Leonard Decorator

## 25 Year Anniversaries

Von Badinski, Thomas Effects

## 10 Year Anniversaries

Allen, Dena	Decorator
Alloway, Jon	Propmaker
Amado, James	Property
Axtman, Pete	Propmaker
Ballay, Joshua	Propmaker
Basurto, Charles	Propmaker
Bernstein, Mark	Property
Bilancio, Vincent	Propmaker
Brand, Bret	Propmaker
Cadnum, Jeanette	Propmaker
Cash, William	Propmaker
Chaldu, John	Property
Challman, William	Propmaker
Congelosi, Frank	Propmaker
Corbo, Paul	Propmaker
Craft III, Winburn	Property
Davis, Christopher	Property
Diersing, John	Propmaker
Dumas, Alden	Propmaker
Dunphy Jr., Jerry	Property
Dupont, Daniel	Property
Early, Jim	Propmaker
Egan, Matthew	Propmaker
Eubank, Christian	Propmaker
Fekkes, Marc	Propmaker
Ferris, John	Property
Flores, Rachel	Property
Flores, Robert	Propmaker
Forbes, David	Propmaker
Foster, Joshua	Property
Gambrell, Ray	Propmaker
Glennon, Donna	Master
Gospodnetich, Tim	Propmaker
Grant, Andrew	Master
Haas, Wayne	Property
Handschu, Craig	Property

**Keep an eye out for your anniversary in our next issue!**

**If you have an upcoming anniversary and DO NOT want it printed in the Newsreel, please notify the business office. 818-769-2500 ext. 109**

**IF YOU HAVE CALLED PREVIOUSLY TO REQUEST THAT YOUR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT LISTED, PLEASE CALL AGAIN**

**ANNIVERSARY PINS**

Local 44 has anniversary pins in five year increments starting with 5 years and going up to 55 years. If it has been a while since you have received a pin, please call the hall and we will send you the pin for your most recent anniversary.

# OUR LOCAL 44 FAMILY

## Thinking of you...

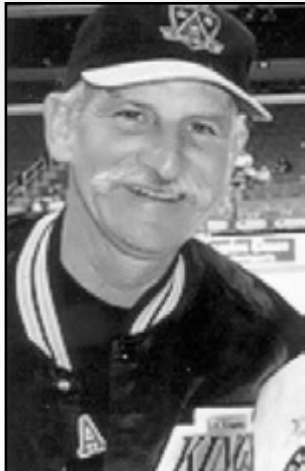
Propmaker Michael Mackey suffered a stroke on December 22 of 2005 that effected his eyesight, rendering him unable to work. He has been a valued Local 44 member for 32 years.

He loved every aspect of his job, especially the friends he made working in the field; and he misses it tremendously. He worked on *Jaws*, *Indiana Jones*, "Murder, She Wrote," and "Quantum Leap," to name a few. He also worked on numerous commercials. The crew on "Ghost Whisperer," the show he was working on before his injury, is very special to him.

He is known among his friends as a passionate team Hockey fan, and to his co-workers as a "notch-off" (a running joke with the crew).

His family would to thank everyone who has called to express their concern and friendship, particularly Mike Varosky and Tom Flowers for all of their support.

Members wishing to get in contact with Michael can reach him on his cell at 818-425-6596.



## Congratulations!



*Paul Pastorelli with wife Jennie Rae Jean and son Aidan James*

Paul Pastorelli is celebrating both his 10 year anniversary and the birth of his son in July.

Baby Aidan James Pastorelli would like to thank all of his uncles: Scott D., Marc M., Carlos B., Jory A., Mike P, James P., Bill B., Don E., Josh W., Ernie, Daryl, Ray Ray, Fish, Antonio, Tom K., Brian, Mathias, James F., Joey D., Mitch K.; not to mention, Aunt Nancy N. and Aunt Libby. Aidan would also like to thank all of the Teamsters at Local 399!

Thank you Ed Brown, Local 44, and everyone else I know for making this possible, making all of my dreams come true! I'm blessed to have the friends that I have and being there for me every step of the way!

