

# IATSE LOCAL 44

April 2007



**VOTE  
RESULTS ARE IN!**

## Local 44 Election Results

On Friday, March 30, 2007 the ballots for the election of Local 44 Officers, Delegates and Trustees was completed.

The ballot count was conducted at the Local 80 Grips Hall in Burbank, by an independent election service provider agency, TruBallot. The count was also supervised by the Election Committee of Local 44, legal counsel, and observers hand-picked by various candidates.

Because of the close count in several races the balloting company did a physical recount of the results immediately following the machine count.

There were 5760 ballots sent out to members and 1653 ballots returned accounting for 29% votes cast.

The following is the results which the Election Committee has certified as final.

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## Inactive and Honorable Withdrawal

### Inactive and Honorable Withdrawal

It happens every pilot season as members are brought back into good standing and as others call to "re-up" after years of absence when the good news of plentiful work reach them; the majority of members don't understand how the categories of Inactive and Honorable Withdraw work.

These ARE NOT after-the-fact categories you request when you've had periods of long-term unemployment or self-imposed removal from our working ranks!

These are categories you must choose when you know you are going to stop looking for work. At one time or another we

may all have a need to take advantage of one of these categories, so here's the proper procedure:

**Inactive:** This category is for short-term leaves of absences, but you're planning on returning to the Local's rolls.

Inactive requests require you to fill out a single paper at the office. This must be done no later than the first month into a quarter, and if you have worked at all in that quarter it is not an option. This is not a category you can use at the end of a quarter when work availability was difficult and you want a "break".

Inactive is a reduced payment situation. You pay the per capita taxes due and half the dues to Local 44 that you would typically pay each quarter.

If you are Inactive you must remain unemployed with our Local for at least two full quarters. You may not go Inactive and the next quarter go back to work; if this happens you will pay your full quarterly payment for both quarters. When you are Inactive, you are off the Callboard Availability List and will not be called for work. You must call the Local when you are ready to work again.

**Honorable Withdrawal:** This is for long-term absences. You are leaving this insane industry for good and aren't coming back, but just in case...

This also requires you to file a one-page form. A

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IATSE Local 44 Newsreel  
Volume 18, Issue 3

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



## Officers & Representatives

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**Erik Nelson**, President

**Erin Hennessey**, Vice President  
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**Mary Gullickson**, Sergeant-At-Arms

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Set Decorator Representative

**Amy Wells**  
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**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**  
**Otto Lungren**  
**Jeannie Gunn**

**Executive Board members can be reached by e-mail at**

**eboard@local44.org**



## Local 44 Shop Stewards

CBS Studio Center  
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  
Tibor "Ted" Barti

Alpha Medical  
Alex Hernandez

CBS Television City  
Andrea Joel

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Kenneth Knight  
818-467-1966

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Bryce Vardanian  
818-510-0737

ISS  
Leigh Dennis

SAT  
Michael Bottoni

Lennie Marvin  
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### Roving Assistant Business Agent:

Ron Hall

### Retiree Outreach

Ed Langdon, and Milt Wilson

### NEWSREEL SUBMISSIONS

**The deadline for the next**

**Newsreel is:**

**May 11, 2007**

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

**E-mail: newsreel@local44.org,  
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**Questions? Call 818-769-2500 X118**

# Business Agent's Report

By Ed Brown



## Another Step Towards the Future

In lieu of two remaining run off's, we've completed our election cycle. And in spite of some questionable election tactics all went well. The Election Committee performed professionally and left no doubt that this process was fair and equitable. With that having been said, now would be the appropriate time to state to the entire membership that I am honored for your overwhelming vote of confidence. I will continue to act in your best interest in all matters, and to do the right and moral thing. I am honored to serve on your behalf.

## General Membership Meeting

On Saturday March 31st we had our General Membership meeting. The overall attendance was disappointing with just under 200 members in the theater. I know many of you were working during what is still a very busy Pilot season and could not attend. Nonetheless we all should strive for higher participation in the future. Remember that there truly is strength in numbers. For those that did not attend I would like to provide you with the Business Agent's report given at that meeting as follows:

General Membership Meeting March 31, 2007  
Business Agent's Report

When you received your attendance cards the agenda read,

"Progress of Union, General Information".

I know there are those that would have preferred your attendance card to read,

"drama, controversy and turmoil," hoping this would help fill the room. Personally I think we've all had just about enough drama, controversy and turmoil over the last year or so, who knows maybe over the last thirty years, and if it's drama that it takes to fill the room rather than the realization that we are all one large extended family, working towards common goals, then maybe we all need to refocus.

Allow me to help that refocus, I believe it is time to look towards the future and recognize the progress that has been made.

I have been seated and serving you as your Business Agent for 10 months, I know it seems like a lot longer but it's been just 10 months, and in that short period of time I'd like to point out the following:

Within those 10 months:

\* 39 outstanding grievances have been resolved.

\*An in house Workman's Comp. attorney has been provided for the membership.

\*A long sought after firearms safety course is in place for Property Masters and soon to be rolled out to the entire Property craft.

\*The Stand-by Diver safety bulletin has been addressed and in it's final stages.

\*The membership has been provided with Weingarten Rights cards informing you of your right to union representation.

\*Welding certification classes have been offered and subsidizes.

\*Low budget shows that have breached their budget caps. Have been successfully audited in cooperation with IA auditors and unpaid wages have been properly paid to our involved members.

\* Two new Union Signatory Greens companies have been signed to the Full Basic Agreement, with full current wages and benefit contributions paid to Local 44 members that work at these facilities.

\*A Joint Local, "Stewards training session" was held with Stewards from Locals 44, 80, 728 & 729.

\*Approximately five months ago I began a program with the Business Agents from Local's 80, 728, 729 and myself to make joint weekly site visits. This has been a great opportunity to show the membership of our four locals, which represent 12,000 members of the West Coast IA, a "unified house of labor", this unified voice has not gone unnoticed by management.

Through these renewed relationships we have been able to, when the common occasion arises file joint grievances with our four sister locals, this has a greater impact when reaching resolutions.

\*We were instrumental in the organizing of a pre-production contract for new media "Yahoo Productions". This format is the new media produced for broadband streaming to the Internet.

Our pre-production covered work was signed to the full basic agreement with retroactive benefits paid from date of hire. This is the type of non-traditional formats I spoke about in the Feb. 2007 newsreel. As I said then, we have moved into a new generation of media that we cannot afford to ignore. When we see formats like Mobisodes, which are downloadable or streaming episodes of product, or Webisode, which are episodes of product specially produced for the Internet, we are looking directly at the future. It is not unreasonable to expect next generation televisions to carry on board hard drives connected to the Internet which will carry all product which is currently broadcast television. The organizing of this Yahoo Production was a pivotal move in the right direction. We had front end communication from our members, and direct communication with the IA, which resulted in basic agreement wages and benefits. This is the way it's supposed to work, and it did. This production is now producing Video for Broadband delivery and signed to the applicable Video agreement. Again we must stay in front of this type of non-traditional media and keep that work covered under Local 44 and the

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# Thanks For Another Term

By Elliot Jennings



On Saturday, March 31, 2007 the General Membership meeting for Local 44 was held. It was at the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Science Theater, a venue that we haven't visited in a few years. The room is a stadium seating theater and the Executive Board was placed on the stage below the membership who had the comfortable padded chairs.

The attendance was meager mirroring the participation in the voting in our just concluded election round; 187 members showed up. Of those who attended it was generally expressed from those who took the microphones at the floor, that this was one of the most professional, and informative meetings they had witnessed. For those unable to attend, I have inserted the report I made that day:

## Read anything interesting lately?

I would like to thank those of you attending here today and those of you who voted in the election, despite the tone of this election, you did vote. On a personal note I would like to apologize to the members for the vile level in which this election was plunged. This could have been a process of accomplishments and direction, as I attempted in my initial flyer; instead it degraded into accusations and deliberate attempts to destroy a fellow brother's reputation.

We are currently in a Constitutional rewrite of our laws. Presently there may be no internal remedies that exist for the type of behavior displayed in the just-finished round of this campaign against perpetrators of this type of garbage. However, I will push for a simple Article to be added to the area of chargeable offenses in the new Constitution. "Should a member distribute confidential or personal information, or even a false replica of the same, with the intent to damage a fellow member's reputation or their ability to gain employment, they shall receive a 6 month suspension from membership and be barred from running for any position of this Local in the next round of elections." It's time our elec-

tions involved members, not turned them away.

Now back to the business of our Local:

As I've indicated in previous meetings, we have changed the direction of this Local and its mindset financially. We have gone from an unchecked, wild spending, live-for-the moment mentality, to one of conservative concern for our members' resources and planning for the generations before and after us. Though I believe I have had a hand in moving this Local toward protecting our members' finances and running this union like a business; I did not do this alone.

Had you not had an Executive Board willing to face the fact this Local was headed for bankruptcy 2 ½ years ago, and be willing to make tough and sometimes unpopular decisions; you might either find your Local mortgaged to a bank for funding, or more likely, today you would be facing a Board of International-appointed Trustees.

