

IATSE LOCAL 44

November/December 2006



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

1st & 2nd Quarter Audits

By the Trustees of Local 44

The Trustees of Local 44 in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of Local 44 conducted audits at the end of the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2006** In consideration of space the reports are consolidated and combined here.

We the Board of Trustees have audited the Statement of Financial Position of Local 44 as of March 31, 2006 and June 30, 2006 and the related statement of activities, change in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Local 44. The responsibility of the Trustees is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit on a quarterly basis.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted by Local 44. We are required to perform this audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

See "Audit" on page 12

New Set Dec Reps to Finish Off Remaining Term

On October 11, 2006, the Secretary-Treasurer swore in two new Set Decorator Representatives at a Special Executive Board meeting.

Under unusual circumstances, the vacancies occurred when the previous Representatives stepped down from their posts simultaneously on October 4th.

Tim Colohan, an involved Set Decorator and founding member of the SDSA agreed to take one of the positions on an interim basis, so that the Decorators were not without Representation or voice on the Board.

Going to incredible lengths, the Executive Board of Local 44 reached out to the Set Decorator community (via traditional mail, email, and automated phone banking) in order that the Set Decorators could nominate replacement

Representatives (a task typically left to the remaining craft representatives of the vacated spot).

At the October 11th meeting, those nominated addressed the Board about their qualifications and interest in serving the Union. A secret ballot vote was taken and the top votes went to Andrea Joel and Amy Wells.



(L to R) Andrea Joel and Amy Wells, new Set Dec Reps.

Andrea Joel has been a member of Local 44 for 17 years, she has been a Shop Steward, and has 9 Emmys to her credit.

Amy Wells has been a member for 14 years with exten-

sive motion picture and television experience.



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IATSE Local 44 Newsreel
Volume 17, Issue 8

Ed Brown, Business Agent
Elliot Jennings, Secretary-Treasurer
Erik Nelson, President



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Andrea Joel
Set Decorator Representative

Amy Wells
Set Decorator Representative

John Samson
Coordinator Representative
e-mail:
samsenic@mindspring.com

Andrew Moore
Coordinator Representative

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

Trustees:

Bob Carlyle, Trustee
Otto Lungren, Trustee
Jeannie Gunn, Trustee

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



Local 44 Shop Stewards

CBS Studio Center
Tibor "Ted" Barti
Arthur Eishtadt
818-236-0372

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

Sony Studios
Chic Chaldu
Vince Lozano

Paramount Pictures
Tony Chavez
818-262-9213

Warner Bros.
Dennis Christensen
818-953-0300
Steve Lampke (Property)

Field Stewards
Andrew DeMuri
818-236-0917
"Grande" Gonzalez
818-261-2886
Jay Hirsch
Brian Kelner
Thomas Krausz
Marc Meisels
Joe Recchia

David Roesch
Tomas Sallvin
Randy Severino
Anthony Syracuse
Michael Todd
George Zamora

Alpha Medical
Alex Hernandez

CBS Television City
Andrea Joel

Disney Studios
Kenneth Knight
818-467-1966

Fox Studios
Bryce Vardanian
818-510-0737

ISS
Leigh Dennis

SAT
Michael Bottoni

Lennie Marvin
Denise Grisco

Local 44 Contact & Information

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Assistant Secretary-Treasurer:

Anthony Pawluc, ext. 107

Roving Assistant Business Agents:

Ron Hall, Ed Langdon, and Milt Wilson

NEWSREEL SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the next

Newsreel is:

December 30, 2006

Please be sure your contact information is clearly marked.

**E-mail: newsreel@local44.org,
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Business Agent's Report

By Ed Brown



As we near the end of the year, we take the time to reflect on 2006. For me personally, it has been a time of great change and expectations. Included, was a more than full agenda, with some disappointments and many sleepless nights. So much to do, so many goals to aim for. With that came as well, many victories and new directions. Change, you bet. Local 44 has had a turbulent year no doubt, but has come through with what looks to be a united alliance towards the future. We all have much to be proud of.

Fall Craft Meetings

We have recently completed our Fall Craft meetings where many current, new and some old items were on the agenda.

For Coordinators, we will be looking into the ongoing tool rental issues.

Propmakers: continued offerings of welding certifications.

Special Effects: review of qualifications and training as well as the proper show staffing of Special Effects personnel.

Property: revisit guidelines for on-set dressers, electrical wiring concerns, the proper staffing of Greenspersons, Drapery Persons and Flooring persons as stated in our Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Property Masters: ongoing weapons training and liabilities.

Set Decorators: discussing possible solutions to the high rate of unemployment.

And for many crafts the possible effects of the Kentucky Rivers ruling by the National Labor Relations Board.

Family Picnic 2006

In October we celebrated the return of

the joint local Family Picnic at Calamigos Ranch in Malibu. Even with the threat of rain, this very popular event was well attended and a great time was had by all. The massive amounts of food, beverages, rides, games and attractions was topped off with great entertainment by "Forced Call" and ended with a raffle of wonderful prizes. I want to thank our Executive Board for their hard budgeting work to accommodate the return of this great day, as well all of the local's staff and our shop stewards for their hard work before and during the day of the picnic. For those of you that have never been to the Family Picnic for whatever reason, keep an eye out for next year's event. Do yourself a favor, come out and spend a great day with your extended family.

Support our Crafts

Remember to support our brothers and sisters of all Local 44 crafts. So many of our smaller crafts depend on proper staffing. If you are in the position to staff a job, do the right thing and bring in the right crafts person. If you are being pressured to ignore this and do the job with someone other than the proper crafts person let us know so we can get involved and help. Remember it's someone's livelihood and next time it could be you.

Be Prepared!

I don't mean to nag, but the fact is it's better to be prepared. After 29 years of prepping shows, I'm a big fan of just that, being prepared! It is now just short of twelve months before the Writers Guild West contract expires. What does that mean? Here's a possibility. (Not a fact, just a possibility) November 2007, the Writer's contract expires; maybe they keep working without an agreement. July 2008 hits. Oh no, what's that just over the horizon? It's those actors again. Remember those ticked off writers working without a contract? They're now packing up their keyboards and walking out with the actors. Where will that leave the rest of us? No one can predict with certainty any of this, or if it will even take place. However, it is always better to look towards the future and be prepared. It's nothing to laugh about.

Bits and Pieces

Before going on location, make sure to get all of your paperwork completed and documents agreed on before you hit the

road. All of your wage, travel, housing, and rental issues need to be solid before you go. Too many times we have seen members get to locations and, out of nowhere, something comes up that wasn't agreed on. You shouldn't have to deal with surprises when you are away from home, it's hard enough being away from family and friends. But if you do find yourself in this situation, give us a call; we will do whatever we can to make things right.

Violations of the Contract or conditions; if you are party to or a witness of, these types of violations, hit them while they're hot. Report this stuff as it happens, not two weeks later, it makes it much harder to correct.

Retirees

If you haven't come by the hall on the third Tuesday of the month, you've missed "Coffee Talk". Come on down, it's great fun.

This past November we had the annual "Turkey Shoot" at Vista Valencia Golf Course. A favorite and well attended event for our golfing retirees. In December, we will have our Holiday luncheon at The Sportsmen's Lodge. We have been expanding our "Retiree Outreach Program" and have plans to work with the Motion Picture and Television Fund to provide their programs to Local 44's entire retiree community. The MPTF has many programs specifically tailored to the needs of retirees such as their "Elder Connection" programs and others. We will provide further information as this program progresses.

As stated earlier it has been quite a year. We have emerged a stronger union and are looking forward to an even stronger 2007. During this Holiday season remember those less fortunate, count your blessings, and give with your heart. Spend time with your loved ones, seek out a charity, call an old friend and tell a child they are loved. You will be better for it.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous Holiday Season. Remember, it's about you.

Fraternally,
Ed Brown

All Sorts Of Stuff

By Elliot Jennings



This article is a bit of a smorgasbord of information. If you attended November's Craft Meetings then some of this will be a rehash, but not all, so read on.

This is something of a two-year progress report.

For over a decade going back to the mid-1990s this union went through uncontrolled spending like a drunken sailor with a three-day pass. Fat on initiation fees from over 2,000 new members in a two-year period (mainly the result of the Universal fire rebuild), this Local found itself at its financial zenith. We had over \$8M in our investment accounts. Our investments made another \$2.5M in that same period, possibly one of the richest backlot Locals at the time.

