

LOCAL 44 NEWSREEL



Local 44 Members Are Back to Work While SAG/AFTRA Negotiates

Also: Summer Picnic, Craft Meetings, General Meetings & Fox Drapery

APRIL & MAY 2008

Larry Ferrito

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Craft Meetings Are Here!

We hear from members every day who have opinions about the rate of pay, working conditions, representation and myriad other issues. Your opportunity to exchange information and express your point of view in an open forum is fast approaching.

Craft meetings are going to be held in the next few weeks. Please set the day and time aside so you may attend. Encourage everyone on your crew to attend, car pool, plan breakfast or lunch with each other, meet old friends and make new ones, hunt for work or fill your crew. Join your brothers and sisters in a morning full of discussion while you find out what's up with your union. Bring your questions, concerns, gripes and praises, but most important

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Fox Drapery Department

The Fox Drapery Department continues to offer prompt and professional fabrication of all set textiles including linens, bedding and pillows, draperies and window treatments of every kind from contemporary to period. They are your source (both on and off the lot) for blinds and shades, as well as special order fabrics. Fox also upholsters furniture, makes wall panels, slipcovers, textile props such as stuffed animals, luggage and furniture covers. Architectural elements such as awnings and tents can also be made to order. In addition, they have floor coverers and drapery installers on hand and on call for any installation on your stage or location.



(L to R) Local 44 B.A. Ed Brown, Deborah Jones, Bryce Vardanian and Sonya Sikkila-Dias

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IATSE Local 44 Newsreel
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Representative Alternate

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Set Decorator Rep. Alternate

Timothy Graham
Propmaker Rep. Alternate

Michael Loomer
Property Rep. Alternate

Dutch Merrick
Prop Master Rep. Alternate

Ed Reiff, Jr.
Special Effects Rep. Alternate

John Samson
Coordinator Rep. Alternate

Delegates

Paul Ahrens
Propmaster Delegate

Michael Cappello
Propmaker Delegate

David Elliot
Coordinator Delegate

Roman Samokish
Property Delegate

J.D. Streett
Special Effects Delegate

Amy Wells
Set Decorator Delegate

Delegate Alternates

Emily Ferry
Prop Master Delegate Alt.

Carl Hicks
Coordinator Delegate Alt.

Andrea Joel
Set Decorator Delegate Alt.

Michael Loomer
Property Representative Alt.

George Paine
Special Effects Delegate Alt.

Anthony Pawluc
Propmaker Delegate Alt.

Trustees

Robert Carlyle

Jeannie Gunn

Erik Nelson

Local 44 Shop Stewards

Alpha Medical
Alex Hernandez

CBS Television City
Andrea Joel

Disney Studios
J.R. Reynolds
818-467-1966

Fox Studios
Bryce Vardanian
818-510-0737

Lennie Marvin
Denise Grisco

Paramount Pictures
Tony Chavez
818-262-9213

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Michael Bottoni

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Universal Studios
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818-215-4303
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Dennis Christensen
818-953-0300

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Brian Kelner
Thomas Krausz
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Ron Hall

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Ed Langdon, and Milt Wilson

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Newsreel Editor-In-Chief

Elliot Jennings

NEWSREEL SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the next

Newsreel is:

June 27, 2008

Please be sure your contact information is clearly marked.

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12021 Riverside Drive
North Hollywood, CA 91607**

The Picnic Is Coming!!

Seems like only yesterday, but the annual Backlot Locals Family Picnic is only months away.

Mark your calendars and set aside the date:

September 28, 2008

At *Calamigos Ranch in Malibu*

Business Agent's Report

By Ed Brown



Actors in the spotlight & Negotiations

As I submit this article the Screen Actors Guild and the AMPTP have broken off negotiations. AFTRA has come to the table and the industry remains unstable. The outcome of all this is still uncertain and our members should remain cautious. SAG's contract expires in June and unfortunately the possibilities of another work stoppage exist. Members should take all work calls and exercise good financial common sense. The affects of the WGA strike are still fresh in our minds. The Pension, Health and IAP plans have begun to feel those affects as well, with a drop in hourly contributions of 25% in just the month of February. This may have an impact on negotiations with the AMPTP for our contract which expires in July of 2009. The IATSE along with the Hollywood locals conducted three days of early negotiations on April 7th thru 9th. These talks recessed to allow the previously slated SAG talks to begin. No date to resume talks has been set. The discussions have been focused on New Media residuals, Wages and Benefits and the affect of Federal legislation that changes funding requirements for Pension plans. Specifically the Pension Protection Act of 2006. We are focused on maintaining those Federally required funding adjustments without modifications to the Pension and IAP plans. And the more challenging hurdle of Health care and the maintenance of benefits. All of which are paramount issues facing every corner of the nation and every industry.

Special Effects Skills Training

The letters to request an application for Special Effects Skills Training have been received at the hall. Responses to those requests should be in the mail shortly. The start date for training begins July 19th 2008 and concludes in Mid February 2009. We are very encouraged by the response from our Prop Shop community and look forward to a successful program.

Double Dipping - Double Shifting

What is it, and why is it wrong? Simply the term Double Dipping is used to describe when someone is on two payrolls at the same time. This is a problem on many levels. Our Constitution prohibits "Double Shifting" in Article Seven, Section 13, and has built in fines for those who violate this clause. When someone works two jobs at once, someone else potentially has no job! Not only is this against basic union principals, it is in many cases, a violation of your agreement with your employer. When you sign your start paperwork if you read all of it carefully, and you always should, somewhere in there is what is called a "Non Compete" clause. This states that your employer has exclusive rights to your services when you are on their payroll. It also states that if you provide those services for another employer at the same time, you must notify that employer. If you don't you are in violation of that portion of the agreement. We have been finding that employers are increasingly enforcing this clause. Members that have been found to be working for two different employers at the same time without the knowledge of both parties have been faced with lengthy investigations. Employers have sought disciplines such as immediate discharge, issuance of "no hire" letters, and repayment of wages. The Union has represented an increasing number of members faced with this type of circumstance.

In extreme cases employers have threatened to take these issues to civil proceedings claiming payroll fraud. The point is, to avoid finding yourself in this position remember, one member, one job! Read your deal memos carefully and once you agree and sign the document, comply with the language. If you find something in a deal memo that you either don't understand or don't agree with, don't sign it until you discuss its details with a Business Agent.

Set Decorators and Buyers

Many Set Decorators have designated a person on their Set Dressing (Property) crew as either a Buyer or a Shopper. Set Decorators should be reminded that the person employed in this position is not at any time an additional Set Decorator or a fill in Set Decorator. This position has skill sets specifically designed to aid the Set Decorator and Leadperson in the dressing of

sets, not the actual Set Decoration of sets. A Buyer is not permitted by contract language to make selections or acquire Properties or Set Decorations used in the decorating of sets. Neither is the Buyer the Dept. Head responsible for directing the crew. This has historically, and remains the sole jurisdiction of the Set Decorator. In all situations where the set requirements call for additional help, every effort should be taken to have Production add an additional Set Decorator. The assigning of this additional work by the Set Decorator to anyone other than a Local 44 Set Decorator, is not only a violation of our agreement, but destructive to the Set Decoration craft as a whole. Many of our very talented members of this craft find themselves out of work when persons other than Set Decorators provide production with this function. Let's face it, the type of product produced under the one hour drama banner today is not the same product produced years ago. In many cases the need for an additional Set Decorator, if only for one week, is justified. If you are in this situation, you must comply with our agreements and make sure this work is provided by a Local 44 Set Decorator only.

Help is still there!

