

# IATSE LOCAL 44

January 2007



IT'S 2007!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Paying It Forward

By Carl Hicks

A couple weeks ago I had a chance to meet the Kelly's, some great retirees from our industry, Jim 93 years young and Rita his bride of 62 years. They met while Rita was serving in the military as a WAVE, in Norco, California. Rita worked in the office managing various aspects of the Officers Club and Jim worked in transpo, including transporting horses for John Wayne.

They live in a quite neighborhood in West LA. with Rita's 100 year old sister, Elvira, who lives in the original front house...the Kelly house was added on in the back a year ago and adjoins the front house by a hallway so Rita would be close and able to care for Elvira.

So how did I meet these wonderful people?

Well we got a call from the Motion Picture Television Fund as part of their "Rebuilding Together" outreach program to help the Kelly's out. It was high time



(L to R) Dan Henly, Kevin Lord, Frank Clark and Alan Markow

that the Industry gave a little back, so a few of our members along with other people from our Industry went out to the Kelly's house to help them out with some

home repairs.

We had a long list of things to get accomplished and I am proud to say that with the help of Local 44's members we were able to accomplish all the tasks asked of us. Frank Clark, a.k.a. Knobby, Alan Markow, Dan Henly, and Kevin Lord and myself, installed some cabinets, built a wheel chair ramp along with some other odds and ends. At the end of the day we made a retiree's house a little safer and more livable for some deserving folks. If you would like to be part of this wonderful program give me a call. The program needs help from everyone and anyone regardless of your craft or level of experience.

**Thanks again for those who came out to help!**

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IATSE Local 44 Newsreel  
Volume 18, Issue 1  
Ed Brown, Business Agent  
Elliot Jennings, Secretary-Treasurer  
Erik Nelson, President



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**Gary Oseransky**  
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**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

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CBS Studio Center  
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Arthur Eishtadt  
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Coy Lawson (Property)

Sony Studios  
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Vince Lozano

Paramount Pictures  
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Warner Bros.  
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818-953-0300  
Steve Lampke (Property)

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"Grande" Gonzalez  
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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

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Andrea Joel

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Kenneth Knight  
818-467-1966

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Bryce Vardanian  
818-510-0737

ISS  
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SAT  
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Ron Hall, Ed Langdon, and Milt Wilson

### NEWSREEL SUBMISSIONS

**The deadline for the next**

**Newsreel is:**

*January 31, 2007*

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

**E-mail: [newsreel@local44.org](mailto:newsreel@local44.org),  
[pbennett@local44.org](mailto:pbennett@local44.org)**

**Fax: 818-769-1739**

**Mail: Local 44 Attn: Newsreel  
12021 Riverside Drive  
North Hollywood, CA 91607**

**Questions? Call 818-769-2500 X118**

# Business Agent's Report

By Ed Brown



Another twelve pages of the calendar has turned. I am hoping this finds all our brothers and sisters having had a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy new year.

## NBC Universal's Big Picture

Recently NBC Universal unveiled its 25 year development plan, at a cost of 3 Billion dollars. The plan calls for an extensive rebuild to the 391 acre parcel. Included are residential housing, stores and improvements to the hotel, studio tour and Universal Citywalk. All things big and grand, but how will this effect our covered work? Well, this is the part that stands out the most to me. The plan also includes the new construction of "Sound Stages, new production and support facilities, expanded Property department and yes, a MILL. Studio President Ron Meyer stated; "The most urgent need for the studio is more production facilities because it often operates at 95% of capacity" This clearly is a reverse in the trend of downsizing the studios which has been the norm over the last many years. A major investment in the infrastructure can hopefully be seen as a significant move to ensure the vitality of our industry in Hollywood for many years to come. This project still has many hurdles to overcome but the possibilities for the future are hopefully signs of good things to come.

## Assembly Bill 777

In late November I attended a reception at Paramount Studios for the members of the Los Angeles Delegation of the new California State Legislature. This was at the invitation of House Speaker Fabian Nunez and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. The Mayor and Speakers purpose for this event was to bring attention to the financial contribution from

the entertainment industry, to the newly seated California Legislature. Pointing out the core financial impact our industry has on the State of California's economy. Lobbying support for passage of production incentives in California via Assembly Bill AB777 was the primary objective. This event was largely attended by elected officials, but a few invited guests were also in attendance. Our small delegation was led by International President Short and International Vice President Miller. The Speaker and Mayor brought attention to the fact that "Production activity contributes more than \$25 billion annually to our economy". Passage of AB 777 would provide a 12% refundable credit against income or sales tax for productions that schedule at least 75% of their shooting days in California. The Mayor was quoted from the L.A. Times; "We cannot stand idly by while other states enact incentives to lure jobs away from our city". The value of Local 44's inclusion in this event cannot be understated. We have clearly become a viable political entity with a voice in local and state politics. The passage of AB777 is vital to the economic stability of our industry in Hollywood, both immediate and long range. The support of Mayor Villaraigosa and the International are as well paramount milestones on the road to this bill's passage. I am asking our membership for across the board support of these efforts which if successful could result in increased film production in California by putting our state on the same competitive plain as those who seek to become the new Hollywood.

## Set Decorators - Coordinators and Paramount Studios Drapery and Lumber Yard

For those of you that find yourself in Production on the Paramount lot it's going to become more difficult to have on lot drapery work completed, or that last minute lumber available. I am disappointed to report the closure of the Drapery/Flooring Dept. as well as the Lumber yard on the Paramount lot. After many years of service these facilities will be sorely missed. Set Decorators in particular should be reminded that for all your Drapery/Upholstering and Flooring needs you are contractual obligated to utilized only Union shops and Union labor for all fabrications.