## Vegas and Zion Park

by Jacquie Vivanco

On Sunday June 4 through Tuesday June 6, a group of Retirees left by bus for a three day trip. We stopped for the lunch at the Monte Carlo Casino in Vegas before continuing on to Mesquite, Nevada near the Utah border for the night.

On Monday morning we were up bright and early to travel into Zion National Park. Our first stop was an enormous IMAX theater with a screen 60 feet tall and 80 feet wide. There, we were shown a historical and aerial movie about the Park.

Afterward, we entered Zion. This was a very practical trip for our Retirees; Zion has a system of trams which run all day long throughout the valley floor of the Park, stopping every quarter mile or so to allow people to disembark. From each stop there is either a spectacular view, or a trail going deeper into the park; some trails were too difficult to travel, but many were gentle enough for our group to stroll at their leisure.

At the end of the afternoon, we traveled back to Vegas, staying at the Golden Nugget Casino. I don't gamble, and neither do some of our Retirees, but we found plenty to do to occupy our time. In the morning, we returned to Los Angeles.

Of the twenty couples who went, six or seven had never been on a 44 sponsored trip before. They would like to thank the members and the Executive Board for providing them with this annual excursion.



*A rock formation in Zion National Park.*

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## Notes on the Dropped List

Set Decorator Alice Baker was erroneously listed on the Dropped list in the June 2006 issue of the Newsreel. Local 44 sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

We have had reports that certain members listed on the dropped list are deceased. Local 44 only knows that members have passed away if we are notified by Motion Picture or by a family member. If you notice the name of a deceased member on the dropped list, please give us a call at the hall so we can investigate and change our records accordingly.

Supervisors: We have several members with the same name. For example, there could be a member named Joe Smith who is dropped, and another Joe Smith who is in good standing. In the future, we will try to distinguish these members possibly with a middle initial or card number. However, it is imperative that all hiring personnel **call the hall to check standing before hiring new members.**

## Jury Duty Scam

Please pass this on to everyone in you know. Most of us take those summons for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new kind of identity theft scam has surfaced.

In this con, a caller, claiming to be a jury coordinator threateningly says a warrant has been issued for your arrest because you didn't show up for jury duty. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Sometimes they even ask for credit card numbers. Give out any of this information and bingo! Your identity just got stolen.

The scam has been reported so far in 11 states. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud. *More information at [www.local44.com](http://www.local44.com).*

## Update Firearms Permits

Important reminder to all Property Masters and those Property Persons working with Property Masters:

As the new television season begins and new features crew up, please remember to either obtain or renew your State of California Entertainment Firearms Permit. If you obtained your Entertainment Firearms Permit last year, you need to renew it. (The renewal form is the same as the application form.)

More information can be found at [www.local44.com](http://www.local44.com).

## Welding Class

We are looking for members who are interested in taking a welding class to be held this summer. The class is designed for those who want to upgrade their skills and may lead up to an American Welding Society Certification and a Los Angeles City Certification. For more information, or to put your name on the interest list, call Assistant Business Agent Carl Hicks at 818-769-2500 ext. 117.

## You May Have Money in Sacramento

Have you ever checked with the State Controller to see if you have any unclaimed money waiting for you up in Sacramento?

About six months ago, I received a letter from a company who stated that for a 10% finder's fee and of course my social security number, they would recover about \$4,000.00 from Raven Knight INC. I thought, "why does this name seem so familiar?" Then I remembered they had produced a really bad Britney Spears movie that I had coordinated. At first, I thought this was a scam to steal my social security number, but I checked out the company, and they turned out to be legitimate. In the process, I also found out that I could claim the money directly from the State Controller's office without paying a finders fee. So I filed the claim, and now have close to four grand coming from the State. Money or "unclaimed property" can come from several different sources; unclaimed pay, tax refunds, old bank accounts, insurance settlements, refunds, even inheritances.

To claim any "unclaimed property" go to: <http://www.sco.ca.gov/col/ucp>. First, see if you have anything coming. Try different combinations of your first name or first initial and your last name. Don't forget to look under your maiden name as well. I checked a dozen names and got hits on about six.