Due to health, family issues, or personal choices, many of the elected members of this Board have stepped down. That is not an indication of problems in your government; it is an indication of the monthly sacrifice it takes to serve. Due to election results or personal decisions not to run for re-election, several of the Board members responsible for protecting this Local from financial ruin will not be here next term and this will be the last time collectively you will have them assembled. For those present, and on behalf of those who have served this term, I would request that you give these brothers and sisters a round of applause.

To say that this year has been tumultuous would be an understatement. To say the repair of a broken system is in sight is optimistic. This Local took decades to get in the condition it was in when I took over 3 years ago; it will not be fixed overnight, but the healing is underway. One of the sayings I like to use with new members when I swear them in is, "this is the last time I get to be a friendly face; from now on you don't want to hear that the Secretary-Treasurer wants to talk to you." This is a disciplined position; it is not always a popular one. I'm the guy who has to say no, and not worry about the political fallout. You'd better have a real reasoned presentation to want money from me; I protect your money like it was my own.

The past: 10 years ago we had nearly \$9M in our finances. In that span we

amassed over \$2M more in our investment income. In that time, in order to curry political favor with members, this Local illegally reduced or froze proper payment from its members, losing another \$1M. That's around \$12M we should have had in our coffers when I took over; we barely had \$2M. That's money our members lost in programs, training, or even simple security in a pending strike. As of last month our investments are over \$3.4M. The repair has begun.

I helped institute a budget. The two years since, not only have we made budget, we have come under-budget. There is a budget that was presented to you at the back table. For those of you too young to remember, three years ago, Brother Robert Blackburn asked our then Secretary-Treasurer how much money we had left after expenses? He couldn't tell you. Now you can see it for yourselves. It is handed out at each Local meeting and published in the Newsreel and on our website.

Years ago, our CPA not only checked our books, he helped create them. There's an interesting situation. Today with the aid of an independent auditing firm secured by the Trustees of this Local, our annual audit is done by a professional team of accountants. Additionally, our Trustees quarterly inspect the state of our finances. No man can cook the books of this Local anymore.

Life insurance has just been raised for the second straight year. As of March 1st, coverage for Active members is now \$7,000. This was accomplished by shopping 8 separate insurance carriers over the past several months, and remaining under the budgeted amount set by the Executive Board. In years past our Local spent between \$500,000 and \$750,000 annually for insurance coverage, a major contributor to the failing health of our finances. Anyone promising you more coverage at this point in our financial history is either blowing smoke up your skirt, or has no sense of fiduciary responsibility...or both. I have been for the last 6 months researching long-term care for our senior members; whether the Local offers this benefit or it is an optional paid service with a group rate, I have yet to work out.

Last year it was discovered that our Benevolent and Retiree Fund had no proper guidelines and may have, in fact, been managed improperly. This is the fund where we help our own. This is the benefits program. I first discovered that

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## President's Message

By Erik Nelson



Spring is here and Pilot Season has been helping a lot of our members make the mortgage payments. That makes for happy days. The election is over (as I write this it is not so there may be some run-offs) and we can get back to having our Board and Officers spend their time working on problems that need overcoming for the benefit of the Local rather than use valuable time debating strictly political issues.

The Election Committee did an admirable job in the short time they had to prepare for and run the election. From this experience will come a workbook for future election committees to refer to so that some of the weaknesses that showed up can be eliminated. They did a

darn fine job and deserve every member's appreciation. I don't know the figures yet, but I will guess that the bottom line cost of this election will be far more enjoyable to read than the last couple. Job well done guys (we could use a gal or two to volunteer next time). Since our members are working while doing this chore it is my hope that some retirees will want to get involved so that there will be some bodies to help with communication and paperwork activities that can be so time consuming.

I was glad to see that the message boards on the website are starting to be used in the fashion they were meant to be used. Although most candidates neglected them there were some who posted their feelings about issues – perhaps more non-candidates than those actually running for office. Sure there was a little mudslinging, but we in 44 ought to be used to a little of that at election time. At the same time we had issues about injured brothers and sisters, about our International's government, accessing the lots, news about runaway production, and several jokes. And more. Tune in and say your piece.

The British Academy of Film and Television would like to interview any of our members who have had a substantial

amount of work in British film or television. If you fit the mold then make contact at [uscgkelly@aol.com](mailto:uscgkelly@aol.com)

It has been brought home to us how important it is to have an emergency plan in place when you go to a set where the crew is not filming or otherwise a first aid person is not present. A couple of Grips were left downtown to do some prep and both of them hurt themselves – no vehicle, no information as to how to get to emergency services. Both were minor injuries so they sat on the curb until someone could take them back to the set to have care given – one was sent on to a hospital facility. All Lead Persons, Gang Bosses, whoever is in charge of our members who might be working away from the company – make sure they have transportation, knowledge of the closest medical facility and their address, so they can call emergency and tell them to come get them. If you don't have medical personnel on your site Then Have A Plan.

Safety First, Brothers and Sisters, and it is up to all of us.

Erik Nelson

## LENNY EARLY RETIRES

Lenny Early retired on February 28, 2007. Here is a brief bio.

Born in Indiana in 1947, Lenny grew up in Southern California since his elementary years. As a young man he joined the Air Force where he would get his first taste of world travel. After his stint in the service he decided to finish college while taking upon some night shift jobs at a local factories.

In 1972 with the help of a family friend and Art Director, he was able to join Local 44. His first call was at Warner Bros for the feature "Prisoner of Second Ave.". After working locally on many feature projects such as "The Sting", "Young Frankenstein", and "Earthquake", he landed a foreman position on Universal's back-lot. There, he would work on countless T.V. shows produced during the late 70's and early 80's and features including "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" and the restoration of the notorious "Psycho House" for "Psycho II".



(L to R) Tom Early and Lenny Early

During his 36 years of membership he also found himself on amazing locations. From the Colorado Rockies for the television mini-series, "Centennial" to the Gulf Coast of Florida for "Jaws II". Yet he recalls the location at the Masada at the

Dead Sea in Isreal for the television mini-series "Masada " as one of the most exciting yet difficult with desert temperatures reaching 132 degrees in a region known for its unrest. In 1990 the Universal Backlot Fire kept him busy where he was in charge of reconstructing 3 blocks of their permanent structures.

Working long hours on television hits "Columbo" and "Murder She Wrote", he still managed to raise a family. His two sons, Tom and Jim both Local 44 members and his Daughter Kim, wish him well and the fondest of farewells as he finished where he started, working for Warner Bros.

His taste for travel hasn't diminished. He plans on going wherever he wants, whenever he wants and he promises to enjoy every moment of it.

# LOCAL 44 ELECTION RESULTS

These are the official election results of  
Local 44 IATSE  
Certified by TrueBallot Automated  
Election Administration  
As of March 30, 2007

## Officers of the Whole

### **Business Agent**

<b>Ed Brown - 967</b>	<b>61.36 %</b>
Victor Nerone - 359	22.78
Allen Price - 173	10.98
Richard Fresquez - 77	4.89

Total - 1,576

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

<b>Elliot Jennings - 779</b>	<b>50.32 %</b>
Dennis McGeehan - 769	49.68

Total - 1,548

### **President**

<b>Erin Hennessey - 714</b>	<b>50.50 %</b>
Stacey McIntosh - 700	49.50

Total - 1,414

### **Vice President**

**Michael Diersing - 1,213**

### **Trustee (3)**

**Jeannie Gunn - 1,056**  
**Robert Carlyle - 976**  
**Otto Lungren - 843**

### **Sergeant-At-Arms**

<b>Daniel Boone - 642 run-off</b>	<b>46.22 %</b>
<b>Daniel Graham - 459 run-off</b>	<b>33.05</b>
Anthony Price - 288	20.73

Total - 1,389

## Craft Specific Offices

### **Coordinator Representative (2)**

**David Elliott - 102**  
**Andrew Moore - 80**

### **Coordinator Representative Alternate**

**John Samson - 103**

### **Coordinator Delegate**

**David Elliott - 96**

### **Coordinator Delegate Alternate**

**Carl Hicks - 99**

### **Property Representative (3)**

**Eric Hulett - 315**

### **Peter Angles - 303**

3rd position - No Candidate

### **Property Representative Alternate** **No Candidate**

### **Property Delegate**

<b>Roman Samokish - 293</b>	<b>65.26 %</b>
Peter Angles - 156	34.74

Total - 449

### **Property Delegate Alternate**

No Candidate

### **Property Master Representative (2)**

**Emily Ferry - 117**  
**David McGuire - 83**

### **Property Master Representative Alternate**

**Erik Nelson - 114**

### **Property Master Delegate**

Paul Ahrens - 72	52.17 %
Erik Nelson - 66	47.83

Total - 138

### **Property Master Delegate Alternate**

Emily Ferry - 114

### **Propmaker Representative (3)**

<b>Michael Cappello - 363</b>	<b>66.48 %</b>
<b>Armando Gonzalez - 303</b>	<b>55.49</b>
<b>Leonard Martin - 233 run-off</b>	<b>42.67</b>
<b>Tony Chavez - 194 run-off</b>	<b>35.53</b>
Frank Perry - 162	29.67
Jo Livolsi - 152	27.84
Brian Kelner - 123	22.53
Andrew Zerebko - 107	19.60

Total - 1,637 (approx. 546 votes)

### **Propmaker Representative Alternate**

**Timothy Graham - 444**

### **Propmaker Delegate**

**Michael Cappello - 493**

### **Propmaker Delegate Alternate**

**Anthony Pawluc - 474**

### **Set Decorator Representative (2)**

<b>Amy Wells - 77</b>	<b>59.69 %</b>
<b>Andrea Joel - 75</b>	<b>58.14</b>
Mary Gullickson - 41	31.78

Total - 193 (approx. 129)

### **Set Decorator Representative Alternate**

**Leslie Frankenheimer 100**

### **Set Decorator Delegate**

**Amy Wells - 94**

### **Set Decorator Delegate Alternate**

**Andrea Joel - 91**

### **Special Effects Representative (2)**

**J.C. Machit - 94**  
**J.D. Streett - 90**

### **Special Effects Representative Alternate**

No Candidate

### **Special Effects Delegate**

**J.D. Streett - 101**

### **Special Effects Delegate Alternate**

**George Paine - 101**

## **RUN-OFF ELECTIONS**

In the recently concluded election round all contests were concluded but two.