Yet, at the beginning of this administration we barely had over \$2M left in our investments, and we were about two years from mortgaging the building, according to our financial advisors. We created a budget, put the skids on the waste, and I am excited to report that we have the first two years of back-to-back positive income in our Local since 1997. Additionally, this is the first time since 1999 that our investment value has topped \$3M. Our Local's finances are on their way back!

This wasn't without some sacrifice. Last year, we had to take a hard-line on spending, and the Picnic was given a hiatus. This year it was back! It was a well-attended event, and we were able to offset some of the cost to the Local by aggressively going after sponsors. We appreciate it if you will patronize those who were sponsors, so as to insure their future participation.

We raised the life insurance policy on active members and retired after 1991 from \$5000 to \$6500 without significantly increasing the premium costs. We are already shopping the policy for next year, when our policy expires. We're actively looking for independent, long-term healthcare coverage.

Because of our fiscal responsibility, we were able to create two new accounts for the Local:

1. *A Strike Fund.* We created a strike fund and placed some of the annual budget into it. It is only a seed of the monies we need for a serious fund, but it's a start.

2. *An ancillary Death Benefit Fund.* It was discovered that many of our older Retirees were not covered under our insurance policy. No one had retired then out properly from the Union. We started a fund to provide these older members with coverage separate from our policy and created an interest-bearing account to cover them.

All the products now sold at the Hall are Union and/or American made, from the business and rate cards, to the pins and sweatshirts (a change from the past). The anniversary pins were redesigned and now have a different color for each five-year increment. We have ladies-cut tee shirts and some specialty mural sweatshirts with new designs, including hoods and zipper fronts.

The Trustees completed all three-quarter reviews showing that the accounting practices of the Local are starting to fall in line with professional standards, and that their recommendations are being complied with.

The second independent audit was just completed, done by an auditing firm not associated with any of the Local's officers.

As of November the Local now has, on staff, a full-time CPA. This will allow the Local to save money we previously spent outsourcing our legal filings.

The number of members reinstating from "dropped" status is down. In 2004-2005 nearly 900 members reinstated, this year it's less than 175. We have better cooperation with productions calling in to check member status before hiring, and quarterly (as in this issue), we publish a list of dropped members to help those who hire.

Our website has received an overhaul. If you haven't visited it since the spring of this year, check it out. There are messaging boards available to all members. We are trying to make this the main source of communication, possibly reducing our Newsreel issues in the future to once a quarter.

If you haven't already, give us your email address. If there is important information to get to our members rapidly, or reminders to get to members, it is

much quicker through use of the internet, than traditional "snail mail"; and it will save the Local money we could more effectively use elsewhere.

We have a "memorial wall" in the entrance of the Hall entitled "Local 44 Remembers". It lists our brothers and sisters, who have passed away in the previous 12 months. Their information is placed in 8 x 10 frames with each member's information. We include photos when we have them.

In the future, we would like to re-establish a sense of community with our members. This is not business as usual down here. We have an annual Picnic in which to gather together in a relaxed, non-working environment, but we would like more opportunities. We had a fishing trip that was open to all members back in September, and that may become a semi-annual event. We have had suggestions from members ranging from a concert in the park, to a monthly barbeque, to a Local 44 sponsored bowling league. Let us know your ideas. We would like to foster a fellowship among our brothers and sisters, not just a workplace environment. And if we can squeeze it in the budget, we will.

Personal Note

On a personal note I would like to thank those of you who responded to the passing of my father on October 15th. I got the news while serving at the Picnic. I appreciate those of you who sent my mother cards and flowers, though many of you didn't even know her.

My father was a man who pulled himself out of poverty, served in WWII, and put himself through college. He was on the forefront of aerospace engineering, having key roles in the Mercury and Apollo programs, as well as the development of some of the systems still in use by our military.

But beyond my father's accomplishments, I remember the lessons he taught me. The two that stick out most in my mind are: No man is better or less than you are, simply because of what he has, or what he *can't* do as well as you, and; work as hard as you have the will to do, and someone will notice, not everyone, but enough to reward your efforts.

I hope that each of you has a blessed holiday season, and may each of us have a prosperous 2007.

President's Message

By Erik Nelson



Happy Holidays!

So many things have been happening lately that I wrote this column too late to get into last month's Newsreel. Bear with me, please. September's District 2 convention in Las Vegas was reason to drive Lynn through the desert she had never seen to the glittering city where we spent a couple of nights. As was mentioned on the website the Convention is partially designed to encourage political action by Locals. The leaders of the Labor Federations of both Nevada and California each had important admonitions for us to remind our congresspersons to lambaste the NLRB regarding the Kentucky River issues. The result is mixed but still to be determined how it would affect our membership.

Reports have come out lately about TV work being good in LA, but the Features are way down. They are still going to other countries, Canada being foremost amongst the culprits. President Short told the attendees that some of our Hollywood members don't like our Canadian members. So, I will reiterate that, although he feels that some of us don't like having Canadians in our Union, it is my opinion that he is looking at the problem of our jobs being outsourced to Canada in an unfair manner. Whereas he wants California to adopt subsidies to pay to the corporations to counter the subsidies in Canada and elsewhere in the world, it is my contention that we must do away with the subsidies that are illegal as far as our international Trade agreements are concerned, thereby

making the subsidies in California not necessary. Lately many labor unions, SAG, the Laborers, the Plasterers, IBEW, as well as IATSE locals have seen the light that the 301a petition is the way to help settle this matter. They have given dollars, big dollars to help with the legal expenses to that end. We, in local 44, have been in the forefront of that quest, and you should be proud of doing so.

We were underrepresented at the Convention – too few delegates to be on all the committees that were discussing issues to report to the forum – but those seven of us who did attend were active in seven of the fourteen committees. There also were five Workshops that helped us understand some of the issues. One of the most important was the Labor Law Workshop that underlined the power that a Shop Steward can have and that all of us should take advantage of them when there is a problem in the workplace. Ed is making sure that our Stewards have the training and back-up they need to do the job properly.

Did you know that there used to be an IATSE float in the Rose Parade? Well, that was another issue talked about at the convention; that we should have another one for the good PR it would bring. Who would put that one together? Who would design it?

I note that the Constitution Committee is sending the first eight Articles to the Executive Board soon for its approval and shortly after out to all of you if approved. The changes that I have seen are mostly of a nature to make the Constitution more understandable and readable, and at the same time bring it in line with Federal rules and regulations. Duties will be spelled out so that questions of who is responsible for what will be easily determined. Looks darned good.

The Set Decorator representatives who resigned recently have been replaced with two who have not served on the

board before now. They are obviously competent and caring. They have large shoes to fill as their predecessors worked long and diligently for their Craft. I am sure they will do well, but they, as well as the rest of us on the board, need to hear from you on how to remedy problems.

Wishing you all a prosperous year.

"Why Grow Up When You Can Make Movies?"

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING FAST DON'T MISS OUT!

Scholarship programs are now available for members in good standing, however the deadline is approaching fast, so make sure you don't miss your chance. There are two scholarship programs available. The first is the 37th Annual Scholarship of the Richard F Walsh/Alfred W. Di Tolla/Harold P. Spivak Foundation. Eligibility and applications can be found on their website at www.iatse-intl.org/services/about.html. The deadline for this scholarship is December 31st, 2006. The winners of the scholarship awards will be notified by the foundation in June, 2007, and will be announced in a future issue of "The Official Bulletin".

The second scholarship program is being offered by Union Plus. To get an application or any additional information you may need you can visit their website at www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/up.cmf or you may come by the Hall and pick up an application and information. The deadline for this scholarship is January 31st, 2007. The winners will be sent notification on May 31st, 2007. You will find direct links for both of these programs on our website at www.local44.org. This is a great opportunity for members, there spouses and dependant children to increase there education and have the expenses paid! So please take full advantage and fill out your applications and get them mailed out before time runs out.

MEMBERS DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP

AS OF NOVEMBER 29, 2006 ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR WORK

PLEASE NOTE: Members listed below may have put themselves back into good standing

since the list was printed on 11/27/2006. Please call the hall to double-check the status of listed members.

If your name is listed erroneously, please let us know and we will print a retraction in the next issue.