Once you have determined if you have anything coming, go ahead and file on the secure and free web site. Just for grins, I typed in about a dozen names of people that I have worked with over the years. I got positive hits on half the names. The process can take up to six months but it's worth it, I got four grand back.

Carl Hicks  
Assistant Business Agent.

# Remembrances

**Curtis Alexander**  
Propmaker  
Born: 4/29/1953  
Sworn in: 01/25/1979  
Died: 3/28/2006

**Richard "Driver Dick" Anderson**  
Propmaker  
Born: 9/26/1932  
Sworn in: 07/11/1989  
Retired: 01/01/2002  
Died: 6/03/06

**Kenneth Callihan**  
Property  
Born: 10/13/1946  
Sworn in: 10/08/1971  
Died: 6/6/2006



**Tom James Hawley**  
Propmaker  
Born: 5/16/1912  
Sworn in: 10/06/1954  
Retired: 10/01/1974  
Died: 3/22/2006



**Riley B. Morgan**  
Property Master  
Born: 1/24/1956  
Sworn in: 5/10/1990  
Died: 6/15/2006

Riley Morgan started his film career following in his father's footsteps as a stuntman. Riley realized his gifts would be better utilized as a Prop Master and made the switch working mainly on TV productions. His gentle yet firm spirit and amazing attention to detail endeared him to all who had the privilege to work with him. Whether Riley was at work or thundering up the coast on his Hog, Riley had the ability to make others feel they had a unique and special bond with him. Riley lived his life believing "It's the journey, not the destination." His passing is a tremendous loss to those who knew him. Riley is survived by his sister Laurie Morgan and his 3 feline companions.

# Aaron Spelling

## 4/22/1923 - 6/23/2006



Local 44 wishes to extend condolences to the family of Aaron Spelling who passed away on June 23, 2006.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Spelling employed thousands of Local 44 members, and treated them with respect and professionalism.

Mr. Spelling kept production for most of his shows within Los Angeles and the United States.

Spelling was responsible for hundreds of television shows and TV movies including, "Melrose Place," "Dynasty," "Charlie's Angels," "Beverly Hills 90210," "Love Boat," "Fantasy Island," "Burke's Law," "The Mod Squad," "Starsky and Hutch," "Family," "The Best Little Girl in the World," "T.J. Hooker," "Matt Houston," "Hart to Hart," "Hotel," "7th Heaven," "Charmed," and "Summerland."

We appreciate his faithfulness to our Industry and its workers.

For complete tribute articles, and updated, detailed information on funeral and memorial services, please log on to our website at [www.local44.com](http://www.local44.com) and click on "Local 44," and then "In Memory Of."

# Contract Services to Drop Non-Working Members

Our new Basic Agreement goes into effect on August 1, 2006. Part of the agreement specifies that Contract Services Administration Trust Fund (CSATF) will contact members who are on the Industry Experience Roster but who worked five or fewer days for signatory employers in the past 36 months. CSATF will begin dropping these non-active members from the Industry Experience roster.

If you have been on inactive status for three years or more, and have not worked on a signatory show in that time, you must now work at least five days before August 1, 2006 in order to remain on the Industry Experience Roster. If you, or someone you know, is in this situation, please call the Callboard as soon as possible. It is now getting busy and we should be able to help you find work in order to meet the five-day requirement with Contract Services.

## You Will Be Carded!

In all the time I've worked in this business, no one's ever asked me for my card.

Times are changing. Carry your card with you, you will be asked.

The Local 44 Bylaws under Article 7 (Regulations Governing Employment); Section 3 (Membership Card) states:

"Each member must carry their membership card at all times when working and must exhibit same when challenged by a fellow member of the International. A member who cannot show a card or a *proper receipt* when called upon to do so shall be fined..."

The Local is encouraging the hiring personnel to card new hires as part of their start paperwork.

Business Agents may request to see cards as part of a routine visit.