## Special Effects

By now you should have received a copy of the letter I sent to the A.M.P.T.P. in December. This document was issued to notify all Affiliate Producers of their obligation for proper Special Effects staffing as stated in our Collective Bargaining Agreement. As well, is the complete intension of this Local to fully enforce that contractual language. We are always concerned that a qualified, trained Special Effects person is staffed and present whenever there are Effects taking place. The issuance of this notification is part of that ongoing effort.

## Motion Picture and Television Fund

Let me again remind all of our members to utilize the Motion Picture and Television Fund Health Centers. There are five centers in and around the L.A. area, where you can obtain first rate health care and referrals to specialists in all areas of medicine. It cannot be stressed enough that if you choose to take advantage of these programs and utilize "In Network" providers; your out of pocket expense will be greatly reduced or eliminated completely. This translates in most cases to "COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE". It should be noted that the MPTF provides in addition to health care, many programs to our Retiree community as well as our active membership. The Fund offers Social and Charitable Services, Elder Connection, The Samuel Goldwyn Children's Center and the MPTF Foundation. The MPTF which has been caring for the entertainment community for over 85 years accepts charitable donations through a processed called "Payroll Pledge", which is an automatic payroll donation. This process still functions and is available to all active members. As well individual donations can be made weekly or yearly, remember these charitable donations are tax deductible. For further information visit their website; [www.mptvfund.org](http://www.mptvfund.org). Supporting The Fund is another way to help in "Taking Care of Our Own".

Again wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year Remember, it's about you.

Fraternally,  
Ed Brown

# The Elections Are Upon Us!

By Elliot Jennings



Can you believe its 2007 already! And along with this new year, is another round of our triennial pastime; the Local elections!

This is a time when the best and the worst come out in a Union. The best, because it is a demonstration of the democratic process and the members' right of choice; the worst because many individuals will create smear campaigns to do anything to gain office, rather than running on their own merit. I hope that candidates for all positions will try and make this a dignified event.

We have many new and improved changes in this year's elections, so I wanted to go over those in brief with you. These changes all came about as a result of you voting to overwhelmingly approve the new Article 9 changes to the Constitution several months ago.

For the first time we have a Constitutional article covering a standing Election Committee that is in place **before** the election begins!

The Committee is composed of one veteran member from the previous Election Committee, and one member from each of the six major crafts. These members may not be a candidate for any elected office in this election. This Committee was put in place the second week of December and has been briefed on the election procedures.

The Committee is independent of any Local 44 Officer and is to remain neutral in their decisions on the elections.

The Committee has its own email address [electioncommittee@local44.org](mailto:electioncommittee@local44.org), which routes directly to the committee members, not to an office staffer. They have their own phone extension (818-769-2500 ext. 800) and only they have the code to pick up messages; and there will be a locked box at the Hall to place correspondence, questions and petitions into, that only Committee members will have access to.

Petitions to be placed on the ballot became available January 2nd as it was stated in the Article 9 amendments that each member received and voted on. Petitions must be returned and placed in

the Committee box at Local 44 no later than noon on January 31st. Candidates must officially notify the Election Committee in writing of their acceptance for the ballot by February 10th.

## **No mail-in ballots will be accepted; do not return your petitions by mail!**

Contact the Business Offices to have them create your petitions. You need to notify them of the position you wish to run for. You may only run for one office with the exception of Delegate or Delegate Alternate; which means you may run for an office and a delegate position. After you pick up your petitions, this is the last time the office staff is allowed to be involved in the process; direct all other questions to the Election Committee.

The offices open are: President, Vice-President, Business Agent, Secretary-Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, 2 Representatives from 4 Crafts (Coordinators, Prop Masters, Set Decorators, and Special Effects), and 3 Representatives from the other two Crafts (Property and Propmaker). There are 3 Trustee positions available and one Delegate for Conventions of the International from each of the 6 Crafts.

This election, there are 12 new positions to run for (as approved in the new Article 9). They are Alternate positions. There is an Alternate for each of the Craft Representative categories, and six Alternate Delegate positions for each of the six Delegate positions.

A member must decide to run directly for an Alternate spot; it is not the next vote-getter or runner-up in the races.

An Alternate Rep may attend Board meetings, but has no vote or voice, unless one of the elected Representatives in his Craft is absent from a meeting. At this point the Alternate steps up to the table and conducts business for the original Rep. He steps down at the end of each meeting and reassumes his Alternate position. Similarly, an Alternate Delegate only serves if the original Delegate is unable to attend an International or District Convention due to some other commitment.

These positions were voted in to ensure that a full Board and a full compliment of Delegates would be available at all times to represent the members.

The Alternates are a great opportunity for a member who may be interested in serving the Local, but is not yet ready to run for the full-time position. It's a chance to get your feet wet.

After the petitions are returned to the locked box at Local 44's offices, it is up to the Election Committee to determine if a candidate is eligible to run, and

whether they have enough legitimate signatures to place them on the ballot. Please do not ask office staff to help you determine this; they are not allowed to answer these questions.

The Election Committee is in charge of finding a Election Service Provider, securing a post office box for return ballots, working with the Balloting Service to create the ballots, cover letters and return envelopes. The Committee also receives all mailing literature from candidates, ensures that the proper mailing lists are sent to the Mailing House, and delivers the mailings to the Mail Service Provider.

The Committee will be in place to determine any objections, challenges or protests that arise throughout the campaign.