There is a run-off election for these two positions.

The race for Sergeant-At-Arms is a membership-wide race; therefore all members will receive a ballot for this contest.

The candidates are Daniel Boone and Daniel Graham.

The second run-off is for the third Propmaker Representative position and only that craft will receive ballots for this contest.

The candidates are Tony Chavez and Leonard Martin.

Ballots should be mailed out by April 10, 2007 and must be received (not postmarked) at the Post Office by April 30, 2007. The ballots will be counted that day.

All new officers and delegates will be sworn in on June 6, 2007.

Please vote, it only takes a minute to mark and return your ballot!

## Retiree Spotlight: Terry Ballard

By Buffy Morton

Over the past 47 years Local 44's very own Terry Ballard, has put his heart and soul into the Motion Picture Industry. His dedication to both Local 44 and his craft were fueled by his love for the business. Ballard expressed, "I loved everyday that I went to work."

Terry Ballard's life began June 13, 1935 in the state of Iowa. He spent his first years of boyhood on a farm, and in his pre-teens relocated to Detroit, Michigan, and later on to Hollywood, California. Upon completion of High School, Ballard joined the Army's 82nd Airborne as a combat paratrooper and was honorably discharged in 1957. He then attended college on a GI Bill as a Police Science Major; however 6 months into it, he realized that due to height requirements, his 5'8" physique wouldn't make the cut. Ballard kicked around doing odd jobs until the summer of 1958 when he was encouraged by his father, who was a policeman on the Warner's lot, to work in the movie business as a Prop Man. Ballard was then prompted to put his name on the list with Local 44. Low and behold, he received a dispatch call that evening, to report to Warner Brothers at sun up.

Ballard stuck with the industry for a persistent five years in order to obtain his one card. During that time he, "learned the ropes from some of the best, and what not to do from some of the worst." His very first film was "Bourbon Street Beat," with Andrew Duggan followed by the productions of "Sugarfoot," "Cheyenne," "77 Sunset Strip," and "Hawaiian Eye."

Ballard's film career blossomed rapidly as did his relationship with the love of his life, Bonnie. By 1971, the happy couple was wed. After investing eleven years as a Prop Man and then as an assistant Prop Master, Ballard's boss at CBS studio, Warren Welch, urged him to step forward and take the Property Master exam. With the blessing of his wife, he took the exam, passed, and launched his Prop Master career. 1972 was a wonderful year for Ballard, not

only was he made Property Master, but he was also gifted with the birth of his beautiful daughter Tracy.

The first film that Ballard was given to Prop was the feature film, "Support Your Local Gunfighter," with James Garner and Jack Elam. Ballard enjoyed working with actor James Garner, he quotes, "He ranks at the top." At first, Ballard was "scared to death" by the assignment, however in the end, his familiarity with guns and the fact that he was a weapons specialist, aided him in successfully propping this production. Due to the fact that Ballard was a cowboy at heart, a fast



Retiree Terry Ballard

draw enthusiast, and an excellent horse back rider, he was an asset to Western Films in both propping and acting. In fact, in the Dick Lowery film "The Gambler Part II", Ballard taught Gambler Evans how to fast draw. One of Ballard's most memorable westerns! to have worked on was the feature "Mackintosh & T.J." He had the honor of working with childhood role model Roy Rogers on his first picture in 21 years, and his last.

Ballard went on to work on such pictures as, "Conquest for the Plant of the Apes," "Cleopatra Jones," "The Man Who Wasn't There in 3D," "Hillside

Strangler," "A-Team," "Assault on a Tower," and many more. The T.V. series that Terry Ballard was most proud to contribute to was "Roots." He was honored by The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his contribution to the Emmy award-winning program. Ballard also lent his propping talents to the MGM futuristic film "Soylent Green." He was in charge of seeing to it that thousands of both, wooden and edible, "green human cookies," were produced. Furthermore, he designed the garbage trucks that were dispatched to pick up bodies, and created the idea of green haze and surgical masks worn by the garbage men. Terry was also responsible for contributing to the hit horror, "Friday the 13th." He helped to inspire the creation of the symbolic "Jason" hockey mask.

Ballard's career as a Property Master, enticed him to explore multiple realms of the film industry, and introduced him to such talents of acting, film consulting, location scouting, script writing, and production. Ballard's wife Bonnie, was also drawn to the industry, and joined both Local 44 as a Property Person and the Local 399 Teamsters. Going away on location had become a family affair. Offset, Ballard perfected his masonry skills, restored antique cars and hot rods, and took part in both gun collecting, and metal detecting.

After 36 great and rewarding years, and over 120 films worked on, Ballard decided to enter into retirement with Local 44, however, not with the Motion Picture Industry. Ballard reveals, "I couldn't keep my hands out of a business that is in my blood." He has gone on to co-produce a couple of Feature's and has recently written a script in which he hopes to sell or produce. In addition, he has also become a prosperous realtor.

Optimist Terry Ballard hasn't let the term retirement hold him back from obtaining further career goals and fulfilling his aspirations; his energetic and fun spirited persona is forevermore on the go.

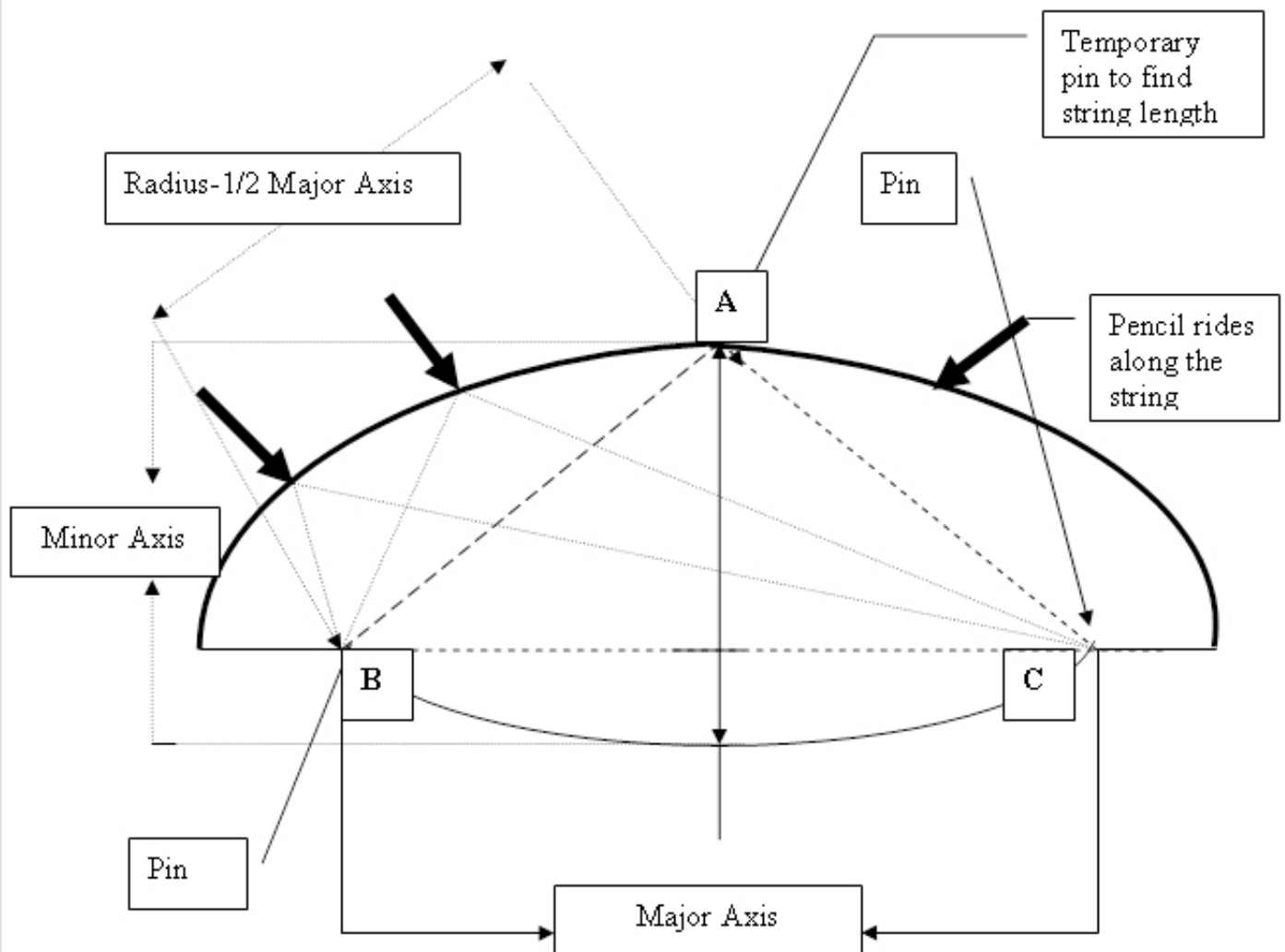


## String Method of Drawing an Ellipse

Layout a perpendicular by bisecting a line with trammel points or large compass, mark your minor and major axis from center point.