The excuse that it doesn't fit into your wallet isn't valid anymore as it is now credit card size.

The business office returns cards within days with current stamps. Everyone gets a computer generated receipt when they make payments.

And just in case the language in the Bylaws escaped you; any IA member can ask to see your card, and vice versa. That means, not only can your BAs and Shop Stewards ask to see your card, the member working next to you has the same right, as does the painter, grip, set lighting, camera man or production designer.

## Worker's Comp Attorney

Local 44 is pleased to announce that Workers' Compensation attorney Cheryl Wallach, esq. - of the law firm Levy, Stern & Ford -- will begin office hours at Local 44 on Tuesday June 20, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Cheryl is a certified specialist in Workers' Compensation law and has substantial experience in representing entertainment industry employees in the Workers' Compensation system. Consultations are at no cost to Local 44 members and Cheryl will be here at Local 44 every third Tuesday of the month from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Please contact the hall at 818-769-2500 ext. 122 to make an appointment.

## Supervisors

As Summer approaches and we appear ready to gear up for a busy season, there are a couple of important items where hiring and supervisory personnel to be mindful.

First, please call with your new crew hires. This helps in two ways: It allows us to let you know if your new hires are legally able to work. Believe it or not, there are still members who attempt to gain work, even though they are in arrears several quarters. We eventually catch them. However, if you call when you hire, it prevents us from causing you a loss in your workforce, by pulling a member from the job.

It helps clean up the availability list. By letting us know who and when you hire, we can eliminate names of those listed as out-of-work on the Call Board. Yes, it is the *member's* responsibility to let us know their status, but in reality it doesn't always work that way. It's amazing when the Call Board is attempting to fill a call for a few spots, how many members we call who respond, "Oh, I started working a show last week." Help other members fill their work requests by keeping us up to date.

Second, we may be into permits during the Summer. If you did not place a work call through the Call Board and hired someone because you "heard" the Local was into permits, that permit is an **illegal hire!** That person's day will not count and you or the production company could be fined.

For a "turnover", for a permit to be legal, it must come through the Call Board. You must place a call for hire at least an hour and a half prior to the normal closing time of the Call Board (8PM). This gives the Call Board a legitimate opportunity to fill the call with members looking for work.

Also, at the time of a "turnover", the Local has the ability to provide supervisors with a list of potential workers (see the article on "the Permit List").

We are trying to make this Union work fairly for all members. Those who are supervisors can help us by doing their part. Thank you for your cooperation.



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# 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.

## Wed., May 17th, 2006 – Regular Meeting

Discussion: Setting up the mailing of the Article 9 Constitution revision with a cover letter.

Report: Business Agent  
A representative of "the Plans" had been secured for the Craft Meetings.

The Heartbeat of Hollywood benefit was brought up. 44 participated for the past 15 years. In light of recent events, the Board cut its donation in half.

A dozen grievances had been settled since the beginning of May.

Report: Secretary-Treasurer  
Craft Meeting cards were sent out and the automated phone service was being considered as an additional reminder.

*The Board went into Executive Session for 5 minutes.*

### Affidavit of Charges:

The Secretary-Treasurer read an affidavit from one member charging another about taking bribes stemming from the Cunningham trial.

**Motion: To suspend taking cognizance of the charges and allow legal to clarify the charges based on recent decisions passed down by the International.**

**Motion passed.**

*The Board went into Executive Session for 22 minutes.*

Discussion: Surrounding the wording of the mutually agreed upon press release of Local 44 and Cunningham (a requirement of the settlement agreement)

**Motion: That Local 44's counsel returns to Cunningham's legal team and request 4 proposed changes to the wording in the press release.**

**Motion passed.**

### Nomination for Business Agent:

As Cunningham was officially no longer the Business Agent, it was necessary to nominate the replacement for the remainder of the term.

A letter from Representative Raiche was read into the record regarding his absence from the Board that evening and expressing his views on the nomination for the Business Agent position.

Ed Brown, interim Business Agent was nominated.

Kevin Pike, Special Effects, was nominated.

Craig Raiche, Prop Master Representative was nominated.