In March there will be a special Campaign edition of the Newsreel dedicated just to the candidates. Each candidate may submit a photograph of themselves and a 100 word campaign write-up. Submissions must be received by the Chairperson of the Election Committee no later than close of business (6 p.m.) on Thursday, February 15th.

The primary election ballots will be mailed by March 15th and must be received in the secured post office box selected by the Election Committee no later than March 30, 2007.

The Election Committee shall oversee the counting of the ballots by the Election Service Provider and each candidate may have one previously designated observer to ensure fairness in the counting process.

If no candidate wins the election outright in the primary (they must receive 50% + one vote of all qualified votes cast), then there is a second run-off round for those contested positions. The top vote-getters in each contest are in the run-off. If there is one spot available, the top two candidates run; if there is more than one spot open (e.g. there are 3 Trustee spots and no one gets a majority), then one more candidate than positions open are in the run-off (in this case 4).

Ballots for the run-off are mailed on April 10, 2007, and shall be received at the post office no later than April 30, 2007.

A special Executive Board meeting will be called on June 6, 2007, to install all elected officials whether they won in the primary or the run-off election.

There it is in a nutshell; a rather big nutshell. See you on the campaign trail.

***Good luck to all.***



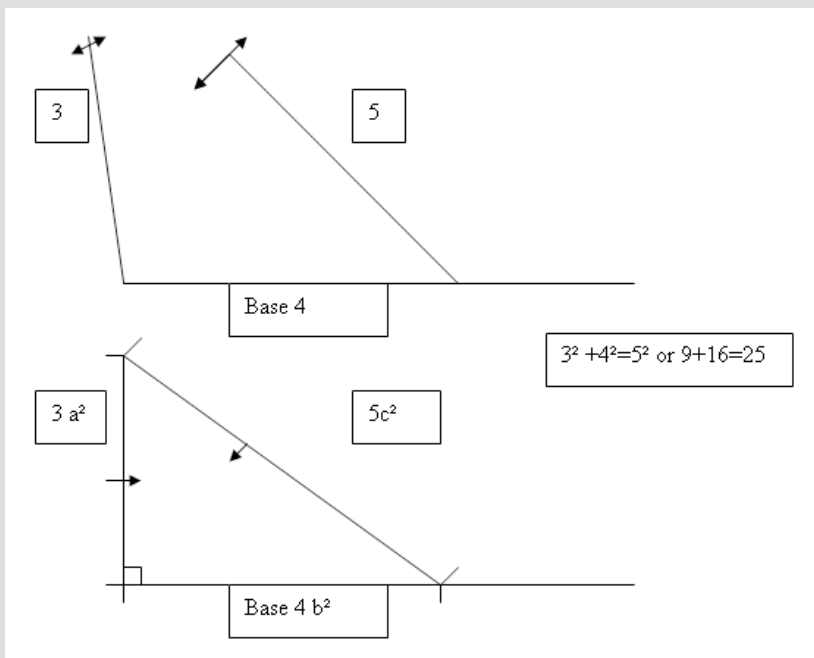
**Laying out a large right angle**  
**or**  
**“why I should have paid attention in Geometry Class.”**

The ancient Egyptians knew of the Pythagorean Theorem, way back before Pythagoras, because knotted ropes have been found which could be used to make a 3-4-5 right triangle. They used these ropes to make right angles, for land boundaries.

The Pythagorean Theorem can be expressed mathematically in the formula  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ . What does all this mean, well if you need to lay out a large right angle you don't need knotted ropes or a ridiculously large square. All you need is a chalk line and two tape measures and a couple of guys to hold the tapes.

Start out with snapping a straight line for the base of the triangle. Measure a multiple of 4 along that line from the point you want to be the corner of the right angle. Take a tape measure and measuring from the corner point, measure a multiple of 3 and swing a short arc, eyeball what you think looks close to a right angle, then take another tape measure, measuring from the end mark on the base of the triangle measure out a multiple of 5 and swing a short arc when the two arcs cross snap a line back to the starting corner and you have a 3-4-5 right triangle.

**Next Newsreel: Drawing Ellipses**



**Branam Enterprises,**  
 a Backlot Local Picnic Sponsor was left off our thank you list last month. We apologize for the error and thank them for their support.

## Ham Radio Operators Needed

Local 44 continues to try and develop programs to benefit its members. Several weeks ago in conversations with Secretary/Treasurer Elliot Jennings, Local 44 started developing a list of amateur radio operators for a station at Local 44. He also asked me about the possibility of offering C.E.R.T. training, “Community Emergency Response Training”, for those who had their license. Before we move forward with any of this, we need to know who is a licensed ham.

In our on going effort to serve the membership of local 44, and to be asset to our community, we are asking the membership to let us if you have a current F.C.C. amateur radio license

Any of you that experienced the 1994 Northridge earthquake realize that phone lines can go down, and cell phone systems may not be available, but amateur radios are stand-alone systems, and most likely will be operating.

We want to develop a network of ham operators that could coordinate relief efforts or emergency communication among our members in the event of another catastrophe.

If you are considering becoming a licensed amateur operator, please let me know, and I'll try to find you test dates and or classes.

Also the F.C.C. as of Dec. 15th 2006 no longer requires Morse Code for the General Class & Amateur Extra Class license.

*Dan Graham kd6rft*

**The Newsreel would like to correct the following errors from the December 2006 issue:**

In the Member Anniversaries section Set Decorators were listed as Coordinators, our apologies for the misprint.

In the Memorium section two dates were given incorrectly:

Carlos Rodriguez was born on 06/16/1967 and Raymond Marandola was sworn in on 1/13/1995.