Are you still feeling the affect of the WGA strike and need financial assistance? If your answer is yes, then pick up the phone and make the call. Either call the Local 44 Member Services office, Callboard or a Business Agent to get contact numbers for assistance. Specifically, the Motion Picture and Television Fund has extended services to participants that have not recovered from the strike and are still needing help.

If you are one of our members that did receive help, and are starting to get back on your feet, remember the MPTF when that pledge card shows up in your mailbox, and write a check. You never know when you may find yourself at their door. It's all part of "Taking Care of Our Own".

It's about you
Fraternally,
Ed Brown

Another Job At Saving

By Elliot Jennings



This has been a peculiar year to say the least.

The year began on a sour note with a WGA strike affecting many members financial situation negatively for years, and destroying the 2008 television pilot season that so many members count on for a primary source of their yearly earnings.

A similarly foolish move by the actors (SAG) could wipe out the remainder of the year, for tv and features. The scary thing about the actors (aside from the fact the majority of them don't earn a living from their guild), is that if they push too far, the Producers may take the opportunity to pull a paradigm shift of the Industry. This could also cause an Industry-wide disruption.

Though I am not quoting the exact contract language, SAG actors have jurisdiction over "anything shot on film"; AFTRA a rival acting union has kept to other forms of media. How much of television and features are still shot on film? Is digital photography...film? Stay tuned.

Another display of the Producers unrelenting greed-based destruction of the Hollywood Industry and the California lawmakers' head-in-the-sand attitude at salvaging it: the television show "Ugly Betty" announced it was relocating to New York, to take advantage of that state's 35% tax incentive for "film" production.

In a tremendous display of solidarity and frustration, the crew members and vendors working on "Ugly Betty" took out a full-page ad in Daily Variety (Friday, May 9, 2008). The ad was directed at California's Governor, Sacramento's lawmakers, and all the way down to the L.A. City Council. The ad pointed out the lost income and tax base, unemployment checks now instead of payroll, and the impact on companies who supply the show. It then listed the crew and vendors by name. Kudos to those members and vendors that placed this piece in the trades; it is my feeling that we should contribute to the expense of that article as a sign of support.

The lawmakers from our own city, all the way to the Governor's mansion, are gripped with inaction. The northern California lawmakers see this as only a southern California problem for the wealthy with no perk for their own jurisdictions. We wait while our craft is exported to other states, and our craftsmen relocate to other regions

to find steady employment.

We could have prevented this exodus years ago with incentives. We still have the best crews in film and television in the country; they still outperform most of the crews in America. For now we have the more skilled workforce and they are brought "on location" in significant numbers; our infrastructure is better; we have the greater number and more modern facilities. Not for long! Each time we go on location we train a workforce that will learn our secrets; the more film shot elsewhere builds up the support businesses; investors pour money into new soundstages. When the California lawmakers finally decide to stem this tide, it will be a case of shutting the barn door after the livestock has escaped. Become vocal now!

All this ranting brings me back to what was to be the point of my article.

On Sunday, April 27, I attended the MPIP/HP Retirement seminar, not because I was personally thinking of retirement yet, but to get some insight into what information was being given (or not disseminated) to our members.

I did find it informative. There were representatives of "the Plans" to explain exactly where you were individually with regard to your retirement, and the overall health of the Plans; members of the MPTF to show what they offered retired members; Social Security reps; a Trust lawyer to answer questions about Living Trust and medical directives; and investment brokers.

The latter was the one I found interesting.

Learn to save! It has been a familiar theme of my articles in the past.

I direct all new initiates to learn to live a 40-hour lifestyle. Live on 40; save the overtime in an investment account. Even if you are not young with minimal debt, if you can't make your monthly debt on less than 3 weeks pay; you're overextended! Find a qualified credit counselor to give you a strategy to reduce your debt.

I recently received a letter from a Retiree who talked about how "I had made all [your] children millionaires", referencing an Article I'd run twice before (Take Control: Millionaire Kids). God, it would be great if that were true! Of course in the same letter he also thanked me for saving Louisiana after Katrina, so maybe he was being sarcastic.

His reference alluded to the fact that a constant directive of mine to you is to invest for your own retirement by saving for yourself.

In the Millionaire Children article, I gave an example of finding your young teenager work; something that created wage or 1099 income, even if it was filing papers in the office of your spouse's, or your, side busi-

ness. By placing \$1,000 each year into an IRA account for your child at ages 13, 14 and 15 and never a contribution afterward, that with historical compound interest, your child would reach 65 with over a million dollars.

Many members felt this hyperbole, but at the MPTF seminar the investment brokers used a similar compound interest chart with an example easier for many to relate to (it is reprinted below) and validating my instruction.

The scenario is of two investors; the first is 19 and puts \$2,000 a year away for 7 years, then never touches the account again; the second is 26 and puts \$2,000 away for 40 years until he/she is 65 years old. They both earn the identical 10% per year (below historical stock market average). At 65, the investor starting at 19 and stopping after 7 years had \$30,000 more at retirement.

The Power of Compounding				
Age	Investor A		Investor B	
	Contribution	Year-End Value	Contribution	Year-End Value
18	0	0	0	0
19	2,000	2,200	0	0
20	2,000	4,620	0	0
21	2,000	7,282	0	0
22	2,000	10,210	0	0
23	2,000	13,431	0	0
24	2,000	16,974	0	0
25	2,000	20,872	0	0
26	0	22,959	2,000	2,200
27	0	25,255	2,000	4,620
28	0	27,780	2,000	7,282
.
.
.
63	0	780,895	2,000	800,896
64	0	858,765	2,000	883,185
65	0	944,641	2,000	973,704
Less Total Invested:		(14,000)	(80,000)	
Equals Net Earnings:		930,641	893,704	
Money Grew:		66-fold	11-fold	

I'm not 19, or 26, you say. That may be so, but the government allows "catch-up" for older investors. Currently, you may contribute \$5,000 per year into an IRA; at 50 you may increase that to \$6,000. Each year the amount is to be adjusted for the cost of living and increase in \$500 increments. Sacrifice a little now, and secure your retirement.

Whenever you get the chance, start saving; if not for your retirement, then for those unpredictable but expected down times. You need to prepare for groups of writers or actors who strike for more money just in case they get their "big break"; when some heartless Producer skips town; or when the foot-dragging propensity of lawmakers lets an Industry dissolve right in front of them.

Hoping the best for all of you.

From The President

By Erin Hennessey



Suit up and show up!

Brothers and Sisters of Local 44, I am writing to hopefully get you more involved in your Local and other union affairs. The meaning of a union is supposed to be an association of workers formed by people to protect and further their rights and interests. We, from what I see, have a very low turnout in that area. I thank the ones that keep the dream alive by showing up; I personally think our union will be much stronger if we show up in large numbers. It is not asking too much to show up for two Craft Meetings and one General Membership

Meeting a year. For one or two hours of your time, for you to take interest in something that in my opinion has given or provided a wonderful standard of living for you and or your family.

I know and understand we work long hours and when we are off we like to spend our time with family and friends. I am only asking for one or two meetings a year for two hours maximum of your time, it is your future, as well as mine, that is on the line. There are many items of topic to talk about; such as run away production that is leaving L.A. in droves; this is due to incentives given in other states, some as large as 42%. Not to mention they are also building sound stages in all of these places. So what does this mean to us? If we are not contributing to our health and welfare funds we will eventually not have one, or at the least, not one that will amount to much at the end of the day. We also have other problems that arise from this, such as when we start to make concessions in order to keep productions working at home, these concessions then erode away at all the other things contractually that those before us fought so

hard for.