**By Secret Ballot Vote: Ed Brown won nomination to Business Agent.**

### Discussion: Assistant Business Agents

B.A. Brown stated that after 2 months working with Carl Hicks and Paul Ahrens that he felt they should remain through the end of the term.

There was talk of continuing with the Stewards. The B.A. indicated that there were going to be extensive training seminars for all Stewards wishing to continue.

**Motion: To increase the Executive Board per diem per meeting.  
On a split vote, motion was rejected.**

## CRAFT MEETINGS

### Wed., May 31st, 2006 – Set Decorators Craft Meeting

**Quorum number – 31**

**Attendance – 41**

**A quorum was established**

### Presentation: The Plans

Tom Zimmerman of the Motion Picture and Health Plans explained the changes in our new contract and how some of those decisions came about.

### Presentation: The Cunningham Settlement

Local 44 counsel Levy explained the details of the settlement agreement of the Cunningham Impeachment Trial. Counsel Levy then fielded questions from the audience.

Discussion: Feature minimum rate for Set Decorators. Some members felt that the basic rate mentioned in the Basic Contract only applied to television and that a feature rate should be created.

Discussion: Minimum hours credited to the Plans. Members indicated that because of the number of hours the Basic Contract allows a Set Decorator to make, that over their career, they are shorted thousands of hours of contributions. There was a decision to ask Set Decorators to log their hours and that of their Leads.

**Motion: To send a letter to all Set Decorators to report actual hours worked by Set Decorators and Leadmen to B.A.**

**Motion passed.**

Report: Negotiation Proposals  
In negotiations two areas were considered: Screen Credits and Car Allowance.

The Producers agreed that with the new contract, they would send a bulletin to signatory companies reminding them of Set Decorator's placement on credits.

If a member using a personal vehicle for a show, they needed to attach a specifically approved Personal Vehicle Release to the deal memo.

### Report: Business Agent

B.A. Brown made an introductory speech. A card bearing member's "Weingarten rights" was available.

A request to have photos of crews and projects worked on. These might be used at the Hall for enlargement and hanging on the walls.

On March 1 when the B.A. initiated his tenure there were 39 unsettled grievances. 19 were settled, 3 more were filed, 2 were settled without arbitration.

A dialogue was opened between Local 44 and Local 800 over Set Decorator and Production Designer jurisdictions.

A "Better Terms and Conditions" seminar was being created.

### Report: Secretary-Treasurer

Since the first budget in 2005, Local 44 had barely \$2M in their investment account; they were now over \$3.3M; over a million dollars saved in 15 months.

We were currently ahead of projections to make the budget income for 2006.

The life insurance coverage had been increased from \$5,000 to \$6,500 as of May 1st.

There is a new webmaster working for Local 44.

The approved Article 9 rewrite will be sent out to members within the next month.

The budget for 2006 was available, with 2005 actual expenses, and 2006 year-to-date.

The Picnic had been approved in this

*Continued on Page 18...*

*Continued from Page 17...*

year's budget and would be held on October 15.

**Sat., June 3rd, 2006 – Propmaker Craft Meeting**

**Quorum number – 231**

**Attendance – 133**

**No quorum was established; no minutes were recorded.**

**Sat., June 3rd, 2006 – Prop Master Craft Meeting**

**Quorum number – 53**

**Attendance – 30**

**No quorum was established; no minutes were recorded.**

**Sat., June 3rd, 2006 – Property Craft Meeting**

**Quorum number – 185**

**Attendance – 93**

**No quorum was established; no minutes were recorded.**

**Sun., June 4th, 2006 – Special Effects Craft Meeting**

**Quorum number – 26**

**Attendance – 28**

**A quorum was established.**

**Report:** Update on Effects member injured

Last year, a Special Effects member had been injured in a car explosion. A report of

how the cause for the accident and the member's improvement were given.

**Report:** Special Effects Supervisor  
At the Basic Negotiations there were initial discussion brought up about this classification. They were tabled to the Palm Springs Quarterlies, but were not addressed.