Using 3 pins or finish nails put one nail or pin (temporary) at the end of the minor axis, point A. Put the other pins at the ends of the Major axis.

Tie a string around A, B, C, (indicated by the dotted line) once you have it tied, remove the A pin and trace the curve hold the pencil tight against the loop of the string. You now have half an ellipse, to complete just keep the string taunt and continue drawing.





## **Life Insurance Increase to \$7,000**

After shopping several insurance companies over the last few months, Local 44 has been able to increase life insurance coverage from \$6,500 to \$7,000 for Active members and those who retired after July 15, 1991.

This new policy went into effect March 1, 2007, and was accomplished without going over the budget set by the Executive Board.

We have switched from Prudential to Aetna. You will be receiving a new policy in the mail in the next several weeks which outlines the coverage.

## **Update your beneficiary card!**

Many of you have not changed your beneficiary card in years. We have had two instances in the last couple months where a member passed away and the information on their card was outdated. Local 44 must pay out the death benefit to whoever is listed on your card.

If you have become married, remarried, divorced, have a new boyfriend or girlfriend, or have had your past beneficiary pass away themselves; you will want to update your card. Call us at (818) 769-2500, ask for the Business Office; we will send you a new card to fill out.

## **You have an additional Life Insurance Policy with Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plan!**

Members often forget they have an additional \$10,000 (currently) life insurance policy (for Active Members \$2000 for Retired) with the MPIP. If you are updating your beneficiary card, ask for one from the Plans also. There number is (818) 769-0007, or (310) 769-0007; ask for Eligibility.



## **BOWLING LEAGUE**

In an effort to find new venues for Local 44 members to come together in a relaxed atmosphere outside of work, Local 44 will sponsor a summer bowling league.

We have tentatively secured a 7 P.M. time slot on Friday night at Pickwick Bowl in Burbank, near the 134 and 5 Freeways.

Depending on the response from our members, the teams will have 4 or 5 bowlers.

This is open to all members; you do not need to have a full team to join, you can be an individual; we will find you any missing teammates needed.

You don't need to be a good bowler to join, or even have ever bowled before. This will be a handicapped league, giving each bowler a balanced average.

We also know schedules can cause problems and there may be times when work keeps you away; we will allow substitutes. If you can't make it one week, another 44 member may bowl in your place. If you like to bowl, but can't commit to a team, show up on a Friday night, and if a team needs a sub, you may be it.

Local 44 will pay for the league, and have prizes and/or trophies for the top finishers. Call and sign up today, so that we can secure the allies. We'll keep those of you who are interested posted.

**Join the family. Relax. *Have fun.***

**Call the Business Office for details (818) 769-2500.**

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 2007 CALANDER



## APRIL

- **COFFEE TALK:** (For Retiree's only) Tuesday, April 17, 2007 from 10:00am to Noon at the Motion Picture Fund's Wasserman Campus
- **DAT AT THE RACES:** (For Retiree's only) Thursday, April 19, 2007 at Santa Anita Park, Gates open at 10:30 am, must RSVP to attend

## MAY

- **LAS VEGAS:** (For Retiree's only) Join us May 6, 7, 8, at the Golden Nugget, must RSVP before March 30, space is very limited
- **COFFEE TALK:** (For Retiree's only) Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at the hall
- **FISHING TRIP:** (Tentative) Being moved to later in the summer due to poor fishing conditions and availability
- **GOLF:** (For Retiree's only) Thursday, May 24, 2007 at Van Nuys Golf course, starting at 8:00 am, followed by breakfast at Millie's Restaurant

# THE CREW



### Grey's Anatomy Crew:

**First Row** (L to R): Kristie Moore-Bialuski (Lead Painter, Local 729); Joe Grafmuller (Leadman); Curt Jones (Construction Coordinator).

**Second Row** (L to R): Daniel Brodo (Swing Gang); Stacy Doran (Swing Gang); Nicole Cramer (Set Dec Buyer); Monica Wynveldt (Props).

**Third Row** (L to R): Antonio Pinto (Laborer, Local 724); Angela Whiting (Propmaster); Pete Flynn (Asst. Propmaster); Greg Gootsan (Asst. Propmaster); Daniel Mendible (On Set Dresser).

**Fourth Row**, standing (L to R): Jack Carroll (General Foreman); Tom Talley (Location Foreman); Bruce Purcell (Swing Gang); Mark Polanco (Stage Foreman); Verne Hammond (Labor Foreman, Local 724); Oscar Flores (Swing Gang); Jason Gustafson (SPFX Coordinator); Bob Huffman (Propmaker); Mark Andresen (Swing Gang); Karen Bruck (Set Decorator).

## Inactive

Cont'd From Pg 1

copy is sent to the International to inform them of your status. Again, this is not something that is done after-the-fact.

Honorable Withdrawal takes you off our working rolls, just like Inactive, you are not called for work, from the Local's point of view you've dropped off the radar.

Here's the difference; your quarterly payments are zero. You owe nothing until you decide to return to work.

Why not just take a Withdrawal instead of going Inactive? Inactive quarters are at a reduced rate; Honorable Withdrawal is at your full quarterly rate the minute you return to the work rolls.

Then why not just go Inactive? That's why a Withdrawal is a long-term option. Honorable Withdrawal pays the full quarterly payment, but no matter how long you're gone, 5 years or 20 years; you will not pay more than eight quarters dues to the Local or eight quarters per capita to the International!

Understand these categories. Use them when and if you have a need. But don't ask to use them at the end of a quarter.

## Another Term

Cont'd From Pg 4

Retirees were being told that they had to pay for their benefits by paying a small quarterly payment. This gave them benefits, and ... allowed them to vote.

This was not proper; you cannot have a class of retiree receiving benefits simply because they paid for it. Oh, and that payment that allowed them benefits and voting privileges... it was 25% of the amount needed to pay the International to allow those members to vote. Where did the remaining 75% come from? Active members' dues. Another \$60,000 yearly, or another \$½M over the last decade; lost. Retirees, if they want to vote, have to pay what the Local pays the International, no more, and in 2008 no less.

There was a select list of Retirees that were aware of the benefits that our members provided them, only 200 out of a population of 1000 were aware of our programs. Now they are equal; vote or no vote, the programs are theirs; friend or detractor.

I would also like to commend the Active members of this Local for taking care of its elderly population. These are the members who fought for your benefits and wages, often at the end of a water hose or the threat of unemployment; a sacrifice few of us have had to match. I am proud of our membership for aiding and comforting the generation before us.

Because of the way we controlled our spending, we were able to put our finances toward things our members called upon us to do. This will be touched upon later, but the members voted to put our efforts toward runaway production. A group of our members requested that our membership fund a legal action know as the 301a. It involves trade remedies against foreign countries. As of last week, and only after we received proof of a matching commitment of funds from other labor organizations, being as fiduciarly responsible as our Board could be, we made the third installment in an effort to halt subsidies of foreign countries toward enticing film production away from Hollywood. This could not have been done without budgeting for this very purpose. Your money is working for your interests.

In the past, we as a Local have dismissed the larger Brotherhood to which we belong, ignoring our involvement in the greater politic. When I was elected I made a commitment to re-establishing inter-Local relationships, and our legislative connections. Through the hard work of my then Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Paul Ahrens, we have gained access to many of our Local and State politicians. We are the biggest dog on the block; it was high time we asserted ourselves. Politicians now call Local 44 asking for

*Continued Pg 13*

# APOLOGY FROM The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

## TO THE EDITOR:

Academy governor Rosemary Brandenburg and Local 44 Business Agent Ed Brown have gently pointed out that we misidentified Gretchen Rau as a Set Designer in this year's Academy Award "In Memoriam" sequence. We know better of course, and as one of the small cohort of fact-checkers who should have caught the error in the chyron, I would like to convey our apologies to the Set Decorators of Local 44 IATSE.

The mistake will not be repeated.

Bruce Davis



# Business Agent's Report

Cont'd From Pg 4

Internationals jurisdiction.

\*Over the last 10 months my office has stepped up enforcement of jurisdictions, fought to get Severance pay for qualified members. Successfully lifted long standing "no-hire" letters, stepped up proper staffing enforcements, worked to enforce safety concerns, represented countless members faced with Labor Relations issues.