It is time we start standing up for what we believe in or we will fall for anything. Let us not get so complacent that we lose everything. At our last General Membership Meeting only 175 members out of almost 6,000 showed up, that to me folks, is not showing very strong union support. We just voted on our last contract and only around 1,800 members voted; we had the same turnout with our general elections. All I am saying friends, brothers and sisters is we can do better than this, let us show some solidarity and strength by showing up and giving support to what, I believe, has been a wonderful living for many of our members. We have good people involved in this Local; now let us not lose their interest.

Thank you very much for your time. I hope to see more of you folks at your next meeting.

Sincerely, President Erin Hennessey

Larry Ferritto Bids Farewell to Fox

After a remarkable 30 year stretch in the Maintenance Department of Twentieth Century Fox, and a fulfilling 39 years in the Industry, Propmaker Larry Ferritto calls it quits. Larry joined our Local 44 family due to the encouragement and training of De Witt Michlap and Art Roundy in the winter of 1969. "Becoming a member of the Local and working for the studios is the best thing that ever happened to me. It was a golden opportunity, I got to work at a craft I love," says Ferritto.

Prior to his involvement with the Local, Ferritto resided in Miami, Florida where he was schooled in architectural drafting, and earned a living as a jack of all trades. Engaging in everything from rough carpentry to cabinet making allowed him to easily segue into Propmaking for the Motion Picture Industry. After roughly nine years with Local 44, Ferritto landed a position at Fox Studios working in the Maintenance Department. Ferritto referred to his new found place of employment with Fox as, "A dream of its own and better!" Ferritto became a very admired and established con-

tributor to the Fox lot, in fact vice president of facilities Bill Murphy acknowledged that Larry is a craftsman amongst the best, a terrific worker, and extremely detail oriented. Larry's positive reputation spread like wild fire amongst his fellow co-workers. According to planning designer Joanne Martin, "Ferritto is an asset to Fox. There is



not one corner of this lot he doesn't know, or any solution he can't find, but above all, there is not a man more loved on this lot."

On March 28, 2008 Larry Ferritto celebrated his retirement with a party at Twentieth

Century Fox's stage 5. At the gathering he was presented a GPS tracking device which was referred to by maintenance boss Brian McEvoy as his "solution to not getting lost on the slopes." Anyone who knows Ferritto is well aware of his passion for skiing.

With long work days behind him and a little more time on his hands, retired Ferritto plans to explore the world around him. Larry asserts, "I can hardly wait, I'm gonna be a tourist in Los Angeles! I've been so busy working for all these years, that I haven't had time to see the city. I plan on taking out my AAA book, closing my eyes and spontaneously pointing to my destination; art galleries, museums, Mammoth, you name it."

When asked "What was the most rewarding part of working within the film industry?" Propmaker Larry Ferritto left you with this, "My success in life is having the opportunity to meet all of you!"

General Meetings

Our last General Membership meeting was held on March 15 at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn. This venue proved to be a welcome change from previous sites, with ample parking and a central location. Attendance was not robust enough to have a quorum but this did not deter vigorous discussion on several issues; the writers' strike which was still ongoing, the current state of our Union, strike related assistance available from various institutions and significant negotiations with a prominent prop house with hopes to bring them on as a signatory.

The Special Effects training course was

Coordinator
Centonze, William
Clack, Robert
Clark, Frank
Cohen, Paul
Davis, James
Hicks, Carl
Hirsch, Jay
John, Henry
Moore, Andrew
Rarick, Raymond
Samson, John

Drapery
Paczkowski, Eric

Floor Coverers
Chambers Sr., Curtis
Zeman, Peter

Greens
Anscott, Jess
Joswick, Ed
McEldowney, Frank

Property
Alcus, Gregory
Ayala, Jr, Pedro
Bays, Tobey
Berazen, Philip
Braverman, Dennis
Broderick, Colleen
Chase, Sarah

Dennis, Leigh
DeRosa, Joseph
Furginson, Frank
Gary, Elizabeth
Genovese, Lorraine
Gonzalez, Richard
Grant, William
Herzberger, Frederick
Hoapili, Michael
Hulett, Eric
Jameson, Brian
Jameson, Mark
Kanter, Peter
Kerns, Rodney
Krausz, Thomas
La Fontaine, Ian
Lampke, Stephen
Leonard, Michael
Leshner, Gary
Loomer, Michael
Lowry, Nancy
Machala, Douglas
Manke, Greg
McDonald-Thorpe, Jessica
McGinnis, Shannon
Meloeny, Gordon
Mendez, Victor
Monteilh, Bruno
Morse, David
Nerone, Victor
O'Cello, Rory
O'Neill, Joseph
Oseransky, Gary

welcomed as a breakthrough program, this being the first held in many years. Attendance continues to be one issue that we, as a Local family, would like to see improve. If you haven't heard, the current administration is vastly different from those in the past. They are proactive, non-partisan, and intelligent, serving to fulfill our members needs. If this isn't enough to get more people to the meetings, one suggestion put forth by Property Master Stephen Gibson, is that those in attendance be published in the Newsreel. Stephen remarked that he has in the past been hired due to his attendance, and would be inclined to act similarly when seeking crew members for

Porter, Alan
Raiche, Craig
Reese, Donna
Robberson, Jon
Rodriguez, Leonel
Sanders, Lawrence
Shaide, Roger
Sieloff, Richard
Smith, Hillel
Thompson, James
Weethee, Nic
Willingham, Jack
Youngern, Michael
Yzaguire, Maureen

Master
Ahrens, Paul
Davies, Ashley
Derham, William
Drygas, Lee
Ferry, Emily
Gibson, Stephen
Goyak, Michael
Hall, Ronald
Hicks, Joann
Holley, Karen
Jayson, Carlos
Levin, Kenneth
Lisica, Nick
Marais, David
Marquis, Neil
McCarthy Jr., Eugene
Merrick, Steven

Moore, Jeffrey
Nelson, Erik
Owens, Guy
Perez, Efrén
Riggs, Robert
Safirstein, Robert
Wilson, Dean

Propmaker
Aguilar, Uriel
Arzola, Joe
Balles, Kenneth
Bernatzke, Craig
Bernson, Barry
Bero, Brian
Bistagne, John
Blaha, Daniel
Bordonaro, Umberto
Bowen, Tom
Cappello, Michael
Cetrone, Cleto
Chavez, Tony
Crawford, George
DeLaPaz, Arnold
DeMuri, Andrew
Deyoe, Fred
Flaherty, John
Foy, Lucinda
Franco, Armando
Frey, Daniel
Gonzalez, Armando
Graham, Daniel
Graham, Timothy

his projects. The Callboard has repeatedly told members that the meetings are great places to meet people and prospect for work and this is a perfect example.

Please attend the upcoming craft meetings, be part of the solution!

Responding to Brother Gibson's Suggestion, below is a list of all who attended the March 15th General membership meeting.

Thanks to all who participated.

Hammond, Vincent
Hennessey, Erin
Jennings, Elliot
Keiderling, Stephen
Kelley, Ryan
King, Laurence
Knox, John
Livolsi, Joseph
Lozano, Joe
Marchand, Steven
Marvis, Gary
McArdle Jr., Arnold
McGeehan, Dennis
Montgomery, Gary
Mustoe, Daniel
Myers, Juanita
Najm, Shams
O'Conor, Thomas
Odono, Dennis
Pawluc, Anthony
Peters, Mark
Price, Kenneth
Reed, Patrick
Reynolds, John
Ricciardella, Joseph
Rodriguez, Allen
Roth, John
Sahagun, Adam
Seymour, Thomas
Silva, Gabriel
Spencer, Donald
Stewart, George
Stewart, R.