# Letters To The Local

Your opinions matter

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT:

When I read a Local Union's publication and see an elected official conveying inaccurate and divisive information I am compelled to reply. Unfortunately this is the case with Local 44 President Erik Nelson's message in the November/December 2006 issue of News Reel.

President Nelson's statements relative to Canadian production are irresponsible. They are not based in fact and smack of nothing more than gossip. The real facts are that production in Toronto is down 80% from last year. The weak U.S. dollar and strong U.S. regional tax incentives contribute to location decisions. Nelson says that features are way down but fails to note that Vancouver production is largely television based. So where is all this so-called "runaway" production? Perhaps most telling is that his comments center on Los Angeles.

He is not solely interested in keeping foreign productions in Los Angeles. He clearly views any production outside Los Angeles to be runaway. His suggested trade remedies won't solve his problem because L.A. competes with New York, New Mexico, Louisiana and Rhode Island, too. The trade remedy route has little chance of succeeding while tax incentives are a proven attraction for production. Many areas throughout the U.S. have flourishing markets as a result of their programs.

Local 44 members routinely travel to work on productions. In fact, they work throughout the U.S. and on foreign productions, often without the benefit of a contract when they leave the country. I cannot help but wonder if any of them have ever been disciplined, although I suspect I know the answer. Some additional facts:  
- There are competing unions in the motion picture industry in the three largest Canadian cities: Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.  
- Effective January 1, 2007 the International has negotiated a first ever agreement for low-budget productions with uniform terms and conditions covering IA members in both the US and

Canada.

- The Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans are on target for record hourly contributions for 2006. This means more contribution hours than ever before.

Like many industries ours has become global. Luckily the explosion in demand for entertainment has expanded our opportunities and kept our members at work.

It's easy to be divisive, trash the brethren in Canada and invent issues for political gain. Leadership means accurate, truthful communication. President Nelson's article shows a woeful leadership void and could not go unanswered.

*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 91 607. Submissions may be edited for content and length.*

## KEEP OUR MEMBERS WORKING! PATRONIZE UNION SHOPS!

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

*Applied Effects  
Bellfx Design and Fabrication  
Cinnabar  
Culver City Custom Props  
Flix FX Inc.  
The Hand Prop Room  
Isolated Ground*

*Jet Sets  
KNB  
Omega Cinema Props Drapery Shop  
Powerhouse Entertainment  
Stan Winston*

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

## Retiree Spotlight: Marcel Vercoutere

By Buffy Morton

The life of retired Special Effect man Marcel Vercoutere is much like that of a good book; it's encompassed with its twists and turns, bursting with a sense of adventure, and ultimately leaves its audience eagerly awaiting more. Featured retiree Marcel Vercoutere was born October 28, 1925 in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

At the age of fourteen, Vercoutere was forced to support himself, so he entered a welding trade school where he acquired the credentials to become a Navy certified welder. Once eligible to join the U.S. Navy, Marcel jumped aboard and lent his talents to our country during WWII combat. Upon completion of the war, he made the wise decision to graduate from high school. During that time he preformed structural steel work and led the lifestyle of a "Biker."

In 1952, while scheduling a motorcycle race meet at one of the local venues, Vercoutere laid eyes on what he announced would be his future wife. His intuition was correct because on March 27, 1954, Marcel and Carolyn were wed. The newly married duo hopped on their motorcycle and made a honeymoon vacation visit to the Golden State of California.

Due to the sickness of a close family relative in the Los Angeles area, the happy couple made the decision to relocate and help out. Once settled in, the Vercoutere's created a family of two sons John and Dan, and later adopted their daughter Barbara. When Vercoutere reached the age of thirty, he got word from a friend in the Motion Picture Industry that they were in need of welders. With this vital information, Marcel got his foot in the door at MGM. He was hired on as an experienced welder; however, began working in carpentry and Propmaking very quickly.

With his sharp personality and eagerness to learn, Vercoutere worked his way up from a group 3 Propmaker to a group 1 in a period of one year, and by the summer of 1963, had become one of the first individuals to pass the Special Effects exam. Not only was Marcel proud of his continued success, but so was his family. They supported his hard work and dedication to the industry by regularly traveling with him on location and occasionally assisting on set and playing the roles

of extras.

One of Vercoutere's first major assignments as a Propmaker was to create an automated doll for the television series "Twilight Zone." He was responsible for the construction of the second Robbie the Robot, and for suiting up in the Robot armor and falling down a flight of stairs.



Marcel Vercoutere with award

One of his intricate assignments was to develop a pair of mechanical lifelike wings for the Robert Altman film "Brewster McCloud." By 1971, and after contributing one hundred and thirty one hours to the set of "The Man from Uncle," Vercoutere's film career took off. His most memorable and fascinating creations were brought to light in the horror film "The Exorcist." Vercoutere explains, "I put my heart and soul into the film despite Warner Brother's belief that the film was ahead of its time. I had a real interest in making it work."

Indeed he did, Vercoutere received an

honorary statue for his outstanding contribution to "The Exorcist." He played an active role in making Linda Blair's character Regan vomit pea soup, (in which his wife Carolyn concocted) fly and dance through the air, and battle with her inner demons. His knack for detail pushed him to set the bedroom scene at ten below zero just to give the chilling effect of breath being seen.

After finishing the film in 1973, exhausted Vercoutere made the decision to leave the industry and move to Sarasota Florida; where he oddly enough joined the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus as a rigging and lighting person. Vercoutere found it extremely difficult to escape his attachment to the Motion Picture Industry. With Warner Brothers pleading for his return, he ventured back to California and picked up where he had left off.