Commerical Master

McCloskey, Bruce
Smith, Lansing
Spence, Thomas
Wilson, Troy

Commerical Property

Pallrand, Stephen

Coordinator

Carter, Frank
Clayton, Lawrence
Conlin, Kevin
Cota, Jose
MacLachlan, Scott
Padilla, Thomas
Parker, Robert

Floorcovers

Ashton, Shane
Lyles, Gary
Vidovic, Milenko

Greens

Hunt, Kodie
Lozano, Joe A.
Masser, Michael
Phillips, Mari
Villarreal, Melinda
Willis, Robert

Master

Bankson, John
Kas, Christian
Lombardo, Alberto
Newman, Deborah
Reagan Jr., Robert
Schalk, Steven
Weaver, John

Property

Anderson, Robert
Bankins, Robert
Bell, Jeffrey
Blair, Gregory
Bourne, Tristan
Braff, Adam
Brullo-Niles, Carly

Burt, Sarah
Campana, John
Carson, Nils
Chafey, Donald
Chaldu, John
Chambaret, Clovis
Chianese, James
Christensen, Vanessa
Damal, Jeffrey
Denyer, Andrew
Driscoll, Michael
Eddy, James
Fenton, Jeannine
Gall, Mark
Garbutt, Patrick
Gordon, Ray
Hardwick, Theodore
Hartman, Gregg
Hill, Eric
Johnson, Michael
Jones, Kristin
Junod, Dane
Kadenbach, Nadja
Kaltvedt, Otis
Kartiganer, Kym
Keske, Zoryana
Kirst, Alexander
Kruger, Caron
Langdon, Sean
Lawrence, Juliet
Lawson, Craig
Linhars-Carvalho, Daisy
Lugar, Michael
Mack, John
MacMillan, Steven
Mannon, Brent
Maslowski, Paula
Matheny, Susan
Michaels, Chance
Miles, Margaret
Milne, Joshua
Mocsary, David
Monti, Lisa
Mora, Carlos
Moreno, Edson
Murphy, Rick
Overell, Jack
Peters, Troy

Phelps, Judith
Reider, John
Renn, Brian
Roberts, Tamara
Rocco, Gregory
Ross, Mia
Seagraves, Mark
Sepulveda, Raymond
Servaites, Ed
Smith, J.,
Spiliotakos, Athenaia
Sprague, Dan
Stone, Jake
Storm, David
Swenk, Christopher
Tamayo, Edward
Tittle, Bentley
Trowbridge, Patrick
Tullo, Peter
Turner, Bradford
Winter, James
Wittmer, Scott
Woolverton, Ben

Property Sewing

D'Apra, Santa
Rivera, Bertha

Propmaker

Allan, Joseph
Anton, Jeffrey
Armantrout, Ronald
Arrigo, Tony
Bailey, Blake
Balzer, Michael
Barden, Joseph
Bardin, Patrick
Bellantoni, Lawrence
Berman, Roy
Betts, Earl
Boger, Jerry
Bonte', Christopher
Brennan, Gary
Brown, George
Busey, John
Busse, Brett
Campbell, Adam
Carter, Ronald

Chandler, Craig
Cohea Jr., Wayne
Coleman, Donald
Corbo, Paul
Coulter, Ralph
Cousens, Kenny
Cuccinello, Anthony
D'Amico, John
David, Jason
Denizot, Stephan
DeSouza, Fernando
Diersing, Kevin
DiGiuseppe, Enrico
Dutt, Kasey
Eggett, John
Engel, Josh
Enochson, Rodger
Fitch, David
Flartey II, William
Forsythe, Joel
French, Michael
Gardner, Dick
Gordon, Phillip
Gorme, Dennis
Gray, Charles
Grieve, Brian
Gross, Mike
Hallum, Brian
Hansen, John
Harne, James
Harrison, Michael
Hatcher, D. Mark
Helquist, Ryan
Holman, Rick
Huchthausen, Timothy
Hurst, Ralph
Huse, Sandra
Iiams, Chris
Ingraham, Randy
Ivey, Randall
Jackson, Andrew
Jackson, John
Jenkins, Harold
Jenkins, William
Johnson, David
Kasel, Jeffrey
Keske, Walter
Keys, Harvey

King, Roger
Klimasz, Thomas
Koch, Karl
Kolarik, Kevin
Lacoste, Edward
Lambert, Chase
Lawson, Thomas
Leal, Arturo
Linares, George
Litteken, Paul
Loprino, Andrew
Lorden, Craig
MacDonald, James
Mack, Enoch
Marn, Brian
Mattson, Scott
McConnell, Michael
Merrifield, Stephan
Miller, Charles
Miller, Cole
Miyamoto, Dennis
Monioz, Christopher
Moore, Robert
Morgan, Drew
Murinko, Michael
Nipper, Robert
Norrbon, Derek
Nua, Edward
Olvera, David
O'Neill, Kelly
Orey, Chris
Pagano, Frank
Parker, John
Pedretti, Michael
Pery, Wesley
Porter, Jon
Powell, Robert
Prchal, James
Rayside, Duncan
Reelfs, Glen
Reyes, Rosario
Roberts, Michael
Rodriguez, Reyes
Roselli, Vincent
Rothschild, Jason
Saiger, John
Sanchez, Richard
Sanchez, Robert

Sardelich, Alexander
Schorr, Gary
Schouten, Mark
Schwartz, Philip
Severy, Jordan
Shetler, Keith
Simon, Martin
Starn, David
Stempel, Gregg
Stevens, Donald
Stimson, Mark
Stivers, Mark
Stover, David
Theodoroff, Peter
Thomas, Richard
Thornton, Chris
Upthegrove, Dustin
Walser, Karl
West, John
Wicker, Gary
Williams, Jeffrey
Wolf, William
Wright, Kelvin
Yeager, Richard
Young, Todd
Zapien, Leonel
Zeavin, Andrew
Ziegenbein, Tim

Set Decorator

Burhop, Elizabeth
Cota, Laura
Dermer, Brockliss Bonnie
Grace, Cheryl
Kushon, Jeffrey
McGuire, Stewart
Routs, Victoria
Rubinstein, Alexandra

Special Effects

Frink, Jeffrey
Karas, Eric
Landerer, Gregory
Sebok, Andrew

Upholsterer

Di Giulio John

The members posted on the above list may not be aware of their standing with the union or of its consequences. If you are in contact with any of these members, please advise them to contact the Local so that we can get them back into good standing.

NOTE TO HIRING PERSONNEL: It is YOUR responsibility to call the Local and check on the status of any member that you wish to hire PRIOR to hiring them.

Domenick Is Here!



Set dresser/property (sony) Frankie Mazzotta with beautiful new wife & handsome new son Domenick Vincenzo. Born Oct. 5,2006 at 5:17 PM 8 pounds-1 ounce 20in.

Congratulations!

Retiree Spotlight: Marvin March

By Buffy Morton

With 42 years of commitment to the industry, Local 44 veteran Marvin March has been recognized as one of the greatest Set Decorators in Motion Picture history. March's devotion, ambition, hard-work, and creative knack, have collectively contributed to his lifetime of accomplishments.

Easterner Marvin March was born to Jack and Rose March and raised in Stamford, Conn. Upon graduation from Brandeis Univ. and the Yale School of Drama, March went to New York to pursue a career in stage lighting. March had high hopes of becoming a theatrical lighting designer. Unfortunately, at that time, he did not qualify to join New York's, Art Director's union. In 1995 March became a member of New York's IATSE Local 52, as a carpenter. While working in a television commercial studio under Local 52 jurisdiction, March developed an interest in becoming a Set Decorator. In 1966, he answered a call and flew out to Hollywood where he worked as a permit Set Decorator during the pilot season for Columbia Pictures. Working for television producer Bert Lenard, Marvin qualified to be placed on the industry experience roster; enabling him to join Hollywood's Local 44. When asked why he was drawn to set decoration in the Los Angeles area he responded, "I was impressed out here by the love and respect for the business; I wanted to be a part of that."

On February 16, 1966, March became a proud Set Decorator of Local 44. In July of 1966 March went out on a limb and decided to purchase a 30 day roundtrip ticket to Los Angeles with one idea in mind, "I've got 30 days to find a job." Coincidentally, not long after his arrival, March was approached by the "Star Trek" series producer regarding employment. Without hesitation, March accepted his offer; and launched his Hollywood career.