**Report:** Business Agent  
*The report by the B.A. was similar to that given at the May 31<sup>st</sup> Set Decorator Craft meeting (found above). Where it differs, there is mention below.*

There was an instance where a location had been scouted some suspicious ceiling tiles were noted. Later members started working and a safety officer came in and notice the tiles contained asbestos. Call safety first if anything looks potentially unsafe.

At the Palm Spring Quarterlies two Effects issues were discussed; diving with a buddy or stand-by diver, and diving in polluted water.

The stand-by or buddy issue was to bring our Contract language in compliance with CAL-OSHA standards.

The contaminated diving was to use the U.S. Naval Standards.

The issues were to be presented at the July 19<sup>th</sup> Labor Management meeting.

On August 1, new language will be in effect regarding tools returned from distant locations, giving specific time frames.

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer  
*The report by the Secretary-Treasurer was similar to that given at the May 31<sup>st</sup> Set Decorator Craft meeting (found above). Where it differs, there is mention below.*

The merchandise sold at the Hall is now union-made and union shop created. No more foreign merchandise purchased.

A list of recently deceased members was available.

**Report:** Effects Representative  
Machit read the list of recently deceased members of the Special Effects Craft.

**Discussion:** Whether to allow Prop Shop personnel to attend Special Effects Craft meetings. It was pointed out that by the CBLs you may only attend the craft meeting under which you are rostered at Contract Services. A move was made to allow Prop Shop personnel, as they were possible future Effects members, to attend the meetings but have no voice or vote.

**Discussion:** Contract Services in 1998, had been given an extensive training course proposal, but an ex-B.A. had prevented it. A request was made to produce the old material

for reference.

**Discussion:** Much of the traditional Special Effects Work was being done by other craftsperson within Local 44 or outsourced to non-union shops.

**Discussion:** The fact that members are being asked to show their union cards again. The new B.A.s are making it standard practice.

**Report:** Cunningham Settlement Agreement

*The report by Local 44 counsel was similar to that given at the May 31<sup>st</sup> Set Decorator Craft meeting (found above). Where it differs, there is mention below.*

There was much discussion about the financial settlement with Cunningham's pay. It was pointed out that Cunningham would have, according to the International CBLs, received his pay through the end of trial, which may not have ended until September.

Cunningham had claimed this was an International attempt to get him out of the Union. The DOL investigation had been started by an ex-Assistant Business Agent and had nothing to do with the International.

**Presentation:** The Plans  
*Tom Zimmerman of the Motion Picture and Health Plans explained the changes in our new contract and how some of those decisions came about, similar to that made at the May 31<sup>st</sup> Set Decorators meeting.*

**Sun., June 4th, 2006 – Coordinator Craft Meeting**

**Quorum number – 26**

**Attendance – 20**

**No quorum was established; no minutes were recorded**

**Wed., June 7th, 2006 – Regular Meeting**

**Presentation:** Disadvantaged Youth

A current member of Local 44 had obtained his teaching certification, a non-profit license and was working with troubled youth training them with construction skills. He requested financial aid as a tide over until a Federal Grant was approved.

**Motion: To aid this non-profit group with a transitional funding.**

**Motion passed.**

**Presentation:** 301a

A member of the proponents to file a 301a was present to talk of the progress toward that situation.

It was pointed out that the legal firm which was to spearhead the filing had sent

**OCTOBER 1ST  
IS THE NEXT DATE FOR  
LOCAL 44 DUES. DUES  
ARE PAYABLE ON OR  
BEFORE THE FIRST DAY  
OF EACH QUARTER.**

**If you have not paid second Qtr.  
(Due April 1, 2006). You are late  
and are subject to \$1.80 per day  
fines for every day you are  
working.**

**DUES DATES: JAN. 1,  
APRIL 1, JULY 1, OCT. 1**

terms to Local 44 which were not consistent with those voted on by the Executive Board. This had held up signing a term of engagement letter. Also, the release of initial funds was supposed to be released after a new CEIDR report was completed and that was 3 months late.