Vercoutere's film career progressed as he worked on such films as "Convoy," "Police Academy II," "Man With One Red Shoe," "Lethal Weapon II," "Barbarosa," "The Absent Minded Professor," and the list goes on. During his affairs with the industry, he had the honor of meeting Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, James Garner, and look alike Willie Nelson. In addition to his Propmaking and Special Effects talent, Vercoutere was given the opportunity to regularly scout for film locations. His explorations diverted to the Amazon Rainforest, British Columbia, across the United States, and into Mexico City.

After putting in thirty plus years with both Local 44 and the Motion picture Industry, and spending fifteen years on location, Marcel Vercoutere at age 64 decided to call it quits. In both 1998 and in 2005, he relived his film career through the production of two BBC documentaries involving the legendary horror film "The Exorcist." Now that he's retired, Marcel has had the chance to do what he loves most, spending time with family, playing an occasional game of golf, and doing a bit of traveling. Vercoutere's outstanding contributions of talent and professionalism to the Motion Picture Industry will be long remembered.

# 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

**January**  
 TomasinoMariano Master  
 Swenson, Kenneth Master  
 Bernay, Alan Master  
 Barbiér, Mark Property

Emerson-Levine, Beth Property  
 Harris, Jesse Property  
 Machala, Jeffrey Property  
 Park, Tim Property  
 Pirinelli, David Property  
 Richards, Scott Property  
 Rost, Amy Property  
 Williams Jr., Mykal Property  
 Ross, Richard Propmaker  
 Jara, Juan Propmaker  
 Bailey, Chris Propmaker  
 Estrada, Robert Propmaker  
 Foreman, Dana Propmaker  
 Hardy Jr., Gary Propmaker  
 Higgins, Rodney Propmaker  
 Horn, Randi Propmaker  
 Kelly, Michael Propmaker  
 Knight, John Propmaker  
 Watkins, David Propmaker  
 Cross, Howard Propmaker  
 Favor, Dan Propmaker  
 Hoofman, Denny Propmaker  
 McDonald, Kim Propmaker  
 Nary, John Propmaker  
 Nelson, Chris Propmaker  
 Radin, Steven Propmaker  
 Zell, Thomas Propmaker  
 Alkofer, Lisa Propmaker  
 Osborne, Maureen Set Decorator

**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.

## 50 Year Anniversaries

Ayers, Robert Greens  
 Crawford, Kenneth Property

## 25 Year Anniversaries

**January**  
 McCown, Kevin Propmaker  
 Darakjian, Ara Property

## 10 Year Anniversaries

**January**  
 Larsen-Santini, Kim Property  
 Uchalik Jr., Frank Property  
 Yamamoto, Randy Property  
 Young, Robert Property

# DUES SCHEDULE FOR 2007

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
<b>Reduced Active **</b>				
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	
<b>Pensioner * ^</b>	n/a	\$ 67	n/a	\$ 268
<b>Voting Retiree ***</b>	n/a	\$ 40	n/a	\$ 160
<b>Retired ##</b>	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.



# Crew Shots Needed!

We are still interested in more pictures of you with your crew along with the work you have done! The best shots are of Local 44 members and their respected departments standing with their featured work in the picture. Although we are getting some pics here and there, we would like to see a better stream of photos so the upstairs assembly room walls are filled with pictures of the people who are Local 44.

Send your photos to "Crew Shots" c/o Local 44 at 12021 Riverside Drive North Hollywood, CA 91607.

If you would like the picture returned to you, please make note of that and we will return it after a copy has been made for framing.



*Back Row, Left to Right: Brad Good (Asst. Prop Master), Peter Twist (Technical Advisor), Kris Peck (Property Master), Harry Lu (Armorer), Julie Gilchrist (Prop Assistant) Front Row, Left to Right: Michael Gianneschi (Asst. Prop Master), Scott Leslie (Prop Assistant), Chris Langevin (Prop Assistant), Not pictured: Michael Bender (Prop Painter) and Zack Heath (Prop Dept. Coordinator)*

**284 shooting days**  
**1000+ crew members**  
**4 countries**  
**7 ships....**

***Yo ho, yo ho - A pirate's life for me!***

## Drapers Retire

What did the shows like The Dukes of Hazard, Fantasy Island, Police Story, Police Women, The Rocketeer, Superman the Movie, Harry O, Armageddon, Three Men and a Baby, Splash, Memoirs of a Geisha, not to mention countless others have in common? Well two of the most respected drapers in the Business worked on them. After working together for over twenty five years Kenny Abramson and Luis Arangua have decided that its time to enjoy the grand kids.



*Back row left to right: Danlio Pajarito, Robert Amato, Luis Arangua, Kenny Abramson, Mario Hernandez. Front row left to right: Paige Woodlif-Frugone, Barbara Oddone-Remhild, and Carolyn Murray, Esmeralda Rodriguez*

Kenny 32 years in the biz, started out at WB as a permit and worked his way up through the 1-2-3 card system. Luis has 28 years in, he started at Disney as an upholster. Together they have been a team for over twenty five years. In 1999 Kenny and Barbara Oddone-Remhild, and Carolyn Murray started Motion Picture Set Interiors, signing a union contract creating new jurisdiction and providing a much needed service to our Industry.

When we asked Kenny what he was going to do in retirement: "For the first 3 months I'm not going to do a thing." Kenny has a few laments about retiring "I hate to give up my card I was number 3, but the time's right and we couldn't break up the team even in retirement."