March's Set Decorating ability contributed to sixty-five impressive films. One specific picture that will always remain near and dear to March's heart is "The Sunshine Boys." March claims that with pressure from director Herbert Ross, "The Sunshine Boys" brought out his best work. March expressed, "The film is a good example of how I decorate. It brought me a lot of recognition

and respect." "The Sunshine Boys" was his first of five Set Decorator Oscar nominations. March was also responsible for the Set Decoration of the beloved film "Annie." In this picture, he made use of French furniture styles to give an overt look of elegance and richness; that came with the character of Daddy Warbucks. In the film "Dante's Peak," March invested countless hours in Volcano research. He traveled to Portland, OR. to see first hand how laboratories monitored volcano activity, so that he could replicate it for the picture. In Neil Simon's film "Murder by Death," March was required to develop a theme for each of the mansion bedrooms based



Marvin March, outside the Local 44 Hall

on the personality of each detective. For the Charlie Chan character's bedroom, March accented Mr. Wang's room with a huge Chinese 4-post bed. The older female detective from England suggesting Agatha Christie, had a room embellished with lace. Marvin found great enjoyment and pleasure decorating sets that reflected a particular and interesting character. His Set Decorating expertise was also used in such films as "The Generals Daughter," "Addams Family Values," "Lethal Weapon," "Ghost Busters," "The Turning Point," "Flash Dance," "Crossroads," "How to Make an American Quilt," and the list goes on. In addition to his professional accomplishments, March is a husband and father, sailed from England to NYC. in a 38ft. Cutter, was a founding member and served on the Executive Boards of the Set Decorators Society of America and the Synagogue for the Performing Arts. He also served three consecutive terms

as Governor for the Art Directors branch for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Despite his continued success, March came to the conclusion in February of 1999 that after working on 65 feature films, he was ready for retirement. When asked why, March explains, "It was time to move on." Although March has made the decision not to actively work, his passion for Set Decorating remains strong. He continues to work on both Local 44 and SDSA committees, and in May of 2006, partook in a Motion Picture Academy seminar with decorators Rosemary Brandenburg and Jay Hart. Just last year the SDSA honored March with their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Marvin March's years of experience in and out of the film industry have landed him a lifetime of memories, success, and fulfillment. It's a dream come true.

Dues Deadline JANUARY 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 fourth Qtr. (Due
October 1, 2006). You are late and are
subject to \$1.85 per day in fines for
every day you are working.**

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

ANNUAL NOTICE CONCERNING "BECK" RIGHTS

Per federal mandate, we are printing the following information:

In June, 1988, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Communication Workers of America v. Beck*. That decision for the first time construed Section 8(a)(3) and (b)(2) of the National Labor Relations Act as prohibiting unions from charging objecting non-member employee fees pursuant to union security agreement for representational services unrelated to collective bargaining, contract administration, grievance adjustments or other activities normally and reasonably undertaken to advance the employment related interest of employees. The Beck decision applies only to persons employed in the private sector.

Affiliated Property Craftspersons, Local 44, IATSE, AFL-CIO ("Local 44"), has adopted a written policy to govern its implementation of the Beck decision. A complete version of that policy is available, upon written request, from Local 44's Business Office. If you have any questions about Local 44's implementation of the Beck decision and/or its application to you, please write to: Elliott Jennings, Secretary-Treasurer, Affiliated Property Craftspersons, Local 44, IATSE, 12021 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, CA 91607 (818-769-2500).



Picnic Sponsorship 2006

ShowRig

Ver Sales, Inc.

Warner Bros. Studios Facilities

Matthews Studio Equipment
Chapman/Leonard Studio Equipment, Inc.
First Entertainment Credit Union
Modern Studio Equipment, Inc.
Crowd In A Box, LLC

Van Nuys-Panorama Dental Center
Panel-it "The Kitchen Store"
Musicians' Interguild Credit Union

CBA Partnership Architects/ Warner Constructors, Inc.
K 5600, Inc.
Entertainment Partners
Jason Pimentel, D.C, CCSP
Levy, Stern & Ford
ARRI, Inc.
Rael and Letson Consulting
Geffner & Bush
Motion Picture Television Fund

IATSE Local 767, Motion Picture Studio First Aid Employees
(set up stations)
IATSE Local 800, Art Directors Guild & Scenic, Title and
Graphic Artists
IATSE Local 706, Make-Up Artists & Hair Stylists

Participants:
Contract Services Administration Trust Fund (who set up an I-
9 Booth)





MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

50 Plus Years

November

Alvarez Alex (51 yrs) Property
DeMarco Frank (59 yrs) Effects
DeMarco Alfred (59 yrs) Propmaker
Long Jr. Charles (64 yrs) Property
Lucas Jerry (51 yrs) Property
Peterson Robert (59 yrs) Effects
Smith Donald (59 yrs) Propmaker
Wainess William (51 yrs) Master

December

Roach James (55 yrs) Property

50 Year Anniversaries

There were no 50 year anniversaries in November or December

25 Year Anniversaries

November

Slater James Property

December

There were no 25 year anniversaries in November or December

10 Year Anniversaries

November

Acosta, Tom Greens
Aguilar, Felix Greens
Allinger, Alan Propmaker
Arndt, Jeffrey Greens
Baril, Garnet Propmaker
Barker, David Effects
Beilstein, Karl Propmaker
Berberian, Betty Coordinator
Campbell, Jason Greens
Castagnola, Tony Greens
Castro, Maria Prop Sewing
Centonze, Micheal Propmaker
Cole, Michael Greens
Coronella, David Property
Crowder, P. Property
Curfman, Shannon Property
Davis, George Propmaker
Davis, Larry Propmaker
Dery Jr., Gerard Greens
Dessornes, Marc Propmaker
Essiambre, Kirk Greens
Fagan, John Propmaker
Feldman, Guy Propmaker
Fencil, Mary Property
Foord, Blair Propmaker
Gunther, Timothy Propmaker
Handt, Ryan Propmaker
Harman, Robert Propmaker
Harris, Brenner Property
Hawk, Jason Propmaker
Heffley, George Propmaker
Hurst, Russell Propmaker
Jonsson, Leif Propshop
Judd, Joseph Propmaker
Kelly, Gene Propmaker
Kitchen, Scott Propmaker
Kora, Selma Master
Kudra, Mark Property
LaCosse, Boyd Propmaker
Ladish, Steven Greens
Lamberth, Robert Propmaker
Lapresle, Justin Propmaker
Markovich, John Master
Martin, Patrick Propmaker
Mazzola, John Coordinator
McConnell, Richard Coordinator
McGee, Richard Greens
McSweeney, Kevin Propmaker
Minster, Kenny Property
Misselhorn, Larry Greens
Mitchell, Joel Propmaker
Mitchell, Billy Property
Moreno, Sergio Propmaker
Murphy, Daniel Effects
Nelson, Dan Propmaker
Ogden, John Propmaker
Payne, Logan Propmaker
Peterson, Richard Propmaker

Peterson, Kristin
Pixler, David Propmaker
Plunkett, Noah Greens
Powers, John Propmaker
Pridmore, Charles Greens
Raineri, Robert Propmaker
Ramsey, David Propmaker
Redick II, Alby Propmaker
Reves, Victor Propmaker
Rifkin, Michael Propmaker
Rodriguez, Carlos Propmaker
Rozo, Dave Propmaker
Rudolph, Elizabeth Property
Schafér, Karen Property
Schoer, Steve Property
Schultz, Jerry Propmaker
Schultz III, Andrew Propmaker
Seifert, Branden Propmaker
Serrao, Frank Propmaker
Shaffer, Travis Propmaker
Skoko, Vinko Propmaker
Sullivan, Darrin Property
Tell, Samuel Property
Torres Jr., Arturo Propmaker
Tuason, Dunbar Propmaker
Valdez, Jeffrey Propmaker
Valenzuela, Jerry Propmaker
Ward, Chris Propmaker
Watts, Alexander Propmaker
Webb, Chris Property
Welch, Dean Greens
Wicklas, Michael Propmaker
Williams, Robert Propmaker
Willits, Richard Propmaker