\*Even through my first months in office, when we were consumed by internal turmoil and a vast division of the membership, along with the hardships of holding an organization together that sat on the brink of imploding, we continued to work hard and stay focused on bringing respectability back to the hard working members of this local.

By continuing to be actively involved in:

Labor/Management safety issues.  
Participation within the L.A. County Federation of Labor.

Participation at District 2 convention, sending a respectable labor delegation to represent your interests.

I personally have lead our delegation to the Mid-Winter and Mid-Summer General Executive Board Meetings of the International, in a continued effort to build or rebuild relationships and credibility of our local throughout the country and the IA community.

Your Executive Board has been supportive and determined to aid in every way to mend what could have been a disaster, and they have done an outstanding job.

\*This past August on behalf of the members of Local 44, I was appointed and accepted a position on the Board of Directors of the Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans. As well I sit on the Joint Administration and Joint Legal Committees of those plans. The voice of close to 6000 members of this local had been silent by this vacancy for over a decade. The information provided to you has been second hand at best.

This will no longer, be the case. Local 44's membership now has that voice and that vote at the table. And with that having been said allow me to bring you an overview from the plans:

## PENSION FACTS

### End of Year Pension, Health & IAP 2006

Pension	2.4 Billion
IAP	1.9 Billion
Active Health	451 Million
Retiree Health	136 Million

Collective Totals 5.03 Billion in investments & reserves. (Reserve levels are maintained to meet monthly obligations, of Health and Pension benefits.)

"Health Plans monthly costs:" Currently \$29 Million overall monthly costs for Active members and \$7 Million monthly costs for Retirees. This is what the plans pay out monthly for your Health and Pension benefits. The plans cover 112,000 participants that is Members, Spouses and Dependents

Reported hours to plans are up over 1.6 Million hours year over year.

2006	77.8 Million
2005	76.2 Million

If you have specific questions about your pension, IAP or health coverage, I encourage you to contact the plans (818-769-0007) directly. Everyone's numbers are different and apply specifically to you, based on your overall hours worked, qualifying period and years vested.

\*With recognition that labor is directly tied to politics. We have stepped up our participation in Local, State and Federal labor activities and in some cases have become a vital player in many of these areas.

This past Tuesday (March 27th) I traveled to Sacramento, where I testified before the California Assembly Committee on Arts & Entertainment in an attempt to get State Production incentives in California similar to those currently in 30 other states in an ongoing effort to keep film production here in California or in many cases bring it back. To my knowledge this is the first time a Business Agent from Local 44 has testified before a California State Assembly Committee on this or any issue. And I will continue to bring your voice to Sacramento.

## Communicating with Us

If you have questions or problems? Call us directly.

The web site is a great tool for providing information and keeping our membership in touch, as well allowing for the free exchange of ideas and views. However, it is not an official platform for communication to either the Business Agent, Secretary Treasurer or the Executive Board. Those communications should be done directly through phone calls, emails or written documents. If you call and get a voice mail message, don't hang up. Leave a message; we will get back to you. This is a large local with close to 6000 members and everyone deserves individual time.

If you get voice mail, chances are we are giving that time to the member who called before you. If you leave a message and you don't get a return call, call back. Particularly if your calling from a cell phone. Cell phones as you know often break up or have so much static your voice sounds like you're underwater or worse. Leave a message or call back; we work very hard to be responsive and accessible to you.

## Legacies of the Past and the Challenges Ahead

I recognize and have begun to address and look for corrections of problems that have existed for way to long. Issues ignored, overlooked and in some cases abused. Some of this has been with us for over twenty years and will take time and effort and established relationships to correct. But I assure you that this administration is determined not to turn our backs on problems just because they've been around so long that the solution seems unreachable. Remember, it is in everyone's best interest that we succeed. The local is on the right track and we must get by the turmoil, drama and controversies of the past. We have come a long way in a very short period of time. We have a long road ahead and must stay focused.

Again I want to thank you for your support and ask for your continued participation.

It's About You!  
Fraternally,

Ed Brown

## Another Term

Cont'd From Pg 11

advice and strategizing over issues important to Labor. When Brother Ahrens moved to the Business Agent side of the aisle last spring, and with a new commitment from our present B.A., Local 44 is now a player in Local and State, and even National politics. This aids you.

Finally, let me run down a quick list of other accomplishments and changes.

We now attempt to use union or American-made products; "Taking care of our own." In the past our hats and shirts were made by Wal Mart-like companies, staffers cut out the "made in China" labels. The cost of our merchandise has gone up only slightly by using union shops. We have revamped the look of our merchandise, and are always looking for suggestions. Our printing is done at Union print houses; you'll always find a union bug on our correspondence, unless it's done in-house.

Speaking of in-house; we recently purchased a sorting / stuffing machine at the office, and refurbished a postal sorter / labeling machine that was collecting dust. It cost us \$35,000 three months ago. We have done 4 bulk mailings in that time; the saving in postage and labor has been \$5,000 to date. At that rate we will have recouped our investment in 18 months.

We are moving into the 21st century in

communication. Our Newsreel is about information, not political grandstanding. We are moving toward an online newspaper, eliminating the need to wait weeks for information. We are attempting to use emails as the new form of immediate communication and notification of upcoming events. If you have not given us your email address, do so; if you change it, notify us.

Only a year ago we hired a full-time webmaster. His name is Paul Bennett. He was here in the lobby when you came in. If you haven't introduced yourself please do so. If you have suggestions, he's the man to talk to. The website just underwent its second revamp days ago since Mr. Bennett took over. We will be constantly updating the look. If you have not been on the site recently, check it out. If you are not signed in, do so. Then check out the members only area and chat rooms. This is the communication tool of the future; get involved.

At the back table is a calendar of events. We have tried to create more programs for which members may involve themselves, in a relaxed environment with their brothers and sisters away from the job. Beside the annual Picnic, we have planned two potential fishing trips for all members and a golf tournament in November. We are looking at a Dodger game night. We have an interest list for a summer bowling league in the back. We want this to be a family. If you have

ideas, please let us know.

We have begun to recognize our members. In our Newsreel, we are trying to catalog our elders' stories. We recognize your anniversary dates. We sent every member of this Local their most recent five-year increment pin. We are beginning to place crew photos and show pictures of our members' work throughout the Hall. In the entrance of our Local is a Memorial Wall, honoring those among us who have passed away in the previous year. This year we began honoring those who contributed to the winning of Oscar-nominated categories in Best Picture, Best Visual Effects, and Best Art Direction, and we hope to have, next year, the ability of our own members to vote on categories of recognition within our own crafts.

To poorly paraphrase a commercial of years ago; "this is not your father's union." Despite attempts to move us backward, we will push forward into this century; with one thought in mind. What can we do for you?

This can be the dawn of a new, involved Union; we're waiting to work for you, tell your friends, this is NOT business as usual.

Thank you.

## KEEP OUR MEMBERS WORKING! PATRONIZE UNION SHOPS!

TO THE BEST OF LOCAL 44'S KNOWLEDGE, THE FOLLOWING SHOPS ARE

### NON-SIGNATORY:

*Applied Effects*  
*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.**

# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We wish to recognize and extend congratulations to all members celebrating a February 2007 Milestone as a Local 44 member.

## 50 Plus Years March

Henderson, Bob PROPMASTER  
Capitano, Louis PROPMAKER

## 50 Plus Years April

Labbe, Neil PROPMAKER  
Borgese, Johnny SPFX  
Soholm, Glen PROPMAKER

## 50 Year Anniversaries March

*No 50 year anniversaries this month*

## 50 Year Anniversaries April

*No 50 year anniversaries this month*

## 35 Year Anniversaries March

Green, Lee PROPMAKER

## 35 Year Anniversaries April

Allen, John PROPMAKER

## 25 Year Anniversaries March

*No 25 year anniversaries this month*

## 25 Year Anniversaries April

*No 25 year anniversaries this month*

## 10 Year Anniversaries March

Martinez, Cynthia GREENS  
Smith, Bert PROPMASTER  
Shewbert, Jeff PROPMAKER  
Man, Caius PROPMAKER  
Clause III, William PROPMAKER  
Randall, Allan PROPMAKER  
Haynes, Doug PROPMAKER  
Hadlow, James PROPMAKER  
Smith, Dwight PROPMAKER  
Bamberger, Lucas PROPERTY  
Johnson, Jerome PROPERTY  
Baker Jr., Ronnie PROPERTY  
Miller, Howard PROPERTY  
Valero, Floyd PROPMAKER  
Dotlinger, Ernest PROPMAKER  
Silcock, Robert PROPMAKER  
DeCourt, Robert PROPMAKER  
Schieltz, Matt GREENS  
Fencl, David PROPMASTER  
Farrar, Drake PROPMAKER  
Deely, Paul PROPMAKER  
Montoya, Chris PROPMAKER  
Hager, Gregg PROPMAKER  
Thompson, Malia PROPMAKER  
Berkel, Brian PROPMAKER  
Anderson, Victor PROPMAKER