Luis told us: "I am going to spend time with grand kids mostly." They plan on working a little, maybe "later on," but their craftsmanship and professionalism will be missed. Both guys wanted to express their thanks to all the Set Decorators and Coordinators that have supported them and the shop over the years, and to please support the Local 44 drapery shops.

Motion Picture Set Interiors isn't retiring when Kenny and Luis leave however, Barb and Carolyn are going to continue running the shop and providing the Industry with quality product and personnel. Give them a call for any of your drapery or upholstery needs. (818) 760-1817

**Best of luck in retirement.**

# 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., November 1st, 2006 Regular Meeting

**Committee Reports:** Constitution and By-Laws

The final draft was being vetted by legal and would be sent back to the Board for final approval prior to going to the International.

### **Election Committee**

Letters were sent to the previous committee members to determine their desire to serve. Letters of interest were sent to those craft nominees who had been submitted, but there was a need for more names.

**Report:** Business Agent

An update on grievances was given: there was one discharge for cause; 7 failures to pay; one against a signator for non-payment of benefits and 2 on union security.

A letter from sister Local 728 was received stating that at a recent Board meeting some apparent confidential records from Local 44 had been read into their records. The records had to do with Local 44's dealings with an outside legal firm. The letter was read into the minutes.

*The Board went into Executive Session for 26 minutes.*

**Motion:** A letter of admonishment is sent to the Officer of Local 44 involved in the dissemination of the information reminding them of the rules regarding Executive privilege, with the understanding that future indiscretions would carry a more substantial penalty.

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

**Motion:** A letter is to be sent to the Local 44 member involved in the previous indiscretion, asking the return of documents in his possession, and reminding him that as a L.A. County Fed Delegate his actions reflect on the membership as a whole.

**Motion passed.**

The UFW was asking for support in a boycott. The UFW has a history of joining Local 44 in support of actions it has had in labor disputes over the years.

**Motion:** To donate to the campaign against Mondavi Wineries.

**Motion passed.**

L.A. County Fed Chairperson, Maria Elena Durazo had come to the offices of Local 44 to establish a cooperative effort work with our Local on future projects.

There is an ASEPO event scheduled and seats reserved for Local 44.

A letter from sister Local 33 was read thanking Local 44 for its support of their picket line at Inglewood Forum.

The B.A. was recently given a seat on the Motion Picture Television Fund Advisory Board. The purpose of this Board is the education of those in the Entertainment community on the use of the Motion Picture Network and its programs.

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer

The Local was presently 46 new members over budget projections.

New anniversary pins were now available (the old supply had run out). The new pins had a different color pattern per 5-year increment.

A letter would be sent from the Board to the previous Set Decorator Representatives requesting the return of Local 44 documents

and materials to be turned over to their replacement representatives.

Three companies were requesting to send out flyers to our members.

**Motion:** To approve the one mailer to the company that is a signatory.

**Motion passed.**

A meeting date was set to have the E-Board and staff of Local 44 present to give election guidelines for the upcoming election.

The Turkey Shoot was coming up November 20th.

There are 2 new funds created by the Board; the Strike Fund with an initial \$25,000 and the non-covered death benefit fund for Retirees. A request was being asked from that fund for a recently deceased member.

**Motion:** To pay the death benefit amount of \$3,000 from the Life Insurance fund.

**Motion passed.**

The Board was provided with the quarterly financial payment (dues) structure as laid out in the Constitution and By-Laws. The 2007 payments would have to be approved. It was noted that the Local was still under-collecting the actual appropriate amount of dues, that had been frozen improperly in the past for political purposes.

**Motion:** To approve the quarterly payment structure for 2007 as presented.

**Motion passed.**

**Report:** Set Decorator

The new Set Decorator Representatives met at Omega where they attempted to get a grasp on the issues of their constituents going forward. The meeting was well attended.

**Presentation:** Callboard Procedure

The Callboard manual for procedures was handed out to the Board for review as it was previously requested. The Board would review the documents and make comments at the next meeting.

**Discussion:** It was brought to the attention of the Board that several donations to the effort of a 301a filing had been received.

*The Board went into Executive Session for 11 minutes.*

**Discussion:** One Board member had issue with the fact that members were visiting the website but not going beyond the homepage, missing more pertinent information. It was noted that the B.A., Secretary-Treasurer and the website administrator were meeting in the next few days to discuss the next phase of improvements for the website.

## Sat., November 4th, 2006 Property Craft Meeting

**Needed for a quorum:** 192  
**In attendance:** 45

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

## Sat., November 4th, 2006 Coordinator Craft Meeting

**Needed for a quorum:** 27  
**In attendance:** 20

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

## Sat., November 4th, 2006 Special Effects Craft Meeting

**Needed for a quorum:** 30  
**In attendance:** 29

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

Those members carrying a Prop Shop card were given a conditional invitation to attend. At the beginning of the meeting the Special Effects members present allowed the attendance of the 11 Prop Shop members present. They had no voice or vote.

## Sun., November 5th, 2006 Propmaker Craft Meeting

**Needed for a quorum:** 237  
**In attendance:** 87

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

## Sun., November 5th, 2006 Prop Master Craft Meeting

**Needed for a quorum:** 56  
**In attendance:** 25

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

## Wed., November 8th, 2006 Set Decorator Craft Meeting

**Needed for a quorum:** 32  
**In attendance:** 48

*A quorum was established*

**Report:** Business Agent

34 of 39 outstanding grievances had settled in 6 months since taking office; the oldest over 18 months.

There is a Workman's Comp attorney provided to aid members once a month with their problems.

Stewards were receiving ongoing training and Weingarten rights were being distributed.