Strunk, Heinz
Taylor, Clint
Thomas, John
Todd, Michael
Van Dyke, Robert
Van Wyk, Johannes
Varady, Dominic
Zimmerman III, Herman

Set Decorator
Ahrens, Anne
Elmblad II, Donald
Fox, K.C.
Frankenheimer, Leslie
Gross, Samuel
Gunn, Jeannie
Kohen, Keren
Oberman-Hurst, Dorit
Starks, Shirley

Sewing
Sikkila-Dias, Sonya

Special Effects
Centonze, Anthony
Knechtges, Bruce
Machit, Jeffrey
Paine, George
Streett, James

Craft Meetings

cont'd. from pg. 1
bring YOURSELF!

A listing of all who attend will be published in a future "Newsreel" edition.

Topics of discussion will include; state of the Union reports; the latest on the SAG negotiations; along with current events and issues specific to your craft.

A representative from Aflac on site at the meetings for questions and sign-ups.

All meetings will be held at Local 44's Union Hall (2nd Floor); 12021 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, CA 91607

May 31, 2008

Coordinator 8:00 a.m.
Propmakers 10:00 a.m.
(Free Raffle Prizes for Propmakers)
Special Effects 12:00 p.m.

June 1, 2008

Property 9:00 a.m.
Property Masters 11:00 a.m.

June 11, 2008

Set Decorators 7:00 p.m.

Michael Van Dyke Fund

In lieu of flowers the family wishes donations to be made out to Local 44 with the memo line "The Michael Van Dyke Handicap Scuba Diving Fund."



Table Saw Safety

By Carl Hicks

In my 30 years of working around machinery I have seen some bad accidents. I can honestly say that the only time I personally got hurt on a table saw, was when I was in a hurry and didn't adhere to the safety basics. My table saw injury: Stitches in the back of head, on a table saw? Yeah, I got hit so hard in my stomach by a kick back of 12"X12" piece of ¼ " plexi that it knocked me out. I fell backwards and split my noggin open, my entire abdomen was black and blue for a month. Here's what I did wrong, I was in a hurry, I didn't have the time to change to the right blade even though I had a plastic cutting blade in the tool box, no guard, no splitter, oh did I mention I was in a hurry. I am lucky it could have been a lot worse, if I had fallen forward it would have been the plot line for the next CSI (the writers are going to steal this scene I just know it.)

Over the last few months, we have had a rash of saw accidents in the studios that could have been prevented. No mater how far behind or over budget the project is, your personal safety **MUST** come first. Here are ten rules you can count on:

Guards have to stay in place, that's right with very few exceptions; It is a violation of CALOSHA and OSHA to remove a guard and you could be subjected to employer discipline for violation of this hard and fast rule.

Safety glasses, no exceptions.

Make sure your work area is free

from any fall off or trash.

Make sure that the saw isn't going to move when you start to feed the material into it.

Use the splitter and finger boards (as needed.)

Make a push stick and keep it in your tool belt, so you have it **EVERY** time and you won't have to hunt for it in the middle of a cut.

Gloves and rotating tools are a bad mix. It is a lot easier to pull splinters out of fingers than to sew them back on.

Use run-off table and partner for long cuts or cross-cuts.

Unplug the saw when changing blades or cleaning the machine.

Dull blades make a safe tool dangerous.

Take your time and pay attention. Don't turn the machine on until **EVERYTHING** is ready. Know where the on/off switch is, guards are in place, push sticks are staged where you can get them, run off tables or partner are ready. Oh and by the way don't hurry.

Hands-Free Or Face A Fine!

The new laws governing the use of cell phones in your vehicle go into effect July 1, 2008. With the amount of time our members spend in the car, many in the course of doing their jobs, you need to take particular note.

There will be no grace period or first offense warnings, and don't think that the CHP and Local police won't be aggressively looking for violators! Both the State and the City are cash-strapped and in a budget crunch and looking for sources of revenue. This will be a quick and lucrative source of income for the government, by people who ignore the deadline and don't get used to a hand-free system now!

VC 23123 prohibits ALL drivers from using a hand-held wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle. Bluetooth or headsets are allowed, but you cannot cover both ears (who covers both ears?). You may use the speaker phone function if in your car, if it is so equipped. You are allowed to dial a phone number, but of course you are strongly urged not to do so while driving.

If you have drivers under 18 in your family...

VC 23124 prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using either a cell phone or a hands-free device at all, even if it is built into their vehicle. Drivers under 18 may be pulled over since this prohibition is considered a Primary violation. Make sure you know the law and inform the younger drivers in your family.

The only exceptions to the above are emergency calls to police, medical, fire, or other emergency services. Fines levied are \$20 for the first offense and go up to \$50 for subsequent convictions, but add on top of that penalty, assessments and fines, and the amount can more than triple the base fine.

The violation will appear on your driving record, but no points will be charged to your record.

For more information or to view a video go to www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws

Brother Joe Lozano Honored at the State Capitol

Retired Local 44 Propmaker, Joe Lozano, earns yet another pat on the back.

On May 7, 2008 at the State Capitol in Sacramento, Brother Lozano received a well deserved recognition from District 39 and was pronounced "Veteran of the Year." Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes (D-Sylmar) was there to honor Joe Lozano.

He was recognized for his community activism in "literally" cleaning up the streets of his neighborhood (graffiti abatement) and for his being one of the founders of the only



(L to R) Raul Bocanegra, Joe Lozano and Esmeralda Martin

Veterans Day Parade in the San Fernando Valley.

Fuentes said, "He gives selflessly to his family, and his community. Joe has made a real contribution."

If that weren't enough, Lozano has just been nominated by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council as "Outstanding Community Citizen." and will be honored this month by the City of Los Angeles.

Way to go Joe!

Retirement Through the Eyes Of Frankie Inez

From track star to Special Effects star, Retiree Frankie Inez ended his twenty-seven year run in the Motion Picture Industry November 1, 2004. As a fulfilling sacrifice for more quality time with the family; Inez put his days on location and long work weeks behind him. "Family is really important, we're not getting any younger," says Inez.

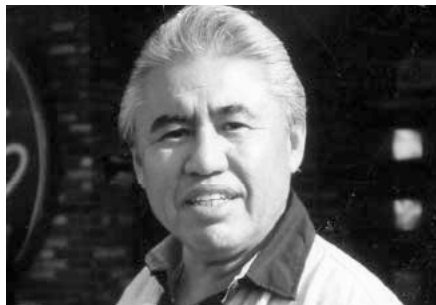
Native Californian Frankie Inez, was born September 26, 1943 to parents Ayong and Rita. As a young boy, Inez grew up literally running the streets of Southern California's San Fernando Valley as an aspiring track star. At age 18 he landed a spot in the 1964 Olympic marathon try-outs. Knee injuries kept Inez from an Olympic medal, but it didn't keep him from pursuing a dream.

Fresh out of High school Inez married school age sweetheart Martha, and together they branched their family tree with the addition of three sons, Steven, Frankie Jr., and Michael, two of which are active members in the Industry.

Inez initially explored the work world as a landscaper, painter, machinist, and as a farmer. Then came an opportunity to take a job in the Industry.

In 1976 Frankie got his feet wet working as a Laborer on the production "Sigmund and

the Sea Monsters." While fulfilling his physical duties, Inez was approached by construction Coordinator Pat Grande, regarding his interest in transitioning into Propmaking. Without hesitation, Inez accepted the offer to swing a hammer and began immediately working his way up the 1, 2, 3, card system.



Frankie Inez

"I sank the Titanic!" fondly reminisces Inez. In 1980 while working on the feature film, "Raise the Titanic," Inez perfected the tricks of the trade and slowly eased himself into Special Effects and Miniatures.