Torpin, Tom  
Brown, Genise  
Stepanovich, Thomas  
Garber, Nancy  
Lauritzen, Steve  
Begakis, Dan  
Nelson, James  
Walton, Jack  
Fairchild, John  
Corporon-Hora, Mary  
Schenk, Michael  
Ledwith, Cherie

PROPMAKER  
PROPERTY  
PROPERTY  
PROPERTY  
PROPERTY  
PROPERTY  
PROPMAKER  
PROPERTY  
PROPERTY  
PROPERTY  
PROPERTY  
SET DEC

## 10 Year Anniversaries April

Gillooly, Daniel  
Sallvin, Tomas  
Silva, Porfirio  
Atchison, Terry  
Lanza, Aprile  
Stuart, David  
Greinke, William  
Ray, Renata  
Bolanowski, Kim  
Myers, Troy  
Dzidic, Rifet  
Yenawine, Tad  
Yeager, Daniel  
Sheaffer, Mark  
Glynn, Daniel  
Salazar, Steve  
Vega, Robert  
Green, Mark  
Thomson, Lee  
Hancock Jr., Leonard  
Deras, Jose  
Denooyer, Carl

GREENS  
COORDINATOR  
GREENS  
PROPMASTER  
PROPMAKER  
PROPMAKER  
PROPMAKER  
PROPERTY  
PROPERTY  
DRAPERER  
PROPMAKER  
PROPMAKER  
PROPMAKER  
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PROPMAKER  
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### 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 you wish to purchase any of your previous 5 year anniversaries, pins are available at the office.

# BIRTHS!



Set Dresser Daniel Cosmo Kuzmick and Cathy Butler welcome Ruby Elise Butler-Kuzmick to the world. Born on January 18th, 2007.



Brooke Araceli Cancino, born January 15th.

# ANOTHER HOMERUN!



(L to R) Sitting: Des O'regan; Danny Rea; Kim Nasatir, West Coast International - Standing Kevin Considine; Juan Grande; Randy Cushman; Rick Sieloff Ron Garcia West Coast IA; Carl Hicks

Once again local volunteer members 44 shinned and hit one out of the Park. Our members, and some help from the West Coast IA, made life a little easier for one of our own. We have two more Rebuilding Together projects coming up May 5th and May 19th Give me a call at 818 769-2500 or e-mail me at CARLH@LOCAL 44.ORG. No matter what craft, everyone has something to

## WELDING UPDATE

Welding certification rules have changed. The E-board has approved reimbursement for any Accredited training Facility for welding certification. The local will now reimburse members, in the appropriate craft, up to \$150 per year upon completion and passing welding certification for LA city D 1.1 or AWS certs for structural wire feed or dual shield. You must notify Assistant Business Agent Carl Hicks PRIOR TO enrolling in the class, for facility approval..

Simi Adult School will be offering Saturday classes starting June 16th..

## Remembrances

**Robert Hundt**  
Born: 2/16/1928  
Sworn: 2/25/1969  
Died: 1/2/2007  
Class: Property

**Albert Ellis**  
Born: 2/21/1919  
Sworn: 2/1/1951  
Died: 1/25/2007  
Class: Propmaker

**Manuel Martinez**  
Born: 7/10/1965  
Sworn: 3/1/2006  
Died: 1/29/2007  
Class: Property

**Matthew Smith**  
Born: 3/9/1953  
Sworn: 3/7/1998  
Died: 12/16/2007  
Class: Property

**Leldon McCoy**  
Born: 10/2/1936  
Sworn: 2/12/1974  
Died: 2/2/2007  
Class: Property

**Harold Schlax**  
Born: 3/18/1933  
Sworn: 2/14/1977  
Died: 1/25/2007  
Class: Special Effects

**Donald Feld**  
Born: 7/3/1934  
Sworn: 11/20/1974  
Died: 2/6/2007  
Class: Set Decorator

**Patrick Hass**  
Born: 3/7/1955  
Sworn: 1/10/1977  
Died: 2/17/2007  
Class: Propmaker

**Desmond O'Regan**  
Born: 9/12/1937  
Sworn: 8/23/1995  
Died: 2/19/2007  
Class: Property

**William "Bruce" Mattox**  
Born: 1/14/1936  
Sworn: 10/11/1976  
Died: 3/8/2007  
Class: Special Effects

**Jack Eberhart**  
Born: 7/25/1935  
Sworn: 12/19/1977  
Died: 3/11/2007  
Class: Master

**Sydney "Sid" Greenwood**  
Born: 1/14/1936  
Sworn: 7/26/1955  
Died: 3/16/2007  
Class: Master

**Gary Rizzo**  
Born: 11/29/1950  
Sworn: 11/10/1975  
Died: 3/31/2007  
Class: Property

**George Anton**  
Born: 6/28/1931  
Sworn: 2/21/1980  
Died: 3/14/2007  
Class: Property

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."



# 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., January 10th, 2007 Regular Meeting

### **Report:** Auditors

The Executive Board was presented with the formal report of the audit of Local 44 IATSE for the year 2005. The report verified that the books and financials of Local 44 IATSE were in order. There were less than a dozen suggestions for improved procedures, many of which had already been implemented by the Secretary-Treasurer before the report was finalized.

### **Committee Report:** Election

The Committee had work on several names of Election Service Providers and was investigating their track records in union elections. It was noted that the Election Committee had a private email account, a direct phone extension, and a locked box outside the Business office which only they had the key for, allowing the staff and officers of Local 44 to be completely uninvolved in the processes of this election.

**Motion:** To make the Election Committee aware of the legal restrictions of a former Business Agent from participation in the process of this election.

### Motion passed.

**Committee Report:** Constitution  
The International and President Short have approved the new Articles 1-8 of the Constitution with only 4 areas of clarification or change needed.

### *The Board entered into Executive Session for one hour two minutes.*

**Motion:** That 3 of the 4 areas of change suggested by the International and as discussed in Executive Session by passed.

### *Motion passed with three abstentions.*

**Motion:** That to hold office as a Representative or Delegate, or Alternate to either of those positions, all a member has to do is pay per capita to the International.

### *Motion passed with three abstentions.*

**Motion:** To instruct legal counsel to make the proposed changes in the Articles consistent with the motions just passed.

### *Motion passed with one abstention.*

### **Report:** Business Agent

Grievances; the BA had 15 ongoing.

An audit of a low-budget feature gave 27 members a total of \$52,371 in back wages.

\$2400 was collected for DVD bonus material shot without contributions.

The Roster removal process with Contract Services has been very aggressive. Local 44 has been filing protests on behalf of our members.

Negotiations were ongoing to bring on a greens company as signator.

The SDSA red carpet event was taking place and should the Local sponsor a table?

**Motion:** The Red Carpet event card would be mailed to membership, the Local would cover the mailing house charge out of the craft budget fund.

### *Motion passed.*

A report was given regarding the Rebuilding Together Program which helps elderly members of the entertainment industry with remodeling or repair projects.

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer  
The number of dropped members finding work was down to 32.

Final initiation numbers for 2006 was 213, down from 250 in 2005, but still well above the lowest levels of 2003-2004.

The first welder receiving funds from our certification reimbursement program occurred last month; however the original motion of July 2006 had been stated improperly.

**Motion:** The welding certification reimbursement shall have a maximum of \$150 per certification.

### *Motion passed.*

### *The Board entered into Executive Session for 25 minutes.*

**Motion:** That the Trustees review an Executive Board member's request for financial assistance. The Board feels it would be a conflict of interest to rule on one of its own.

### *Motion passed.*

The Secretary-Treasurer read a letter from a parent praising the work of Riley Lyons, a 44 member, with his work with juveniles in the legal system training them with construction skills. This was a program Local 44 had given seed money to.

**Discussion:** Past staffer and officer financial request  
*The Board went into Executive Session for 9 minutes.*

**Motion:** To deny the ex-Executive Board member and officer a compensation package as earlier denied in November 2004.

### *Motion passed with 4 abstentions.*

**Report:** The progress of several DFR filings was reported by counsel.

### *The Board went into Executive Session for 7 minutes.*

### *The Board went into Executive Session again for 20 minutes.*

## Wed., January 31st, 2007 Special Meeting

**Discussion:** Member information was being used improperly. Anonymous packages were

being distributed to certain members of Local 44 from what appeared to be a database that would not be accessible to the average member. The anonymous packets were then being distributed electronically via emails that also seemed to be inaccessible to the average member.

### *The Board went into Executive Session for 1 hour 25 minutes.*

**Motion:** To hire a forensic inspector to analyze possible invasion of Local 44 database.

### *Motion carried with one abstention.*

## Wed., January 31st, 2007 Special Budget Meeting

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer handed out the proposed 2007 budget.

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed and discussed the budget and made additions and recommended changes. The Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to put the budget into effect.

## Wed., February 7th, 2007 Regular Meeting

**Report:** SCEE members (4 past members of the SCEE committee made a presentation).

In the late 1990s several members (12) of Local 44 were requested to head a committee on the validity of ageism in hiring practices in the field. The committee was formed by a past BA prior to an election, and the sense was that after he won the election he dismissed the reports findings and effectively went after members of the committee. The members filed a grievance, but it was not heard.

Members of the SCEE believe that the ex-BA effectively kept them from employment when the results of their report were not what he wanted to hear, and that the battle that ensued between the BA and the SCEE cost them careers, homes and health coverage.