December

Ahern, Brian Propmaker
Atzenhoffer, Matthew Property
Bakman, David Propmaker
Balzer, Michael Propmaker
Bankins, Robert Property
Bardin, Patrick Propmaker
Barton, David Propmaker
Basail, Carlo Greens
Bernal, Michael Propmaker
Bowers, Kevin Propmaker
Brennan, Steve Property
Brodo, Daniel Property
Cancino, Roy Propmaker
Castro, Lee Property
Chambaret, Clovis Property
Clark, Michael Coordinator
Coiteau, Zackery Propmaker
Craven, Thomas Propmaker
D'Anna, John Propmaker
DeLaO, Daria Greens
Dennis, Scott Propmaker
Downes, Cindy Property
Downey, Matthew Propmaker
Feola, Anthony Propmaker
Feola, Brian Propmaker
Flynn, Stephen Master
Foyle, Dan Propmaker
Foyle, Patrick Propmaker
Fuller, Steven Propmaker
Giese, Curtis Propmaker
Gilbert, Michael Propmaker
Gonzalez, James Propmaker
Goyette, David Propmaker
Greeley, Malcolm Propmaker
Greene, Robert Propmaker
Gregath, Greg Propmaker
Gregory, Rodney Greens
Gullickson, Mary Coordinator
Hambleton, Terry Propmaker
Head, Scott Propmaker
Hellie, Eric Propmaker
Holley, Greg Property
Iannolo Jr., Joseph Propmaker
Jackson, Billy Greens
Jacobs, Richard Propmaker
Jones, Christopher Propmaker
Keiderling, Stephen Propmaker
Kelso, John Propmaker
Kersey, Mark Greens
Khachadoorian, Jeffrey Propmaker
Knight, Andrew Propmaker
LaGura, Jennifer Property
Lakoff, Dean Property
Lakoff, Peter Property

Lassek, Carolyn Property
Lombard, Ronnie Master
Machala, Douglas Property
Maes, Byron Property
Maughan, Lynn Propmaker
McEvoy, Brian Propmaker
McGinnis, Shannon Property
McMahon, Brian Propmaker
McManus, Donald Propmaker
Millar, James Property
Milstien, David Property
Misceovich, Jerry Propmaker
Mitchell, Corey Propmaker
Morejon, Fabian Propmaker
Morgan, Terence Property
Mullennix, Timothy Propmaker
Nelson, Jill Property
Ogg, Jeff Property
Parker, Daniel Propmaker
Parks, Justin Propmaker
Passarelli, Douglas Effects
Paynter, Rhonda Property
Perry, Franklin Propmaker
Polan, Walter Propmaker
Posnansky, Tessa Coordinator
Ridino, Christopher Coordinator
Robinson, Richard Propmaker
Roehr, Gregory Propmaker
Rosellini, Marc Coordinator
Rosemond, Donald Master
Ruiz, Johnny Propmaker
Sanchez, Virgil Propmaker
Sanders, Gordon Propmaker
Scott, Steven Propmaker
Sessing, Alex Greens
Shelton, Kai Propmaker
Shock, Richard Propmaker
Shoemaker, Brad Propmaker
Shulem, Ron Property
Silva, Donald Propmaker
Silva, Fernando Propmaker
Simokovic, Kyle Propmaker
Smally, Steven Greens
Snowhook, J. Jordan Propmaker
Sola, Steven Propmaker
Sowards, Andre Property
Staggs, Christine Property
Starks, Shirley Coordinator
Stever, Frank Propmaker
Sullivan, Joseph Propmaker
Thomas, James Propmaker
Torella, Anthony Propmaker
Triant, Michael Property
Trollope, Matthew Propmaker
Uchida, Christopher Propmaker
Vargas, Ramiro Propmaker
Verá, Elpidio Greens
Vinar, Chandler Property
Weder, Andrew Propmaker
Wever, Rick Propmaker
Zari, Peter Propmaker
Zemaitis, Richard Propmaker
Zieska, Walter Propmaker

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. 118

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.

Do You Have A Medic?

By Carl Hicks

Do you have a Medic? All too often we ignore an important part of any crew, the first aid provider we commonly call the Medic. Under CALOSHA the Medic may be required at your work site, here is what the law states: California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1512. Emergency Medical Services. Subchapter 4. Construction Safety Orders Article 3. General 1512. Emergency Medical Services.

(a) Provision of Services. Where more than one employer is involved in a single construction project on a given construction site, each employer is responsible to ensure the availability of emergency medical services for its employees. The employers on the project may agree to ensure employee access to emergency medical services for the combined work force present at the job site. Such an emergency medical service program shall be adequate to service the combined work force present, but only one emergency medical program need be established at such site.

(b) Appropriately Trained Person. Each employer shall ensure the availability of a suitable number of appropriately trained persons to render first aid. Where more than one employer is involved in a single construction project on a given construction site, the employers may form a pool of appropriately trained persons. However, such pool shall be large enough to service the combined work forces of such employers

(c) First-Aid Kit.

(1) Every employer working on or furnishing personnel on a construction project, on line crews and on other short duration or transient jobs shall provide at least one first-aid kit in a weather-proof container. The contents of the first-aid kit shall be inspected regularly to ensure that the expended items are promptly replaced. The contents of the first-aid kit shall be arranged to be quickly found and remain sanitary. First-aid dressings shall be sterile in individually sealed packages for each item. The minimum first-aid supplies shall be determined by an employer-authorized, licensed physician or in accordance with the following Table:

(2) Other supplies and equipment, when provided, shall be in accordance with the documented recommendations of an employer-authorized, licensed physician upon consideration of the extent and type of emergency care to be given based upon the anticipated incidence and nature of injuries and illnesses and availability of transportation to medical care.

(3) Drugs, antiseptics, eye irrigation solutions, inhalants, medicines, or proprietary preparations shall not be included in first-aid kits unless specifically approved, in writing, by an employer-authorized, licensed physician.

(d) Informing Employees of Emergency Procedures. Each employer shall inform all of his employees of the procedure to follow in case of injury or illness.

(e) Provision for Obtaining Emergency Medical Services. Proper equipment for the prompt transportation of the injured or ill person to a physician or hospital where emergency care is provided, or an effective communication system for contacting hospitals or other emergency medical facilities, physicians, ambulance and fire services, shall be provided. The telephone numbers of the following emergency services in the area shall be posted near the job telephone, telephone switchboard, or otherwise made available to the employees <http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/1512.html> (2 of 4) 3/28/2006 12:30:58 PM California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1512. Emergency Medical Services.

where no job site telephone exists:

(1) A physician and at least one alternate if available.

(2) Hospitals.

(3) Ambulance services.

(4) Fire-protection services.

(f) Emergency Washing Facilities.

Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious or corrosive materials, suitable facilities for drenching the body or flushing the eyes with clean water shall be conspicuously and readily accessible.

(g) Emergency Call Systems. A two-

way voice emergency communication system shall be installed, for buildings and structures five or more floors or 48 feet or more above or below ground level, to notify persons designated in the emergency medical services plan. The location and condition of the employee shall be able to be communicated over the system. The use of the construction passenger elevators for medical emergencies shall take precedence over all other use.

Exception: Where jobsite conditions prevent or impair the communication of the required information over the system, an alternative system acceptable to the Division shall be used.

(h) Basket Litter. At least one basket or equally appropriate litter equipped with straps and two blankets, or other similar warm covering, shall be provided for each building or structure five or more floors or 48 feet or more either above or below ground level.

(i) Written Plan. The employer shall have a written plan to provide emergency medical services. The plan shall specify the means of implementing all applicable requirements in this section. When employers form a combined emergency medical services program with appropriately trained persons, one written plan will be considered acceptable to comply with the intent of this subsection.

NOTE: The provisions of Section 1512 are not intended to exclude immediate treatment of minor injuries which do not require the services of a physician.

§1504. Definitions.

Emergency Medical Services.

(A) Appropriately Trained Person. A physician or registered nurse currently licensed in California or a person possessing a current certificate (training within the past three years or as specifically stated on the certificate) from the American National Red Cross or equivalent training that can be likewise verified. Acceptable Red Cross certificates are those from the Standard First-Aid Multimedia, Standard First Aid and Personal Safety, or Advanced First Aid and Emergency Care courses.



We want your Photos !

The local is still in search of photographs that show our members and their work. If you have pictures of sets under construction, being decorated or the finished product, this is what we are looking for. You and your crew in front of your work, pre-production builds and fabricating.

Please send us these photos, we will make copies, if requested and send you back the originals. Photos that show our members and their work will be framed and mounted on the upstairs walls of the meeting room at the hall.