"I was always told, if you wanna do better for yourself, then do it, so I did." asserts Inez. After many unsuccessful attempts in sinking the original 55 footer, Inez was instructed to build a sinkable miniature 9ft

ship. He sunk his creation, as well as, the submarines with his intricate hand-made boilers. Inez was also responsible for creating the miniature 1 inch shiny golden triumphant that is seen upon the submerged vessel at the beginning of the film. After three years in the making, Inez had his Prop Shop card in hand.

Throughout his lengthy career Inez worked on everything from features to television, commercial to music videos. His talents contributed to the making of "Pretty Woman," "Father of the Bride," "Matlock," "Dynasty," "Twilight Zone," Lionel Richie's Pepsi commercial, and the Madonna and Kenny Rogers music videos, to name a few.

Although Inez loved the business and the opportunities to engage in new daily projects, the idea of retirement, family time, and afternoon golf with Bobby Avila and Steven Haverilla sounded equally rewarding. Since retirement, Inez engages in everything from gardening to honey-do projects and so far retirement seems to be treating him well. Although he misses the camaraderie with his friends and crew, he leaves remembering how the magic of the Motion Picture Industry was one of the greatest pleasures of his life.

Our Memorial List

Cornelius Carroll

Born: 9/19/1947
Sworn: 8/7/1997
Died: 7/21/2006
Craft: Propmaker

Joseph Broker

Born: 2/15/1925
Sworn: 10/29/1965
Died: 2/19/2008
Craft: Draperer

Jesse Shapiro

Born: 8/25/1914
Sworn: 10/6/1954
Died: 3/11/2008
Craft: Propmaker

Sam Gordon

Born: 10/22/1913
Sworn: 5/29/1939
Died: 3/12/2008
Craft: Propmaster

Michael Van Dyke

Born: 1/14/1960
Sworn: 4/27/1981
Died: 3/19/2008

Craft: Propmaker

Patricia Smith

Born: 3/3/1926
Sworn: 1/24/1980
Died: 3/22/2008
Craft: Sewer

John Riperti

Born: 12/25/1928
Sworn: 10/13/1965
Died: 3/23/2008
Craft: Propmaker

John Parker

Born: 4/17/1951
Sworn: 7/22/1991
Died: 3/30/2008
Craft: Property

William Fannon Sr.

Born: 3/18/1937
Sworn: 1/14/1960
Died: 4/11/2008
Craft: Propmaster

Patricia Ann Smith

03/03/1926 - 03/22/2008

On May 22, 2008 Patricia Ann Smith (Pat) left us to be with her husband and start their eternal life together. Pat, a drapery seamstress, joined Local 44 on January 2, 1980 after her husband's untimely departure. She was very talented as a drapery seamstress, and a friend to all. She has done work for TV and Feature Films alike, including "Hook, Planet of the Apes and Dallas", as well as countless others. She retired from Local 44 on June 1, 2002 and followed her ongoing passion for Champion German Shepherd breeding, training and shows.

She was born in Little Rock Arkansas and came to California with her husband, long-time stuntman Jerry Brown. Together they had three children, Sheryl, Andy and Jay.

She leaves behind not only her three children, but five grandchildren as well.

She had a passion for life and always a kind word and a smile.

She will be deeply missed by all those who knew her.



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

Members Dropped From Membership

AS OF MAY 10, 2008 ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR WORK

PLEASE NOTE: Members listed below may have put themselves back into good standing since the list was printed on 5/10/08. Please call the hall to double-check the status of listed members.

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

Commercial Master

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

Commercial Property

Pallrand, Stephen
Rawlings, Steven
Sanger, Mark
Smith, Jason

Coordinator

Carter, Frank
Clayton, Lawrence
Cota, Jose
Hester, Gary
MacLachlan, Scott
Padilla, Thomas
Parker, Robert
Zeletes, Robert

Draper

Cowart, William
Garrett, Scott
Mckim, Daniel
Nelson, Thomas
Solache, Saul

Floorcoverers

Diaz, Michael
Lyles, Gary
Vidovic, Milenko

Greens

Araiza, Carlos
Benda, Dennis
Hunt, Kodie
Lozano, Joe A.
Martens, Amelia
Masser, Michael
Phillips, Mari
Stevenson, Thomas
Villarreal, Chris
Villarreal, Melinda
Worthington, Gary

Masters

Allen, David
Dawson, Carl
Heinlen, Kirk
Kas, Christian
Kyker, Dick
Leon, Richard
Lombardo, Alberto
Myers, Michael
Newman, Deborah
Reagan Jr., Robert
Schalk, Steven
Tuers, Norman
Weaver, John

Propmakers

Allan, Joseph
Allen, Robert
Allyn, Arthur
Andreas, Joseph
Armantrout, Ronald
Arrigo, Tony
Bailey, James
Bailey, Blake
Balzer, Michael
Bardin, Patrick
Baryl, Garnet
Basurto, Charles
Bates, Todd
Bellman, Brian
Benson, James
Berman, Roy
Beverly, Scott
Bizzy, Don
Boger, Jerry
Bojanac, Chad

Bonte', Christopher
Borggrebe, Joe
Brennan, Gary
Brown, George
Busey, John
Busse, Brett
Campbell, Adam
Canning, Christina
Carey, James
Carter, Ronald
Chandler, Craig
Clement, Andrew
Cohea Jr., Wayne
Cole, Richard
Coleman, Donald
Corbo, Paul
Coulter, Ralph
D'Amico, John
Denizot, Stephan
DeSouza, Fernando
DiGiuseppe, Enrico
Diglio, Philip
Dutt, Kasey
Engel, Josh
Enochson, Rodger
Fitch, David
Flartey II, William
Flores, Briayan
Fodale, Sven
Forsythe, Joel
French, Michael
Galim, Jake
Gardner, Dick
Gorme, Dennis
Gray, Charles
Grieve, Brian
Gross, Mike
Hallum, Brian
Hansen, John
Harne, James
Harrison, Michael
Hatcher, D. Mark
Hawk, Jason
Herrington, Michael
Horvath Jr., Edward
Huchthausen, Timothy
Hurst, Ralph
Huse, Sandra
Iiams, Chris
Ingraham, Randy
Inoue, Scott
Ivey, Randall
Jackson, John
Jackson, Andrew
Jehlar, Roland
Jenkins, William
Jenkins, Harold
Jimenez, Humberto
Jordan, Christopher
Kaifer, Kelly
Kasel, Jeffrey
Kelley, Daniel
King, Roger
Kirchmeier, Michael
Klimasz, Thomas
Koch, Karl
Lacoste, Edward
Lafferty, Derek
Lake, Walter
Lambert, Chase
Lane, Dean
Lascarez, Esteban
Lawson, Thomas
Lawton Jr. Edward
Lerew, Devlin
Linares, George
Litteken, Paul
Lorden, Craig
MacDonald, James
Mach, Enoch
Mahon, James
Marn, Brian