The B.A. had been appointed to a seat on the Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans giving 44 members a direct connection.

The Hollywood back lot Local were engaging in joint grievances.

A reminder to get signed up into the Motion Picture Health network. By doing so, your co-pays will be nothing.

Local 44 still wanted submissions by members of photographs of work or crews to adorn the upper room walls.

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer

All products at the Union were now American and/or Union made from the shirts to hats to pins.

A memorial wall was created in the lobby of the Hall displaying all members who pass away in the last 12 month period.

After 10 years of unchecked spending this was first 2 year period of positive income and the first time since 2000 that our portfolio had topped \$3M.

Life insurance was increased from \$5,000 to \$6,500.

The Picnic was re-established and looked to be coming in on budget. The cost was offset by gaining sponsorships for rides and booths.

The Local wanted to help establish a sense of community with its members and was trying to create new programs for informal gatherings.

The website is completely revamped and continuing to improve.

A full-time on staff CPA had been hired.

Please verify all new hires to crews. The Local had been able to lower the number of bad standing members that worked from over 500 to less than a 100. Most of those were day players, and we required those hiring to help screen.

Articles 1 through 8 of the Constitution had been rewritten and would soon go to New York for approval.

The new Election Committee would soon be formed, making this the first election insuring there would be a clean contest.

**Report:** Kentucky River Decisions

Counsel reported on the outcome of an NLRB ruling and its potential impact on Hollywood Locals. It was noted that it should have no immediate influence, as we had separate contracts with the AMPPT.

**Discussion:** The Set Decorator

Representatives went into lengthy debate

about how to effectively deal with the NLRB ruling and possible negotiation rulings for the "next" contract.

**Discussion:** The high unemployment rate among Set Decorators was discussed. Set Decorator had 35% unemployment in their craft, the highest in Local 44.

**Motion:** To have the President form a committee of Set Decorators to make recommendations to the Board regarding the unemployment rate.

**Motion passed.**

A list of interested members was created for the committee assignment.

**Discussion:** Shopper Buyer category was discussed. Could assistant Set Decorator be used and would that require being paid the same rate as a Set Decorator or would it be a lowered rate. Also, it was brought up that a second Decorator should be added to a production when it had excessive workloads.

**Motion:** That the Business Agent call the International regarding Tier I, II and III for minimum rates.

**Motion passed.**

## Wed., November 15, 2006 Regular Meeting

**Committee Reports:** Set Decorator Issues

Out of the Set Decorator Craft meeting a committee was formed to address the high unemployment among the craft as well as other issue. The committee had not yet met.

### **Safety :**

There was a new Prop Master course added to Safety Passport program for the handling of weapons.

### **Constitution and Bylaws:**

The lawyers had finished polishing the draft of Articles 1-8 and it would be reviewed by the committee members then sent to the entire Board for approval.

**Report:** Business Agent

The Special Effects qualifications Board was going to review the skills requirements for a Prop Shop card and look to update the standards for 21st century skills.

Final reminder of the ASEPO event and seats available.

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer

New initiates surpassed 200

This was the first time since 1997 (if numbers continue on track) that this Local has will have back to back years of positive income.

The monthly update of the budget was passed out to members of the Board.

The initiation fee schedule for 2007 was presented to the Board for approval based on the formula in the Constitution and By-Laws. It was pointed out that this year two crafts (Property and Propmakers) had reached the limitation of increases.

**Motion:** To bring the initiation fees up to Federal Guidelines for Property and Propmaker related categories, and increase by \$50 the Coordinator and Set Decorator categories.

**Motion passed.**

There was a request for a donation to a charity group having to do with special education needs of certain school children. A letter was read into the records. It was found that the line item for direct charity giving was over due the Hurricane Katrina donation. Board members pointed out that several line items under charity were well under budget. It was noted that the B & R committee had yet to meet and set guidelines and that no donations were to occur until that happened. The request was tabled until 2007.

After an extensive search, the new in-house CPA was on staff as of the first of the month.

A letter to examine records of the Local by a member was presented to the Board. It required Board approval, as the request was extensive and appeared outside normal federal guidelines.

*The Board went into Executive Session for 10 minutes.*

**Motion:** To have legal research the appropriate guidelines and write a letter to the member stating the limits on the requests and reminding them that at a certain point the expense of the investigation could be the members responsibility for staff and/or other costs.

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

#### **Craft reports:**

#### **Propmakers**

There were welder issues raised at the last craft meeting surrounding the certification that was now being requested by Producers.

One Propmaker suggested that the Local should fine members who did not show up to union meetings.

#### **Special Effects**

Prop Shop members were allowed to attend the meeting as a result of the Spring quorum request. Issues regarding training were discussed.

#### **Coordinators**

A request was given to have legal develop language regarding deal memos.

#### **Set Decorators**

There was a quorum. The Kentucky River decisions were reviewed. Also the pending WGA and SAG strikes were debated. A committee was formed for the unemployment problem within the Craft.

**Discussion:** The 301a filing issue was raised with the matching funds of other labor organizations. Questions were raised about subsidies of other states and cities within the United States. It was noted that those are entirely a different set of laws. It was mentioned that though Canada was the main country for subsidies by foreign nations that many other countries were now using Canada's model.

*The Board went into Executive Session for 8 minutes.*

**Reading of Letter:** Two letters of censure were read involving a Officer of the Local and one of its members. They were for allowing sensitive material out of Executive Session and disseminating that information to other Locals.