Audit

Continued From Page 1

Our Audit included examining evidence supporting the accounting principles used, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Local 44 as of March 31, 2006 and June 30, 2006.

Areas to address

The following are suggestions for improvements in the current accounting procedures.

1. NSF Checks. There are a handful of outstanding, unrecovered NSF checks older than 6 months. It is the Trustees' recommendation that no NSF checks should remain on the books longer than 6 months.
2. Investments. We recommend that Local 44 create an investment committee or a formal written investment policy.
3. Prepaid Per Capita. By year-end we recommend a ledger to track the prepaid stamps that have gone out and are remaining.
4. In House Accountant. It is important that a qualified in house accountant be hired to be trained and properly take care of the financial statements of the Local. We have maintained that the Treasurer have a plan or a proposal to hire an in-house accountant.

We the Trustees understand the great task ahead for Local 44 in improving the efficiency of the Accounting records. Therefore, we feel that these small improvements will be helpful for Local 44 to become more efficient in their accounting practices. These changes will also help the Trustees perform their quarterly duties.

Note: As of the end of 2006, the Trustees' recommendations have been met.

*** The 3rd quarter had not yet been presented at the printing of this Newsreel.*

Cleaning Up the Industry Roster By Elliot Jennings

In one of my previous articles, I included a section that attempted to explain a letter many members were receiving regarding their removal from the Industry Experience Roster.

Many members believed the Local was generating this letter; we were not. Many members believed we were responsible for this action; we were not. Many members called asking us to fix it; the Local isn't the one who can "fix it", that has to be done through the member's own efforts, though the Local will get involved if you file a protest.

The letter, the action, and the entity to "fix it" are through Contract Services, and that was the main focus of my article, to point members to the proper source and save them time and frustration.

Contract Services is independent of the Local. It is their job to ensure the accuracy of their records and maintain the Producer's Industry Roster (the Industry Roster and Local 44's Member Roster are two different things, and one doesn't necessarily effect the other). Contract Services can only do this by following the rules in the Basic Agreement. The rule for the "clean-up" of the Roster is found in Paragraph 68, sub-paragraph (c):

Removal of Person from Producer's Industry Experience Roster

"(1) (i) A person shall be removed from the Industry Experience Roster if such person has not been employed for at least five (5) days within the crafts and classifications of work of such Roster under this Agreement...within a consecutive two (2) year period. In such event, CSATF will notify, in writing, the Local Union and the involved person at his last known address of the intended removal and specify the date of such removal. Such notice shall be given not less than fifteen (15) business days prior to removal of such person from the Industry Experience Roster."

We know that this is an upsetting process for those of you who got caught up in it, but understand Contract Services is doing the job their asked to do. If they made a mistake in your specific case, and you can show them evidence, they will correct it. If you had extenuating circumstances, they are willing to consider your written protest. Treat them with as much civility as you can.

And look, losing your Industry Roster doesn't mean you've lost your membership in Local 44; it may mean you now need to put in 30 days in a calendar year to re-qualify for Industry Roster Placement.

For those of you who may find yourself needing to take an extended hiatus from the Industry, for whatever reasons, keep track of the dates you last worked. You will need 5 days every 2 years to keep from going through this process.

Ingrid Lohne, Contract Services' Executive Director informed me that this clean-up will occur each year on the anniversary date of the Local's contract (for our Local, August 1). That means that the next period will be from August 1, 2005 through July 31, 2007. Watch your days!



DUES SCHEDULE FOR 2007

It happens every January and this year is no different; your quarterly payments go up. Since these payments are tied to the Basic Agreement and increases in your hourly pay the increases are generally automatic. But each year people ask why the increase.

Your quarterly payment is comprised of two components: Local 44 dues + affiliated per capita taxes.

The dues are easy to figure; they are four times the lowest rate in your craft per quarter, according to the Basic agreement.

The per capita taxes are less formulaic. There are five primary per capita taxes that we are required to pay as a member; the International Alliance in New York, the District 2 of the International Alliance, the California Federation and the Los Angeles County Federation of the AFL-CIO, and the California State Theatrical Federation. You will find all these affiliates on the inside cover of your Local Constitution and By-laws.

Some of these taxes are monthly, some are quarterly, and some are annual; they are computed at a quarterly rate (this year about \$52) and added to your quarterly dues. This is your obligation.

CRAFT	Quarterly Active	Quarterly Inactive	Annually Active	Annually Inactive
Property/Greens	\$ 156	\$ 112	\$ 624	\$ 448
Propmaker/ Special Effects/ Upholsterer/Draper/ Property Sewing Person	\$ 164	\$ 116	\$ 656	\$ 464
Property Master	\$ 179	\$ 124	\$ 716	\$ 496
Coordinator	\$ 193	\$ 128	\$ 772	\$ 512
Set Decorator	\$ 198	\$ 130	\$ 792	\$ 520
Reduced Active **				
Property / Greens	\$ 82		\$ 328	
Propmaker / SFX / Upholsterer / Draper / Prop. Sewing Person	\$ 84		\$ 336	
Prop Master	\$ 88	n/a	\$ 352	n/a
Coordinator	\$ 90		\$ 360	
Set Decorator	\$ 91		\$ 364	
Pensioner * ^	n/a	\$ 67	n/a	\$ 268
Voting Retiree ***	n/a	\$ 40	n/a	\$ 160
Retired ##	n/a	Free	n/a	Free

Dues are calculated on four (4) hours of the regular rate for each craft. Plus per capita to all affiliated organizations.

Remembrances

Wes Long
Class: Property
Born: 12/24/1969
Sworn in: 11/13/1996
Died: 9/10/2006

Anthony Belmonte
Class: Draper
Born: 10/13/1940
Sworn in: 08/21/1967
Died: 10/23/2006

Wayne Crowley
Class: Propmaker
Born: 12/11/1958
Sworn in: 10/02/1996
Died: 09/21/2006

Frank Anderson
Class: Property
Born: 10/03/1947
Sworn in: 03/19/1979
Died: 10/24/2006

Lee Vorhies
Class: Propmaker
Born: 12/29/1958
Sworn in: 04/09/1991
Died: 09/23/2006

Vincil Hart
Class: Propmaker
Born: 07/12/1916
Sworn in: ---
Died: 11/07/2006

Carlos Rodriguez
Class: Propmaker
Born: 06/16/2006
Sworn in: 11/20/1996
Died: 09/26/2006

Frank Pastor
Class: Propmaker
Born: 03/27/1923
Sworn in: 07/24/1978
Died: 11/10/2006

Charles Corlett
Class: Propmaker
Born: 12/26/1922
Sworn in: 04/18/1966
Died: 09/27/2006

Gordon Kirschbaum
Class: Coordinator
Born: 03/24/1920
Sworn in: 09/15/1947
Died: 11/13/2006

Elmer Hui
Class: Propmaker
Born: 11/06/1935
Sworn in: 03/14/1977
Died: 10/1/2006

Gaspar Nisito
Class: Special Effects
Born: 03/10/1922
Sworn in: 12/08/1975
Died: 11/18/2006

Joe Lujan
Class: Propmaker
Born: 06/30/1923
Sworn in: 08/09/1965
Died: 10/02/2006

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

Raymond Marandola
Class: Propmaker
Born: 03/19/1950
Sworn in: 03/19/1950
Died: 10/11/2006



On Monday, November 20th nearly 70 Retirees, members and invited guests participated in Local 44's annual Turkey Shoot golf tournament.

The event was a "shot-gun" start and had prizes for the longest drive on one hole and the closet-to-the-pin on another.

A great time was had by all.

You can find more pics of the Turkey Shoot and other Local 44 events online at www.Local44.com



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., September 6th, 2006 Regular Meeting

Presentation: Mail sorting and postage demonstration

There was a presentation of an internal mail sorting, labeling and stuffing machine that was under consideration in conjunction with the US Postal service required upgrade.

Motion: To accept the report on the mailing stuffer/sorter.

Motion passed.

Motion: To have the Secretary-Treasurer inquire of other customers with similar usage as to their satisfaction and report back at the next meeting.

Motion passed.

Report: Constitution Committee

The Committee had made the corrections to Articles 1-6 as proofed by the Executive Board and the Committee would have Articles 7 and 8 ready for review next meeting.

Report: The President reported on Labor Day events including the new Local 44 banner created for use at events.