Martinez, John
Mattson, Scott
Maund, James
McCarter, William
McClure, David
Merrifield, Stephan
Mesa, Daniel
Metz, Ferdinand
Miller, Charles
Mills, Sean
Miyamoto, Dennis
Moffett, Tony
Monioz, Christopher
Moore, Robert
Morgan, Drew
Murinko, Michael
Nipper, Robert
Norrbom, Derek
Orr, Eric
Pagano, Frank
Parker, John
Pedretti, Michael
Perry, Wesley
Pistone, Richard
Porter, Jon
Powell, Robert
Prchal, James
Rayside, Duncan
Reelfs, Glen
Reyes, Rosario
Roberts, Michael
Rodriguez, Reyes
Roselli, Vincent
Rothschild, Jason
Rutman, Aaron
Saastamoinen, Carl
Saiger, John
Sanchez, Robert
Sanchez, Mark
Sanchez, Richard
Sardelich, Alexander
Schaeffer, Michael
Schorr, Gary
Schouten, Mark
Schwartz, Philip
Severy, Jordan
Seyssel, Steven
Shetler, Keith
Simmons, Drew
Simon, Martin
Starn, David
Stefanik, Greg
Stempel, Gregg
Stevens, Donald
Stimson, Mark
Stivers, Mark
Stover, David
Stuhl, Greg
Tapia, Chris
Thomas, Joshua
Thomas, Richard
Thornton, Chris
Torpin, Tom
Valdez, Jake
Vanlandingham, Mark
Vasquez, Jaime
Villalobos, Nicco
Von Lanken, Craig
Wallace, Taliesin
Walsler, Karl
West, John
Whalen, Clifford
Whitman, Jeff
Wicker, Gary
Williams, Jeffrey
Wolf, William
Wozniak, Dana
Yeager, Richard
Young, Todd
Zapfen, Leonel
Zeavin, Andrew
Ziegenbein, Tim

Property

Andersen, Scott
Anderson, Robert
Anderson, Richard
Angelo, Marty
Bauling, Randy
Bell, Jeffrey
Blair, Gregory
Bourne, Tristan
Braff, Adam
Brooks, Mark
Brullo-Niles, Carly
Buckley, James
Burt, Sarah
Cameron, Brandon
Campana, John
Carson, Nils
Chafey, Donald
Chaldu, John
Chianese, James
Christensen, Vanessa
Colletti, Anne
Cruz, Fabian
Damal, Jeffrey
Denyer, Andrew
DiPanni, Frank
Driscoll, Michael
Ewalt, Janet
Fenton, Jeannine
Fleury, Jennifer
Flores, Shanna
Friedman, Laurence
Fruge, Robert
Fuller, Kris
Gall, Mark
Garbutt, Patrick
Gordon, Ray
Gray, Robert
Guthrie, Laurin
Hagaman, Chad
Hargis, Terrance
Hartman, Gregg
Herron, Dervon
Hess, Brett
Hitchin, Laurel
Homburger, Richard
Insolo, Jon
Johnson, Michael
Jones, Kristin
Junod, Dane
Kadenbach, Nadja
Kaltvedt, Otis
Kartiganer, Kym
Keske, Zoryana
King, Jordan
King, John
Kirst, Alexander
Kruger, Caron
Lambert, Lanny
Lawrence, Juliet
Lawson, Craig
Linhares-Carvalho, Daisy
Lugar, Michael
Macauley, R.
Mack, John
MacMillan, Steven
Mannon, Brent
Marble, LaTanya
Maslowski, Paula
Matheny, Susan
McGuire, Steve
McGuire, Gregg
McKinney, Shane
Michaels, Chance
Miles, Margaret
Milne, Joshua
Mocsary, David
Monti, Lisa
Mora, Carlos
Moreno, Edson
Murphy, Rick

Overell, Jack
Peters, Troy
Pfauter, Stephen
Phelps, Judith
Pirinelli, David
Prinzivalli, Douglas
Raiche, Jason
Reider, John
Renn, Brian
Roberts, Tamara
Rocco, Gregory
Ross, Mia
Rothenburger, Kimberly
Schaeffer, Tammy
Scolari, James
Sepulveda, Raymond
Servaites, Ed
Shafer, Brook
Simon, Joshua
Smith, J.
Spiliotakos, Athenaia
Sprague, Dan
Stone, Jake
Storm, David
Swenk, Christopher
Tamayo, Edward
Tittle, Bentley
Toth, Ildiko
Trowbridge, Patrick
Tullo, Peter
Walton, Jack
Winter, James
Wittmer, Scott
Woolverton, Ben
Zito III, Frank

Property Sewing

Crupper, Emily
D'Apra, Santa
Rivera, Bertha

Set Decorators

Armetta, Joseph
Burhop, Elizabeth
Cota, Laura
Dermer, Brockliss
Bonnie,
Friend, Coryander
Grace, Cheryl
Kreisz, Terez
McCandless, Tracy
McGuire, Stewart
Routs, Victoria
Roysden, Thomas
Rubinstein, Alexandra
Thompson, Lisa
Wolfson-Sagot, Gregory

Special Effects

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

Upholsterers

Di Giulio, John
Hernandez, Mario

Keep your Union Brothers and Sisters Working, Use Union Companies

Alpha Companies
Alternative Metal Supply
A.N.A. Special Effects
CBS Studio Center
Cleared Artwork
Contempo Electronics/Woody's
Props
Fory Four Cards
FXperts, Inc.
Gibbons LTD Entertainment Armory
Grant McCune Design
Green Set Inc.
Independent Studio Services
Jackson Shrub Supply
Kevin Hannigan Special Effects, Inc.
Lennie Marvin Enterprises
Marty Gibbons Enterprises, Inc.
Motion Picture Glass Inc.
Movie Art
Omega Drapery Department
Paramount Studios
Set Masters
Scenic Express
Sign Set
Snow Business
Sony Pictures Studios
Southwind Greens
Spectrum Effects
Studio Art & Technology
Take 1 Motion Picture Plant Rentals, Inc.
Team Three Studio Diving
Technical Props
Twentieth Century Fox Studios
NBC/Universal City Studios
The Walt Disney Studios
Warner Bros. Studios
White Rhino Production Services

Send In Your Pics!



Local44.com and the Local 44 Newsreel are looking for pictures of you and other Local 44 members on the job for use in various projects. Photos should be in jpeg format and emailed to Newsreel@local44.org. Please make sure you include a description of the photo and the names of everyone in the photo.

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 23rd, 2008 Budget Meeting

Report: 2008 Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Jennings presented the Board with the proposed budget for 2008. The numbers were based on a downgraded expectation of income due to the WGA strike and its effect on the income of Local 44 IATSE. The Board discussed changes and approval of the budget in informal and non-recorded proceedings.

Motion: To table the discussion of the 2008 budget until S/T makes recommended changes and bring back next month. **Motion passed.**

Wed., January 23rd, 2008 Regular Meeting

Report: Constitution Committee

It was reported that the ballots for the vote on Articles 1-8 had been mailed and had a 3 1/2 week window for return.

Report: Business Agent

There were 14 ongoing grievances; 3 having to do with wage issues, 2 union security violations, 3 with seniority and shop steward issues, 4 with contribution and payroll issues, 1 with preference in employment, and 1 with better terms and conditions.

The DGA had negotiated a tentative agreement.

The WGA had dropped the animation jurisdiction raid.

Over 40% of our members are unemployed; but real figures may be closer to 50%.

The "Come Sign the Wall" event in Burbank attracted over 200 IA members.

On Jan. 4, 2008, a strike assistance seminar was held at Grips Local 80. A second seminar was scheduled for Feb. 8. The MPTF and Actor's Fund representatives spoke.

The 6th MPTF Health Care facility opened in Granada Hills.

Axiom payroll filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy on Jan. 8, 2008. Local 44 has over 50 cases pending from the action.
IA General Executive Board

BA Brown gave a synopsis of the meeting attended by President Hennessey and Secretary-Treasurer Jennings. Among the reports included:

An IA endorsement of Hilary Clinton for President.

Senator Obama had been using non-union, non-IA crews and stated, "it didn't matter as the IA had endorsed Clinton."

The IA had secured a settlement from D'Wars productions which had skipped to Korea after going over budget in the US. Unfortunately the money was sent to Axiom payroll in December.