The CEIDR report was now held up, as the individual responsible for its creation would only allow its viewing after a press release. The Board argued the point of ownership of the document; its creator or its financiers; Local 44 was a contributor to the financing of the report 9 months earlier.

It was pointed out that an action against Canada might violate an International Article or By-Law.

**Motion: To donate the initial quarterly payment to investigate a 301a filing.**

**Motion passed.**

Discussion: Cunningham  
Craft Meeting comments

This was to determine if comments by ex-B.A. Cunningham at the Propmaker Craft Meeting 4 days prior had violated the terms of the Settlement Agreement he signed.

A statement was read by a member of the Executive Board detailing their observation of how they believed the statements were indeed a clear violation and how the Board should consider arbitration.

*The Board went into Executive Session for 46 minutes*

**Motion: Due to the statements by Cunningham in the Propmaker craft meeting violating his agreement to remove himself from the political arena of this Local, and his statements against 5 Board members and the Executive Board as a whole, that Cunningham should be taken to arbitration.**

**Motion passed, with two abstentions.**

**Motion: To send a transcript to the International of Cunningham's comments.**

**Motion passed.**

Affidavit: Filing of Charges

An affidavit was read by the Secretary-Treasurer from one member charging another about taking bribes stemming from the Cunningham trial. This was an affidavit previously read at the May 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and sent to legal to determine propriety of the charges.

**Motion: To take cognizance of charges.**  
**Motion failed, cognizance was not taken.**

Discussion: Downey Studios

*The Board entered into Executive Session for 19 minutes.*

Report: Trial Committee

The Trial Committee originally created to handle issues surrounding the Cunningham Impeachment Trial gave its final report, complete with its written information and disbanded.

Report: Business Agent  
Report on recently concluded Craft Meetings.

The LA County Fed was looking for a contribution for voter education for the upcoming elections.

**Motion: To issue a donation check to encourage voter education and participation in the next elections.**

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

The B.A. was meeting with Contract Service reps to correct delays in the reporting of days for new members and pursuing an avenue to train Prop Shop members for their Special Effects classification.

Joint steward training was taking place with Locals 80, 728, and 729.

A member had recently undergone open heart surgery, and the family was behind in bills. They made a request for help from the Local.

Discussion: Members were coming to believe that the Local had an unlimited supply of funds for aid, and were coming to the Local for serious needs. But were there guidelines in place? The standard was catastrophic; wiped out in a hurricane, fire destroying a home, requiring extreme and unusual medical needs.

**Motion: To aid member with open heart surgery and no source of income.**

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

Report: Secretary-Treasurer

The Local's budget income numbers were ahead of schedule and the summer looked like it could be extremely busy.

Several mailers were requested for approval.

Ed Brown was being placed on as a LA County Fed Delegate and Cunningham was being removed.

7 members who died were not covered for life insurance as they had not been informed of proper retirement procedures in the past.

**Motion: That the 7 members be allocated money from a set-aside fund for death benefits.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion: To make President Erik Nelson the main contact and conduit for the 301a filing, with copies of all correspondence sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Executive Board having approval of all actions.**

**Motion passed.**

# CRAFT MEETING ATTENDANCE

**Set Decorator Craft Meeting  
Wed., May 31st, 2006  
Quorum number – 31  
Attendance – 41**

**Propmaker Craft Meeting  
Sat., June 3rd, 2006  
Quorum number – 231  
Attendance – 133**

**Prop Master Craft Meeting  
Sat., June 3rd, 2006  
Quorum number – 53  
Attendance – 30**

**Property Craft Meeting  
Sat., June 3rd, 2006  
Quorum number – 185  
Attendance – 93**

**Special Effects Craft Meeting  
Sun., June 4th, 2006  
Quorum number – 26  
Attendance – 28**

**Coordinator Craft Meeting  
Sun., June 4th, 2006  
Quorum number – 26  
Attendance – 20**

*The crafts listed in **bold** achieved a quorum.*



# TOOL CRIB

## FOR SALE:

THE EFFECTS MAN'S WORKBENCH: Jig & Fixture table, new 18" wide X 52" long X 40" height (adjustable) 5 each 1/2" T-slots; Approx. 600 lbs. solid cast iron top (like a milling machine) 4 leveling screws @ feet. Designed to be attached to floor to permit bending, forming, welding frames, etc. \$1000. Call Tim Paul 805-990-1774