Report: Business Agent

The Business Agent accepted an appointment on the Board of Directors of the Motion Picture Industry and Pension Plans, marking the first time in a decade Local 44 had a voice on the Plans.

Twenty Shop Stewards attended seminar training and were given the new advanced handbook for Lot Stewards.

Local 44, to train members on negotiation and conflict management were funding a "Better Terms and Conditions" seminar.

Grievance progresses were reported.

Congressman Howard Berman responded affirmatively to Local 44 request to present oral arguments on labor unions behalf to the NLRB against the Kentucky River Decisions.

A letter was sent to James Brubaker of Universal for their professional and compassionate response to the untimely deaths of two members on one of their productions. Mr. Brubaker thanked the Local.

Several other letters of condolences were read regarding the accidents.

The County Fed was requesting donations to support voter education in the upcoming elections.

Motion: To donate \$5,000 to the County Fed for the purpose of voter education.

Motion passed.

A legal issue arose involving a member and the NLRB.

The Board went into Executive Session for 6 minutes.

Motion: To have the Business Agent delineate the grievances and give a monthly report.

Motion passed.

Report: Secretary-Treasurer

The number of new members had surpassed the number used in the budget of 2006.

Picnic sponsorship had reached \$20,000.

The Hall was receiving a new paint job.

The Secretary-Treasurer was requesting to create a memorial wall over the front display case for members passing away during the previous 12 months.

Two mailers needed approval by outside vendors.

One member was requesting financial assistance.

The Board went into Executive Session for 15 minutes.

Motion: To approve \$3,000 out of the set-aside fund for a death benefit to a member's family.

Motion passed.

Discussion: To create a Benevolent Committee to screen and send to the Board members requesting assistance. This seemed necessary to determine guidelines, as the members' requests could exceed the ability for the Local to continue the benefit.

The Board went into Executive Session for 6 minutes.

Motion: To give assistance to the member requesting funds.

The Board went into Executive Session for 4 minutes.

Motion was withdrawn.

Motion: To give assistance to the member requesting funds in a lesser amount.

By secret ballot vote, the motion failed.

Motion: To not allow additional member request from the B&R Fund until a committee can be formed and guidelines established. Committee to form within 45 days; extreme hardship cases examined on case by case basis.

Motion passed.

Motion: To follow past practice and send out the SDSA mailer at postage only.

Motion passed.

Motion: To approve the second mailer at standard cost.

Motion passed.

Ultra Low Budget letter: Legal counsel provided the rules of the EDD that proved the letter complied with State law and did not jeopardize members. It was suggested to print the letter in the Newsreel.

It was reported that two former officers and one former assistant to an officer fined in trials had not paid their obligations. The Officers were now dropped; the assistant had been sent a final notice.

A letter from International President Tom Short was read explaining to two Executive Board members that he found no impropriety in the Callboard's handling of dispatch, and that he would hear no more on the issue from the two Representatives.

Discussion: Over whether the two Representatives had gone beyond an appropriate level in bringing this to the International after the matter appeared to have been resolved in-house.

Discussion: Craft meetings are set for the first weekend in November with Set Decorators falling on the following Wednesday.

Discussion: Election Committee nominations needed to be presented to the Secretary-Treasurer soon, in order to establish the committee prior to the upcoming

elections.

Wed., September 13, 2006 Special Meeting

International Letter Response

Local 44 President Nelson read a letter from International President Short addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer of Local 44. The letter demanded a response to the request of the Set Decorator Representatives of Local 44 to break away from the Local form their own Charter. The letter of September 7th asked for an answer in 14 days. The letter addressed to International President Short from Local 44's Set Decorator Representatives was read into the record.

The Board went into Executive Session for 3 hours.

Discussion: The Board talked about meeting with the entire Set Decorator Craft to hear their opinions on this move. The Set Decorator Representatives wished to meet with their members prior to meeting with the Board.

Two letters were to be written: one, from the Set Decorator Representatives to President Short withdrawing their request for a charter; the second from the Board to the International requesting extra time and that they felt the problems could be resolved internally. The Board's letter needed to be approved by the end of the week (in two days).

Motion: That Board responds to International President Short's request for an answer by stating that the Set Decorator issues have just been brought before the Board, that the Board intends to investigate the issues at both the Board and Craft levels, and that the Board is requesting extra time to do so. At the same time the two Set Decorator Representatives will submit their own letter with similar language also asking for extra time.

On a split vote, motion passed.

Wed., September 20, 2006 Special Meeting

Response to Representatives Actions

The meeting was called to discuss the actions of the Set Decorator Representatives with regard to their request for session from Local 44 through the International.

Discussion: The Set Decorator Representatives made objections to the letter sent out on behalf of the Board to the International two days previous, and their concerns about their own required response to the International. Much of the talk surrounded the timeline of the two letters and the misunderstanding of their release to the International.

The Board went into Executive Session for 18 minutes.

The Set Decorator Representatives removed themselves from the meeting during Executive Session.

The Board went into Executive Session for 9 minutes.

A letter signed by three rank and file Set Decorator members was read requesting to view all documents sent to the International on behalf of their craft by their Set Decorator Representatives.

Discussion: Talk surrounded the apparent lack of knowledge among the Set Decorator craft for a request of an independent charter. It was noted that this request was not new and that historically this attempt had been done in the past as recently as 2002. This time it appeared most members of the craft did not know of the approach to the International. Did the rank and file members have a right to access these documents prior to an attempt to resolve this issue internally?

The Board went into Executive Session for 9

minutes.

Discussion: To allow access by the three members requesting the viewing of the session documents under similar conditions as viewing Executive Board minutes.

Motion: To table this discussion until dealing with the issue of the release of documents by the Set Decorator Representatives to the International.

Motion passed.

The Board went into Executive Session for 40 minutes.

Motion: That legal counsel writes a letter of censure to Set Decorator Representatives Brenda Meyers-Ballard and Robinson Royce for release of attorney-client privilege documents and that the Board wished to consider their issues in an open discussion geared to resolution of their perceived problems.

Motion passed.

The tabled agenda from the Set Decorator members for viewing session documents was brought back on the docket.

Discussion: That members of any craft deserve the right to have knowledge of actions taken on their behalf by their Representatives, particularly when it involves actions this substantial.

Would opening the viewing of the documents aid by giving the craft awareness of the actions, or just muddy the discussion the Executive Board was attempting to have? This action affected the entire Union. Was it proper to restrict the viewing of the documents to just the craft involved?

It was decided that this viewing could not be restricted to just the three members requesting the information.

Concern arose whether the manner of allowing the viewing would reach members prior to an official notification to the Set Decorator Representatives.

Motion: To post on the website that the Set Decorator Representatives sent documents to President Short. Any member could view these documents by making an appointment. Sensitive discussions would be redacted from the material. The Board was committed to resolving the issues.

Motion passed with one abstention.

Discussion: There are craft meetings in early November; should the Executive Board be present at the Set Decorator meeting to answer questions? Only craft reps and Officers of the whole are allowed without the craft specifically inviting others in. The Set Decorator Reps typically have an agenda and the Board should not invite themselves in.

Motion: That the Board be available and request of the craft of Set Decorators to attend their craft meeting if they desire to ask questions.

Motion passed.

Motion: That the specific Set Decorator members are to be informed of the website posting and invite, and that they be allowed to view the documents.

Motion passed.

Wed., September 27, 2006 Regular Meeting

Report: Trustees

The Trustees reported on their 3rd Quarter audit of Local 44's books. They found no material error in their investigation. They recommended clearing the older non-sufficient fund checks from the books, hiring a full-time CPA and establishing a financial investment committee. They stated that income was up over spending, a change from 3 years prior.

Report: Business Agent

The first "Better Terms and Conditions" seminar was held at the Local with positive responses from those in attendance. A second seminar is scheduled for mid-November.

An attempted organizing of a shop ended in a tie among the individuals. A tie constitutes a loss.

An additional show is attempting to be organized that is shooting a new format. This is future technology.

An HBO movie that went into feature release was being audited.

A settlement was reached in another production where time cards had been altered on members.

The International was asking IA members to attend a fundraiser for Angelides and to join in phone banking.

The B.A., his assistants, and the Secretary-Treasurer visited the Palmdale location of Pirates of the Caribbean III. An amazing demonstration of our members work was on display.

The SDSA marketplace was coming up.

Motion: To continue Local 44's support of the SDSA marketplace with last year's donation of \$2,000.