About \$5.5 billion was lost in wages in 2005 due to piracy; in 2006 \$6 billion. That is over \$100 million to the Plans in lost donations.

Canada instituted a mandatory 5 year prison sentence for people discovered filming a movie in a theater.

The first internet episodic was signed.

AMPTP Negotiations IA President Short announced his intent to enter into early negotiations with the AMPTP in order to stabilize the Industry. Only wages, benefits, and new media were to be topics discussed by either side.

BA Brown read a draft letter penned by IA President Short regarding this issue.

Both Motion Picture Set Interiors and

Setscapes, 44 signatories, were forced to close their shops due to the WGA strike.

Omega Drapery was signed as a new signator.

The Board went into Executive Session for 2 minutes.

The BA made a request for tickets to the annual Art Director's Guild banquet. This is a group that works closely with the Set Decorators and Coordinators.

Motion: To instruct the S/T to issue a check to the Art Director's Guild banquet. **Motion passed.**

Asst. BAs Ahrens and Hicks attended the MLK breakfast of the AFL-CIO.

The final copy of the Retiree's Handbook had been turned over to the S/T for vetting.

The list of Local 44 Oscar nominees was read.

Report: Secretary-Treasurer

The names of the recently passed members of the union were read into the record.

\$3,500 was received from the insurance carrier for damage to the Burbank property fence.

The Local would engage the services of an outside email service for its inter-office email, saving the Local thousands of dollars.

S/T Jennings read a letter from IA President Short on the endorsement of Clinton into the record; citing Clinton's continued support for unions and Obama's propensity to use non-union workforce for his campaign.

The S/T read a note from a member praising the Executive Board's work.

The Election Committee will oversee the ballot count on the new Articles for the Constitution.

Fox Credit Union was offering Local 44 members a signature only loan of \$3,000; and loan transfers with deferred payments on cars and other items. They had also expressed an interest in having an on-site presence at the Local.

Discussion: Website Resumes

Whether a template could be developed for members to post a resume on the website, who were not particularly internet savvy.

Discussion: Auto CAD

Member Don Spencer sent in a follow-up to a Letter to the Editor piece regarding Auto CAD teaching to our members. He sent a breakdown of cost possibilities. The cost is about \$3,500 per person.

Wed., February 20th, 2008 Regular Meeting

Report: Election Committee

S/T Jennings read the official results of the ballot referendum into the record. The vote to approve the ballot measure was passed 1014 to 153.

Report: Retiree Committee

The S/T handed out the committee's final version of the Retiree Handbook for approval.

Report: Business Agent

A tentative agreement has been reached with the WGA. Many television shows have been cancelled as a result of the strike with no replacement shows in sight.

If SAG follows suit with the WGA it could cripple our Industry for the rest of 2008.

No official date has been given for the early IATSE-AMPTP negotiations.

There were 11 ongoing grievances; 2 having to do with wage issues, 1 union security violations, 1 with seniority and shop steward issues, 5 with contribution and payroll issues, 1 with failure of screen credit, and 1 with better terms and conditions.
BA Brown was calling a Shop Steward meeting with regard to confronting production directly.

Over 200 members attended the 2nd strike seminar held at Grips Local 80 on Feb. 8.

Omega Drapery and Upholstery is now a fully functioning union facility.

The Board went into Executive Session for 3 minutes.

The deadline for Property Persons to take the Basic Firearms course is May 31, 2008.
Special Effects Training: Contract Services and Local 44 had hashed out a comprehensive Special Effects Training Course for Prop Shop members wishing to take skills training applicable to the Special Effects classification. The course had been denied on 5 separate occasions and no significant training had been held by CSATF since 1990.

The AFL-CIO/United Way had a spring event to help homeless and abused children. This is the same group which came to the aid of 44 members during the WGA strike.

Motion: to donate \$500 to the AFL-CIO Easter Basket Program. **Motion passed.**

Philip Randolph is an icon in the labor movement on a par with Martin Luther King. A banquet was being held.

Motion: To purchase 2 tickets to the banquet. **Motion passed.**

An invitation was received for the annual ISS Property Master Golf tournament. ISS typically donates half the proceeds back to Local 44's Benevolent fund. Last year all proceeds went to injured 44 member Walkowiak.

Motion: To match last year's donation of \$1,100. **Motion passed.**

Report: Secretary-Treasurer

Due to the WGA strike, S/T Jennings had asked 3 of his top assistants to attempt to secure work outside the Local in order to salvage the budget. Mr. Lungren stepped down as his assistant. The rehiring would be examined in light of the SAG strike.

A Board member noted that the Local 44 officers were compensated at less than the Basic Agreement conditions for contributions. The S/T pointed out that the officers were tied to a Non-Affiliated Agreement that had different conditions.

Motion: To accept the 2008 budget as presented and amended. **Motion passed.**

The repair and painting of the fence at the Burbank property is complete.

The Local was able to aid 6 members with maintaining their medical coverage by having them work on needed maintenance at the Local.

The General Membership Meeting was set at a new venue; the Beverly Garland Hotel in North Hollywood.

The names of the recently passed members of the union were read into the record.

Motion: To pay \$3,000 out of the Life Insurance fund to cover one retiree. **Motion passed.**

Motion: To donate \$700 to the East Valley PALS Golf Charity. **On a split vote, motion passed with one abstention.**

A chiropractic group offering special services to members affected by the WGA strike was requested to leave flyers in the Union offices.

Motion: On a one-time, non-precedent setting basis to allow the flyers, with a removal date of April 1. **On a split vote, motion passed.**

Motion: To approve a proxi vote for a floral flyer sent out on Valentine's Day. **On a split vote, motion passed.**

An update on Fox Credit Union benefits: a \$3,000 signature loan, a \$7,500 line of credit, auto transfer loans, special loans for initiates, and an interest in securing a satellite office at the Local.

The Board went into Executive Session for 3 minutes

Discussion: Property Fall Protection Class

Discussion: Strike Fund

The S/T reported that no official policy has yet been formulated for how the strike monies are

to be dispersed. Only significance was that the fund required 3 signatures as opposed to the standard 2 to release funds.

Discussion: New Article Clarification

The S/T pointed out that the newly passed Article to the Constitution brought up 2 areas of needed clarification: the choosing of a standing Retiree Committee and the rules for Inactive/Honorable Withdraw.

The Board went into Executive Session for 9 minutes.

Wed., March 19th, 2008 Regular Meeting

The passing of former Executive Board Propmaker Representative Michael Van Dyke was noted in the record.

Report: Trustees

The Trustees read a preliminary report into the record.

The Board went into Executive Session for 31 minutes.

Presentation: CBL Language Clarification

Attorney Jeff Boxer gave his opinion on the reading of the Constitution with regard to Honorary Membership.

It was determined that a member nominated by another for Honorary Membership would first be submitted to the International for clearance, then acted upon by the Executive Board. No financial gain or obligation was created by this category.

Presentation: Proxi Voting

Attorney Jeff Boxer gave his opinion on proxi voting.

It was discussed as to whether proxi votes were legal. The attorney noted that in an emergency, polling is considered legal, but it exposes the acting Officer to harm if the Board members later change their votes when it comes to "on-the-record" votes to substantiate a poll.

Presentation: Inactive by Leave of Absence

Attorney Jeff Boxer gave his opinion on Inactive by Leave of Absence category.

This category was a morphing of Inactive and Honorable Withdraw. The old Inactive group kept their benefit by paying a reduced rate; Honorable Withdraw lost their benefits, but paid nothing. The new category withdrew from the Union, but kept benefits.