(The SCEE members finished their presentation and were excused).

### *The Board went into Executive Session for 21 minutes.*

**Motion:** To table the SCEE issue until Board members can read and review the 1998 SCEE report.

### *Motion passed.*

### **Report:** Election Committee

Committee members reported the proposed Ballot Company and mailing house they wished to use for the elections and there costs. Both these companies were not the ones used by Local 44 in the past and therefore no collusion could be assumed.

### *The Board went into Executive Session for 6 minutes.*

**Motion:** To direct the Secretary-Treasurer to sign the contract for TruBallot election service provider

### *Motion passed.*



**Motion:** To use West Coast mailers as the mailing house for the election.

**Motion passed.**

**Motion:** To approve the rental of Local 80's hall as the location for the ballot count on March 30, 2007.

**Motion passed.**

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

**Report:** Trustees

The Trustees gave their presentation and findings on a policy for grant money from the Local and exact parameters under which they could be used, including and authorization form to sign.

The Trustees presented a contract from the independent auditing firm they had secured for the annual audit of Local 44.

**Motion:** To approve the retaining of the independent auditors secured by the Trustees.

**Motion passed.**

**Report:** Constitution Committee

The Board was provided the new Articles with changes requested by the International along with a letter for approval to Tom Short.

**Motion:** To send on the proposed changed Articles to President Short after a couple grammatical passages were fixed.

**Motion passed.**

The Committee was reviewing the trial processes of other unions and would have the third and final section of the Constitution rewrite sent for approval soon.

**Report:** Business Agent

Chris Walkowiak injured in an explosion was doing well and was undergoing outpatient treatment.

There are 14 grievances pending

The BA, Secretary-Treasurer and President will be attending the International Mid-winter GEB.

The Art Director's Guild will be held Feb. 17.

The SDSA Gala will be held Feb. 25th.

There are 78 pilots slated to begin.

There were a couple safety issues involving the lack of a medic on locations.

An agreement was reached with Yahoo Productions to have pre-production wages paid at the Basic Agreement.

Greenco is the newest signator and signed at Basic Agreement scale.

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer

The revamped budget for 2007 was given to Board members for review and approval.

The Art Director's Guild purchase of tickets was done by a proxy vote over email. A request to officially record it.

**Motion:** To purchase 2 tables at the upcoming Art Director Event.

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

Our existing life insurance policy was up for renewal: rates were going to increase 20% as of March 1. 8 other carriers were shopped

and Aetna came out on top. The Secretary-Treasurer gave 6 options for coverage to the Board for approval.

**Motion:** To approve a 3-year plan boosting the insurance coverage to \$7,000.

**Motion passed.**

The new mailer/sorter machine ran its first job. The savings was \$800 in postage cost alone.

A member requested to send a resume to other members using our address database. The resume was passed out.

**Motion:** To allow the resume mailing with contact information of other members redacted.

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

**Motion:** To establish policy on the posting of resumes

**Motion passed.**

**Motion:** To set the date for the General Membership Meeting at March 31, 2007.

**Motion passed.**

**Report:** Special Effects Craft Representative

Several members who had come up through the apprenticeship program in the 1970s wanted recognition for their time spent in the program, though their membership years did not count until they were initiated.

Scott Wheatley injured over a year before in an explosion has returned to work.

**Report:** Set Decorator Craft Representative  
A meeting among Decorators is set for Feb. 15.

**The Board went into Executive Session for 9 minutes.**

**Report:** Volunteer work

The charitable work of Local 44 members helping retired members was discussed.

**Wed., February 21st, 2007**  
**Special Decorum Meeting**

This meeting was called to discuss breaches of Executive Session by Executive Board members. Executive Session discussions are not to be discussed with any members outside the Executive Board.

The Board went into Executive Session for 1 hour 15 minutes.

The offending Executive Board member was to receive a letter of censure as was precedent in similar circumstances.

**Motion:** That the offending Board member shall have to remove himself from all further Executive Session discussions.

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

**Wed., February 21st, 2007**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Discussion:** Downey Studios

**The Board went into Executive Session for 21 minutes.**

**Report:** Set Decorators

The steering committee met. They have hashed out some resolutions that were presented to the Business Agent to deliver to the Producers and Contract Services.

**Report:** Business Agent

The BA gave a report on the just finished Mid-Winter International GEB meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. He touched on the highlights of the week.

A Prop Master was added to the 2nd unit of NCIS.

"Rebuilding Together" the volunteer group helping industry members, particularly the elderly, was a success.

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer

The contract for the election service provider had been signed.

A handout of our investment portfolio was given. Based on the report we were over \$3.2M in investments, indicating that we were able to add \$250,000 last month. Since 2002, our funds have made 6.6%.

The SCEE report was made available to the Board members.

A letter of appreciation for the way the Secretary-Treasurer and the Executive Board were taking care of members especially the retirees was read.

A flyer to be sent to our membership needed approval.

**Motion:** To allow the food stylist flyer to be mailed.

**Motion passed.**

A second request to review financial records by brother McGeehan had been made. It was noted that the last review of records had cost the Local \$1,200. Discussion ensued regarding the nature of this request, and whether it was politically motivated.

**Motion:** To deny this particular request for record review as stated in the request.

**Motion passed with three abstentions.**

The Trustees were still working on securing an agent to investigate the firewall situation at the local.

LA Trade Tech was checking into the liability factor of renting the Hall as a satellite facility.

**Report:** 301a

The attorneys for the 301a filing were requesting the ability to place Local 44 IATSE as one of the contributors and signers of the petition on their report.

**Motion:** To allow the 301a attorneys the ability to use Local 44 IATSE as a petitioner if other major contributors are also listed.

**Motion passed.**

**Request to address the Board:** Dennis

McGeehan  
Brother McGeehan was allowed to address the Board.

McGeehan gave a presentation based on findings he believed he had after reviewing certain Local 44 IATSE accounts. His issues were basically that the Secretary-Treasurer received a week's vacation check in 2005 without taking time off, and that the official LM2 salary and the estimated budget numbers for the Secretary-Treasurer for 2005 were off by \$3,000.

**Motion:** That the concerns of Brother McGeehan with regard to finances be sent to the Trustees for review and report.

*Motion passed with three abstentions.*

**Discussion:** White ballot voting options were discussed. White ballots are when a candidate for a particular elected position is running unopposed. The Board was concerned that with the number of new positions; Alternates, that the uncontested seats might be confusing.

**Motion:** That the ballot company through the Election Committee ensure a simple ballot and time permitting the Board see a sample ballot.

*Motion passed.*

**Discussion:** SCEE update

The Board went into Executive Session for 8 minutes.

**Discussion:** Phone tree

Brother Jo Livolsi wanted to propose using the Local's automated phone service to reach out to members for testimonies for the 301a effort. It was determined to use the email addresses of Local 44 for this purpose.

**Discussion:** Resume mailers

Should there be the ability of members to send out resumes to other members of Local 44?

**Motion:** To allow members to send out resumes provided no Local 44 return address was included and if the member indemnify Local 44 from misstatements.

*Motion passed.*

**Wed., March 7th, 2007**  
**Regular Meeting**

*Acceptance of previous minutes:*

**Motion:** To strike unsubstantiated references in Brother McGeehan's presentation of February 21.

*Motion passed.*

**Motion:** To pull testimony regarding Propmaker Representative Martin from Executive Session of special meeting on February 21.

**Discussion:** How is it possible to put something on the record that is officially not on the record from a prior meeting?

*The original motion was retracted and restated*

**Motion:** To have a particular Board member restate a request made in Executive Session at a prior Board meeting on the record.

*Motion failed.*

**Motion:** To strike references in the February 21 meeting regarding a Board member's name about Executive Session comments.

*On a split vote, motion passed.*

**Presentation:** The President gave a proposed handout describing the rules of Executive Session for incoming Board members.

**Report:** Trustee Payroll Investigation

**Motion:** To have the report discussed in Executive Session.

*On a split vote, motion passed with one abstention.*

*The Board went into Executive Session for 23 minutes.*

**Motion:** To accept the Trustee Report regarding the financial report given by Brother McGeehan.

*Motion passed with one abstention.*

**Motion:** To enter the first 6 pages of the report of the Trustees into the official record.

*Motion passed with one abstention.*

*Following are the first 6 pages (condensed in this synopsis).*

**RE: Executive Board request for investigation of records**

The letter of request from the Executive Board to the Trustees was read:

It stated that a rank-and-file member had made accusations of improper recordkeeping at the Local. The accusations surrounded discrepancies between the official LM2 payroll numbers and the budget estimate numbers given to the membership. Also, there was an issue of payroll advances.

**The letter of findings from the Trustees was read:**

*Payroll advances:* The Secretary-Treasurer did nothing improper. All requests for an advance of a payroll week were done in writing with the reason for the need of an advance stated, and a copy was kept in a personnel file. The independent auditors were contacted and asked of the procedure and they told the Trustees it was perfectly normal and accepted business practice.

One error occurred because of the then accountant. The final week of 2005 was not to be paid because of an earlier advance; and it was. When this error was discovered the Secretary-Treasurer requested in writing that his first check of 2006 be withheld and it was.