Motion passed.

A decision was expected to come down soon on the NLRB Kentucky River rulings.

Report: Secretary-Treasurer

The Board was presented with a copy of the annual budget to date.

After nearly a year of exhaustive searching, a CPA had been procured for Local 44, though at a slightly elevated wage from the budgeted numbers. The Board went into Executive Session for 8 minutes.

Motion: To reaffirm the policy with regard to Retiree benefits that only members, their spouses, widows or widowers could access B&R reimbursement programs.

Motion passed.

A request was being made to have each craft submit their recommendations for the Election Committee that was to be in place in December, to allow time to contact the individuals and find out their interest in serving.

The Secretary-Treasurer presented his findings on other customers who were using the mailer/sorter machine demonstrated at the last regular Board meeting. It was recommended to purchase the machine based on the projection that the break-even point was 18 months and the machine would likely be viable for 5 to 7 years.

Motion: To purchase the mailer/sorter machine.

Motion passed with two abstentions.

Picnic sponsorship had reached \$27,000. Raffle prize amount should be approved.

A donation request was being made by a veterans group which included 44 members for a Veterans Day March sponsorship.

Motion: To approve a \$1,000 donation to the San Fernando Veterans Day parade.

Motion passed.

Approval of a mailer by a signatory company was granted.

Discussion: On the B&R Committee and an emergency request.

The Board went into Executive Session for 13 minutes.

A request from a previously denied member was being availed to the Board. It was suggested this went against the previous Board motion. It was noted that only new request were to be put on hold and this was an old

request with new information.

Motion: To donate funds to aid a member in distress.

On a split vote, motion passed.

Discussion: Dates for an election seminar for Executive Board members and Local 44 staff.

Reading: Set Decorator Censure Letter

The Secretary-Treasurer read the letter of censure directed to the two Set Decorator Representatives.

Discussion: A brief history of the Set Decorator previous attempts to resolve their disputes with Local 44 was read into the record. The issue of "working down", though not the issue at hand, was an issue lurking "in the background". A chronology of how this issue, through a trial was mismanaged 5 years prior was read.

A request to have the website posting removed.

The Board went into Executive Session for 36 minutes.

Motion: To call a Special Board meeting October 11, to discuss and begin resolution on the Set Decorator issues.

Motion passed.

Discussion: A follow-up letter needed to be sent to International President Short informing him that the Executive Board of Local 44 was addressing the Set Decorator concerns and that we would keep him updated.

Discussion: Whether stipend checks should be prorated on an Officer's time spent at a meeting.

Wed., October 4, 2006 Regular Meeting

Resignation of Set Decorator Representatives Brenda Meyers-Ballard and Robinson Royce.

At the beginning of the Board meeting, the President read a joint letter of resignation by both Set Decorator Reps.

The Set Decorator Representatives removed themselves from the meeting.

Motion: To accept the Set Decorator Representatives resignations.

Motion passed.

Discussion: It was asked of the Board if anyone present had knowledge of what pre-icated the Set Decorator Representatives action at this time. It was noted that the night before an unofficial meeting of the Set Decorators had taken place and that this may have been a result. It was noted that a guest visitor to the Board meeting was not only a Set Decorator but was believe to have been at that meeting. He was asked if he could share any insight on this turn of events.

About 50 Decorators attended the meeting. It was a forum to allow the Set Decorator Representatives to explain their actions and field questions. After a time the assembled body of Decorators asked their Reps to leave and allow the remaining group to discuss the events. Opinions and discussions were various. There was support for and disgust with the actions of the Set Decorator Reps.

Motion: To cancel the October 11 meeting to discuss Set Dec issues.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Vacancies on the Board are usually deferred to the remaining Representative in that craft for recommendations. With the simultaneous resignation of both Reps, a different approach was needed.

It was suggested that by using regular mail, a website posting and the automated phone call system, that word could be given to the Set Decorator community to submit names for replacement candidates.

This procedure had to be noted it was due to extraordinary circumstances and was not

precedent setting.

Motion: To seat Tim Colohan as temporary Set Decorator Representative to give Set Decorators a voice until full replacement candidates can be considered.

On a split vote, motion passed.

The Secretary-Treasurer swore in Tim Colohan as an interim Set Decorator Representative.

Motion: That the Business Agent and Secretary-Treasurer collect nominations for Set Decorator Representative on a non-precedent setting basis from the Set Decorator community.

Motion passed with one abstention.

Presentation: UBS Financial

A handout from the financial brokers was given to the Board.

It was noted that the allocation percentages had not significantly changed as of the last report. The advisors noted new money was being invested in mutual funds, and so was bond maturity money until the percentages gradually reached their new allocation numbers.

Report: Election Committee

It was again noted that some crafts had not submitted their nominations to the Election Committee.

Report: Constitution Committee

Articles 1 through 8 have been vetted and should be ready for final inspection by the Executive Board in two weeks before being sent to the International for approval.

Report: Business Agent

A \$4,550 grievance was settled with a low budget film on behalf of a member.

A list of settled grievances by category was given.

A signatory company had been suspended for a breach of the Plans.

Report: Secretary-Treasurer

A Picnic update was given.

A letter from International President Short was read into the record. The letter stated that he was granting an extension of time with regard to the Set Decorator issues providing the resolution time was not unreasonable.

The Board went into Executive Session for 6 minutes.

The air conditioning replacement job was reduced from \$40,000 to \$17,000.

The memorial wall with 8x 10 frames will be in place by the Craft meetings.

Report: Kentucky River Decisions

The Board went into Executive Session for 37 minutes.

Discussion: Callboard Policy Review. A handout was given to the Board members of the existing policy. These were to be read and reviewed at the November 1 Executive Board meeting. Legal counsel stated that he had already vetted the policies and they comply with the National Labor Relation Board laws.

Discussion: A proposal of recognizing the past exemplary Officers of the Local by voting on Officer of the Year, and placing their name on a plaque and/or their photo on the wall of the Executive Board room. The Officer suggesting the idea would not be considered for this initial honor. Two sides developed; those who felt, though well-intentioned, it would appear self-serving to the members, and those who felt only the Board itself could appreciate the work any officer performed and that it wasn't unreasonable.

Two present Officers were considered the first possible nominees.

It was believed that some sort of historical

recognition might be warranted, but not necessarily an annual event.

Discussion: Holiday Officer Party. It was noted that the Executive Board had refused any holiday party on its own behalf the previous two years to constrain the budget expenses, but perhaps in light of the success of financial savings, the Board might be able to allow one again. It was noted that this Board had worked under armed guard, had doubled up on its meetings in order to move the union forward, and had sacrificed time with their families to do so.

The Board instructed the Secretary-Treasurer to investigate the affordability of a holiday event for the Board.

Wed., October 11, 2006 Special Meeting Set Decorator Nominations

Nominations: There were 6 nominations originally, but two members withdrew their names. The 4 remaining nominees were present that evening to talk to the Board. They were Mary Gullickson, Andrea Joel, Penelope (Penny) Stames, and Amy Wells.

Presentation: Each potential candidate spoke to the Board, individually about their qualifications, their desire to serve and why, and then answered questions by the Board members present.

The Board went into Executive Session for 30 minutes.

By secret ballot vote the Board elected Andrea Joel and Amy Wells to fill out the remaining Set Decorator Representative terms.

Wed., October 11, 2006 Special Meeting Swearing in of New Set Decorator Representatives

Set Decorator Representatives Andrea Joel and Amy Wells are sworn in by the Secretary-Treasurer to replace Brenda Meyers-Ballard and Robinson Royce for the remainder of the term.

The new Representatives were to be given copies of all pertinent documents that the Board was reviewing including the current status of the Constitution rewrite. They were informed that in a month they would need to hold the gavel at their Craft meeting and that the Board would assist them in any manner to allow them to address the Set Decorator issues.

The Board went into Executive Session for 20 minutes.

Wed., October 25, 2006 Special Meeting Constitution

There was a proof reading of Articles 1 through 6 which had been previously vetted by the Board and small grammatical changes were made. Articles 7 and 8 were then reviewed and vetted which were previously worked on by the Constitution Committee.

It was requested that the rewrite of the Articles be sent to each Board member so that these Articles might be sent on to the International quickly and then to the membership, so as not to press up too close to the upcoming elections.



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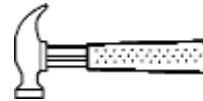
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