**Motion:** To note the reading of the letters into the records.

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

**Discussion:** If vacancies occurred on the Election Committee, how were those vacancies to be filled?

**Discussion:** To investigate the possibility of CAD classes for members.

**Discussion:** On Board members who leave meetings early and unannounced. The Sergeant-At-Arms should announce into the record the names of any member who leaves the Boardroom early. There was discussion about the merit of fining members a portion of their stipend.

**Motion:** That any Representative that leaves an Executive Board meeting early shall announce their departure and the time will be noted in the minutes.

**Motion passed with three abstentions.**

One of the Property Representative left at 8:47 p.m.

**Discussion:** Downey Studios

*The Board went into Executive Session for 42 minutes.*

**Motion:** That legal counsel be given approval to go forward with the issues discussed in Executive Session.

**Motion passed.**



## **FRANK ANDERSON**

October 3, 1947 - October 24, 2006

Frank Anderson was born at Queen of Angeles Hospital in Los Angeles, California and grew up in Glendale and Burbank. After graduating from John Burroughs High School in 1966 he was inducted into the U.S. Army. He was stationed at Fort Waynwright, Alaska where he specialized in ice climbing. Honorably discharged after completing his enlistment, he moved back to southern California where he continued life as a civilian. He worked at several jobs including Forest Service Firefighter. As a frontline firefighter he battled many blazes, the most notable being the Big Sur fire in the 1970's. It was in 1979 that he joined Local 44. Frank worked on many TV shows including Police Woman, Dukes of Hazzard, The A-Team, Gilmore Girls, and 10-8, as well as many features such as The Doors, Gremlins, Mosquito Coast, Air America, On Deadly Ground, Fearless, and The Nutty Professor, to name just a few.

Frank loved the outdoors and was an accomplished surfer, as well as an avid camper, fisherman, and hiker. Frank was a devoted husband, loving father and loyal friend. He is survived by his wife Renee, son Ian, brother John, and father Pete. Frank was loved by his family and friends, and everyone who knew him. His casual, personable manner will be greatly missed.

Donations to the family of Frank Anderson can be made to the Local by sending a check written to "B&R Fund" with Frank Anderson in the notes area.

# Remembrances

#### **Bruce Blankenship**

*Class: Special Effects*

*Born: 06/27/1941*

*Sworn: 11/10/1976*

*Died: 11/17/2006*

#### **Frank Pastor**

*Class: Propmaker*

*Born: 03/27/1923*

*Sworn: 07/24/1978*

*Died: 11/10/2006*

#### **William Herbert**

*Class: Property Master*

*Born: 10/22/1934*

*Sworn: 11/04/1965*

*Died: 11/30/2006*

#### **Jesse Stone**

*Class: Propmaker*

*Born: 11/16/2006*

*Sworn: 01/01/1954*

*Died: 12/03/2006*

#### **David Wischnack**

*Class: Special Effects*

*Born: 12/13/1926*

*Sworn: 11/17/1959*

*Died: 12/09/2006*

#### **Robert Hundt**

*Class: Property*

*Born: 02/16/1928*

*Sworn: 02/25/1969*

*Died: 01/02/2007*

#### **Richard Malerba**

*Class: Set Decorator*

*Born: 07/16/1946*

*Sworn: 06/05/1993*

*Died: 01/2006*

**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."**



## Another Sullivan Is Here!



**Set Dressor Patrick Sullivan** is the proud father of Jeremy Edward Sullivan, born on Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

## **Congratulations!**



### 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. 118**.

**PLEASE NOTIFY US AS SOON AS ITEMS HAVE BEEN SOLD.**

### FOR SALE:

**Prop Boxes** and all Leadman gear for sale. Make an offer. Property Master Steven Adams forced to sell due to disability 213-610-2771.

**COORDINATORS COMPLETE TOOL PACKAGE.** Up to date and in excellent condition plus many extras. Call 818-581-6485.

**Free Blanks**, different calibers. Call Retired Property Master Frank Morehead (H) 661-265-6543, (M) 661-609-6929.

**8' X 20' Construction office trailer.** \$3500 or best offer. 818-521-9899

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

**\*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. Canyon Country area of Santa Clarita, Near SFV & LA

**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

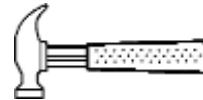
**Special Effects ditty bags for sale.** Made of 18 oz. cotton canvas, 2-inch webbing strap, 30 pockets total inside and outside. Includes 5 gal bucket ready for insert. "It's the ditty bag you are looking for." Stock on hand. No waiting. \$65.00. (714)812-0007 or dittybag@covad.net.

Dewalt 12" Radial Arm Saw; 7 coordinator tool boxes, all same size, different drawer and storage configurations. Fresh paint, on steel frames w/ lock bars and wheels. Call Al MacLaury 805-732-4455.

**Retired Special Effects Man:** Mole E-Fan (with without the Cage) with standard Jr. Stand & Custom Folding Stand. Stand folds flat and handles hinge for storage opens up to belike a hand truck with pneumatic wheels, good for rough terrain \$2000. - 20 Stainless 30 Gallon Crackers set up for remote control on hand trucks that if used properly no sound will be heard on stage fed by 3/4" air-line. 5 Maid Well, with caes and dry ice screens. - 2 Binks 171 Dust (Flocking) Guns (not made anymore) Rigid Model 700 hand power threader with case support arm and dies like new. Other equipment available. Peter Albiez 818-846-4664 or 30480@msn.com.

**Construction Coordinator selling** complete tool package (excellent condition) including a 45' trailer with jockey boxes, side doors and stairs, and hydrolic lift gate. For list call Rick @ (661) 298-1631.

**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.



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