*Vacation Payout:* The Secretary-Treasurer took a one week vacation payout. This was done within guidelines set by the independent auditors.

*LM2 Filings:* The LM2 is prepared by the accounting firm hired by the Trustees and is based on payroll figures for the staff of a particular year. In reviewing the numbers used in the chart provided by the accounting firm, the LM2 is accurate.

*Budget Figures:* Budget figures are only estimates. An example would be that the legal expense figures budgeted for the year was off due to the unexpectedly high legal expenses of that year. The only difference in the Secretary-Treasurer's budget was due to his one week vacation check.

*Accounting software:* The Local uses payroll software that is date driven. That is, a paycheck is recorded in a particular year depending on the date of the Saturday for the end of the check. January 1, 2005 was a Saturday, therefore the first check of the year; December 31, 2005 was also a Saturday, making it the 53rd paycheck of a year. 2006 has only 51 pay periods. An unqualified member, not understanding accounting, could easily try to do an investigation and not think of this, as did Mr. McGeehan.

Notes 1 through 4 followed verify the validity and properness of advances during 2005, including one repayment of the Secretary-

Treasurer for an overpayment on a check.

*Note 5 - Payroll advances.* It is normal, proper procedure that if an employee faces a hardship and needs a payroll advance, that the request is submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer for approval based on the reasons stated. There is no policy on the Secretary-Treasurer taking advances himself, but the Secretary-Treasurer followed the procedure used for all employees and had his requests kept in his personnel file.

In our review there has been no wrongdoing on the part of the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Discussion:** It was determined that Brother McGeehan had poorly researched the findings he gave to the Board. It was also stated to Brother McGeehan that his accusations appeared to be frivolous and a waste of Board time and resources, and he was warned that any additional accusations by Brother McGeehan or any other member of this nature would be considered malicious and possibly be chargeable offenses under the Constitution.

**Motion:** To provide Brother McGeehan with a copy of the first 6 pages of the report by the Trustees.

*Motion passed.*

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

**Report:** Business Agent Sergeant-At-Arms Mary Gullickson was in the hospital.

A letter had been sent to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on behalf of Local 44, over the improper recognition of Set Decorator Gretchen Rau during the Oscar memorial listing. She was designated as a Set Designer.

Propmaker Armando "Grande" Gonzalez was injured on the set he was working 4 days earlier, yet made this night's Board meeting.

Safety Passport classes for weapons handling will begin for Property people in the summer of 2007.

The BA provided the Board with a report on the loss of revenue from pirated pictures in Los Angeles.

A new MPTF facility was going to open this summer in Granada Hills making it the sixth facility operated for motion picture members.

The ISS golf tournament was being held April 6th. Typically money from the proceeds are donated to the Local 44 Benevolent Fund; this year ISS will give the proceeds to brother Walkowiak and his family.

**Motion:** That Local 44 donates \$1,000 to the ISS charity golf tournament.

*Motion passed.*

The SDSA luncheon would be held March 26th.

**Motion:** To sponsor a table for \$1,000 at the SDSA luncheon.

*On a split vote, motion passed.*

The BA read an email by Propmaker Rep Martin regarding a certain coordinator using non-IA members to do covered work, stating this issue was brought to the BA months ago. Was there any progress?

The BA and Propmaker Rep Gonzalez had no recollection of the earlier request. It was stated that the BA would have no problem inves-

tigating the situation, but he needed facts, not hearsay to act.

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer

There was a request to support the North Hollywood Police Division PALS charity. It was noted that there had been a couple occasions to call the police to the Hall in the past two years and they had responded quickly.

**Motion:** To sponsor a foursome of officers at \$600.

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

The SDSA would like to have a direct link from their website to Local 44's website. It would be acceptable if a disclaimer is next to the SDSA logo indicating they are not an official 44 affiliate.

The website was being revamped and would be changes soon.

A request was being made for compensation for the time spent by a Trustee in regard to spending the past week investigating financial claims.

**Motion:** To compensate the Trustee for 35 hours of work in the investigation, review and preparation of his report.

**Motion passed with two abstentions.**

The final Cunningham payout was made on December 31, 2006; however, the Plans were rejecting contributions made on his behalf saying an agreement is not work. The Local then had to make a cash payment to Cunningham in the amount equal to his contributed hours. The Plans were being petitioned for return of the contribution money.

AFTRA-SAG credit union made a request to reach out to our membership with a flyer.

**Motion:** To allow a mailer by the AFTRA-SAG credit union.

**Motion failed.**

The Secretary-Treasurer updated the Board on the fixing of the B and R fund and its historic problems. Nearly 400 retired members were allowed to go dropped when they didn't pay for voting dues; this now kept them from Local 44 benefits. The Secretary-Treasurer had spoken with the International Secretary-Treasurer Wood and negotiated an agreement to make these members whole at 10% of the possible cost.

**Motion:** To use \$17,000 of the contingency fund budgeted to bring over a hundred members back into proper status to retire out.

**Motion passed.**

**Policy Adoption:** Grant Money

**Motion:** To adopt the grant money policy created by the Trustees.

**Motion passed.**

Policy read into the minutes (condensed in this synopsis)

A maximum \$1,500 one-time grant for members in catastrophic circumstances; i.e. fire, flood, severe injury.

This is not a grant for financial distress situations.

Grants will not exceed the amount budgeted for such purposes each year.

Members in financial distress will be referred to the MPTF.

**Letter of Censure:** A letter of censure was delivered to a Board member who had broken Executive Session by speaking to a member of a group of individuals who were bringing a petition to the Board. The issue had not been resolved and the particular Board member had leaked information out that was privileged. The censure letter was to be read into the minutes.

**Discussion:** One Board member sent an email to the BA regarding another instance of supposed Executive Session breach. The Board member was reminded that this was what prompted the censure letter language.

**The Board went into Executive Session for 6 minutes.**

**Wed., March 21st, 2007**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Report:** Downey Studios

**The Board went into Executive Session for 4 minutes.**

**Report:** Safety

Asst. BA Ahrens reported on the ongoing problem of staffing medics on shows.

There was also concern about radio frequencies interference with explosives due to walkie-talkie use on sets.

The issue of the safety of gators was going to be discussed April 3.

This is an extremely dry season. The safety people will shut down productions if unsafe situations exist on location with possible fire hazards.

Only 40% of Prop Masters had completed the safety passport classes.

**Report:** Election

Things are running much smoother this election than the last, not without problems but it is more organized.

The committee plans on creating a guidebook after the election is over to present to future Election Committees to allow the process to work that much better. Suggestions for improvement will also be included post-election.

**Report:** Business Agent

In response to an email by a Board member about non-union workers at a coordinator facility, one of the Asst. Bas investigated the facility. The physical inspection of several stages found no non-union workers and no permits working. It did unearth 9 members not current on their dues. These members and their foremen were given verbal 3-day warnings and to date those members are either current or not working.

A letter was read from Fox Entertainment stating one of the Board members was presenting himself as a Representative of Local 44 to gain lot access. The letter said only the BAs were given that access. The BA reminded Board members of paragraph 59 of the Basic, it only allowed Agents of the Local access to facilities.

**The Board went into Executive Session for 6 minutes.**

This week the BA Brown and Asst. BA Ahrens were traveling to Sacramento on behalf of Local 44 members to testify about tax incentives of other states drawing away

Industry jobs.

A lifetime no hire was lifted off a member who had taken pictures of a production he was working on and posted them on the internet.

The final list of members being removed from the Industry Experience Roster was sent to Local 44. There are 18 members we are still trying to provide documentation for to remain rostered.

A letter was read from the SDSA thanking Local 44 for helping to sponsor its "Red Gala Event"

**Report:** Secretary-Treasurer

The new postage machine has saved nearly \$3400 in postage alone with 4 mailings.

The Retirees' Spring Luncheon was March 23rd.

**Discussion:** SCEE report

The original 1998 SCEE report was distributed to Executive Board members for their review.

A list of accomplishments now in place, requested by the SCEE was noted.

**The Board went into Executive Session for 37 minutes.**

**Motion:** To have a special meeting on April 4, 2007 to discuss the SCEE matter.

**Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** The 301a filing was moving forward. To date \$121,000, not counting local 44 contributions have been received by the filing attorneys.

**Motion:** To make the third installment payment amount of \$37,500 to the attorneys filing the 301a petition.

**Motion passed.**

**Presentation:** Executive Board Booklet

A proposed draft of an Executive Board booklet was presented by the President. This would be handed out to Executive Board members as a guide and answer book.

**Motion:** To pay for a laminated reference guide of Roberts Rules of Order from discretionary funds.

**Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** About having a CD-ROM version of Roberts Rules purchased and having a laptop available at Board meetings.

**Motion:** To make available a laptop computer at Board meetings.

**On a split vote, motion passed with one abstention.**

**Discussion:** Is there a method to get standard harassment training in the studios? Members continually go through these courses every time they move to a different location.

**Discussion:** We have a member's handbook that is out of date. We need to update it. Board members are to review it and make suggestions for improvements.



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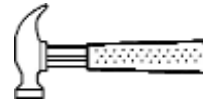
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