SCUBA (breathing air) COMPRESSOR Bauer Mfg., U.S. Navy certified, 34.5 hours on clock. Gasoline powered. Fills one set of twin 90 SCUBA bottles in 50 minutes. Approx. 30" wide X 45" long X 25" height. 220 lbs. clean, fresh and ready for service. \$3000 or best offer. Call Tim Paul: 805-990-1774.

Holex Cable Cutters for sale: 7/16, 3/16 & 3/8; call Dan: 626-831-7584

Segway Human transporter Model i167. Very low mileage, under 5 miles. three years old. Great condition. Street and sidewalk legal. Ideal for on-lot transportation. 12-15 mph top speed. \$3400 OBO. Contact Don @ 818-517-0819.

**\*ROSCOE FOGGERS\*** I have two foggers for sale, including cases. Both foggers have remote operating systems. Fog juice is included. Asking \$300.00 each. Also, eight rolls of "temporary pavement marking tape" (3 yellow, 5 white). The tape is 4" wide and 100 yards long. Normally \$45.00. Sell for \$20.00 each. Call Marty @ 818-789-2009.

Complete Leadman kit and Set Dressing kit, too much to list, please call for details

on sizes, inventory, etc. a five ton worth of stuff. Asking \$3000 OBO. Call Rodger Page 775-727-0751 cell 702-499-6316.

New Detailing Trailer: with pump hose - 3 nozzles generator - only 42 hrs. - 90 gal. water tank. HAS 30 gal. extractor - vacuum and attachments - everything complete, heating element (never used) carpet cleaner, engine cleaner. Custom trailer built by Rightlook. Powder coated. Diamond plated boxes - all locks keyed the same. Super radial tires, locks for trailer, will include all detailing equipment, cleaners, etc. Everything you need to start. \$12,700 OBO. Also have brand new polisher \$375.00 Must sell now. Call Roger Page 775-727-0751 (H), 702-499-6316 (C) Can fax pictures and list, worth well over \$15,000, asking \$12,000 OBO

**\*MILL for Sale\***, Ex-Cell-O 602 Vertical Mill (like Bridgeport), 1.5 HP, 3 Phase, with Kurt Swivel Vise, with Variable Speed Head, with Quickchange, DRO, Automatic Power Feed for X & Z, Blake CO-AX Indicator. \$4,000. Call Tom @ (661)252-0990 or (661)714-0729

Two fully-stocked prop boxes, directors chairs, and a small set box. \$5000 or best offer. Call Mike 310-415-5771 or 661-821-0397.

Mini-Fog fog machines being sold for the first time. These fog machines are up to 10 times cleaner than a DF-50 by actual testing. They also have better hang time. Contact Jim Fox, phone: (323) 462-2272, e-mail: propmaster@filmstew.com

Retired Property Master selling everything. Honda generator, tanks, pumps,

rigs, pressure pots plus lots of misc. equipment and materials. Contact Jim Fox, phone: (323) 462-2272, e-mail: propmaster@filmstew.com

Special Effects ditty bags for sale. Made of 18 oz. cotton canvas, 2-inch webbing strap, 30 pockets total inside and outside. Includes 5 gal bucket ready for insert. "It's the ditty bag you are looking for." Stock on hand. No waiting. \$65.00. (714)812-0007 or dittybag@covad.net.

Almost new E fan with stand. Very low hours, \$3,500 or best offer. Call George: 818-951-0670.

Dewalt 12" Radial Arm Saw. Call Al MacLaury at 805-732-4455.

## TOOL CRIB POLICY:

**Ads will be run for *two consecutive* issues of the Newsreel, after which the ad will be removed unless it is renewed by calling the hall at 818-769-2500 ext. 109.**

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