Report: Business Agent

There were 11 ongoing grievances; 7 having to do with wage issues, 1 union security violations, 1 with seniority and shop steward issues, 1 on tool rental, and 1 with failure of screen credit.

The General Membership numbers were disappointing (155). About 40% of membership was still affected by the WGA strike.

The IATSE-AMPTP negotiations were set for April 7-9.

District 2 convention was to be held in San Jose, Calif. on June 6-8.

Request to purchase two tickets to the Coalition of Black Trade Unionist dinner for \$160.

There was to be a march on April 15; Hollywood to the Docks highlighting the 250,000 union members whose contracts were under negotiation in 2008.

Report: Secretary-Treasurer

The names of the recently passed members of the union were read into the record. Following numerous attempts to make contact with the survivors of members paid out of the Special Life Insurance Account; two were found to be futile after over 6 months. A request was made of the Board to remove these members approved death benefits.

Motion: To remove the payment of death benefits to 2 members whose next of kin could not be determined. **On a split vote, motion passed.**

The S/T provided the Board with the current Employee handbook to be taken home and vetted.

6 members were helped to keep medical hours painting and repairing the Burbank property. The former tenants are still occupying the property (and paying rent) while their stock is being reviewed and collected by Omega Drapery. A Local 44 Property person had expressed interest in becoming a signator blank weapons rental house and a renter of the property.

The S/T presented the requested documentation of the Strike Fund to the Board. It was noted the fund was only seeded up to a point of approximately \$78,000 and would need to be at \$6M or so to be a viable fund. Presently an extra signature is required to pull funds out, but no official policy has been put in place. It was suggested the Finance Committee develop a template the Board could review and send on to legal.

The Board went into Executive Session for 8 minutes.

Presentation: Sam Gordon credits

Asst. BA Ahrens read the credits for recently deceased member Gordon. Gordon was a charter member of Local 44 and had numerous credits over his 72 years. It was suggested ABA Ahrens do a write-up for the Newsreel.

Presentation: American Association of Property Craft Persons

Member Riley Lyons made a presentation to the Board for a foundation he managed for disadvantaged youth, teaching them construction skills and being a mentor to the youth.

Motion: To direct the S/T to donate \$3,000 to the Association for material costs only. *On a split vote, motion passed with one abstention.*

Motion: That those craft representatives donating to the previous fund, have the money come from each craft's discretionary line item in the budget. *Motion passed.*

The Fox Credit Union had approached Local 44 with programs to assist members during the WGA strike. By allowing our members to become part of Fox Credit Union, it did not keep members from joining other entertainment Credit Unions.

Fox Credit Union also expressed a desire to explore the feasibility of having a satellite location at the Hall. Representatives of Fox Credit and the S/T office had met to determine the needs or abilities of both parties to pursue this avenue.

The Board went into Executive Session for 25 minutes.

Committee Creation: Credit Union Oversight

President Hennessey created a committee of 7 Board members to oversee the credit union work with the Union.

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We wish to recognize and extend congratulations to all members celebrating Milestones as a Local 44 member

APRIL

Over 50 Years

Labbe, Neil Propmaker (53)
Borgese, Johnny Spec Effects (53)
Soholm, Glen Propmaker (52)

50 Year

None

35 Year

Fuentes, Larry Spec Effects
Garcia, Justin Propmaker

25 Year

Mees, James Set Decorator
Pontecorvo, Neil Greens
Csotonyi, Zoltan Draperer
Wood, Richard Spec Effects

10 Year

Walkowiak, Christopher Propmaker
Sokol, Paul Propmaker
Sanger, Mark Commercial
Property
Miller, Melody Propmaster
Stout, Eirik Propmaker
Barth, James Propmaker
Bonomolo, Joseph Propmaker
Thayer, Will Propmaker
Ivey, James Propmaker
Russell, Duane Propmaker
Bourguignon, Troy Propmaker
Howeth, Robert Propmaker
Tippit, Robert Propmaker
Stricker, Steven Propmaker
Duncan, Martin Propmaker
Dittimore, Vicki Property
Larsen, Christopher Property
Hadley, Joshua Property
Sinclair, Megan Property
Fenton, Brendan Property
Wolfe, Kevin Property
Weinstock, Karen Property
O'Connell, Sean Property
Cuba, Keith Property
Herwitz, Jennifer Set Decorator

MAY

Over 50 Years

No Over 50 Years for May

50 Year

No 50 Year For May

35 Years

No 35 Year for May

25 Year

Toth Jr., Gyula Floor Coverer
Heineman, Scott Set Decorator

10 Years

Scher, Chris Propmaker
Gulick, David Propmaster
Rallis, Matthew Property
Gavin, John COMMERCIAL Propmaster
Tragert, Christopher Commercial
Property
Wester, Richard Propmaster
Sterling, Todd Propmaster
Maxwell III, Chester Propmaster
Waldon, Scot Propmaker
Broussard, John Propmaker
Robertson, Graham Property
O'Sullivan, Neil Property
McFadden, Bradley Property
Atkinson, Christopher Property
Vasenius, Arthur Property
Kelly, William Property
Angelo, Marty Property
Giller, Keith Property
Baker, Joanne 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

Changes Due to New Articles Passage

In February the membership passed the new Articles 1 through 8 for the Constitution.

One of the changes from that passage is the elimination of two membership categories and the creation of a new category.

Beginning the 3rd quarter (July 1, 2008), there is no longer the categories of Inactive or Honorable Withdraw.

The new category combining these two is Inactive by Leave of Absence.

Inactive by Leave of Absence (Article 4, Section 8A) allows members to stop paying the financial obligation to the Local, but they must be gone a minimum of 3 quarters. To be reinstated the member must pay up to a maximum of 8 quarterly payments at full Active rate, just as in the old Honorable Withdraw system.

All members currently in Inactive or Honorable Withdraw status will be sent additional correspondence and forms in the mail in the next few weeks detailing their options. Inactive status is no longer being offered at this point.

Fox Drapery

cont'd. from pg. 1

Building a set is truly a team effort. Fox Drapery has a team of talented and service-minded crafts people with over 40 years of combined experience. Bryce Vardanian has worked as a Draper, Cutter, and Installer for over 30 years. Sonya Sikkila-Dias has worked at custom shops in the San Francisco area and had her own custom business here in Los Angeles. Deborah Jones has worked with theatrical set and costume production on the East Coast and with digitally and screen-printed textile manufacture. She also has experience in grand format digital printing of everything

from linoleum to silk for sets, stage, expo's, and outdoor "Building-Wrap" installations.

Fox Drapery will work with your budget and within your production deadlines. The combined goal is to keep your production's costs down, while supporting this Local 44 Shop.

Their computerized quote software allows them to give you an accurate estimate for any project. For example, all aspects of the final price can be adjusted for up front - including materials and overtime costs.

Yardage can also be accurately calculated for any project. Plus, quotes are free.

Fox Drapery wants to partner with Set Decorators, Prop Masters, and Construction Coordinators to make their sets and budgets look good. Allow the Fox Drapery Department to match or beat the various bids you may receive.



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.

CONSTRUCTION TOOL PACKAGE: complete package including 4- hyd. wall jacks, ladders, grip dollies, chopsaw tables w/ extensions, extendables and a large rental hardware package. 45' trailer with rollup door and metal stairs. Call Chuck Phillips 805-495-9813 or 805-660-9849

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

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

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.

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: 2 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" airline. 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 hydraulic lift gate. For list call Rick @ (661) 298-1631.

Complete Coordinators tool package. All tools in great condition. Includes Uni Saws, Senco nail and staple guns, routers, reciprocal saws, sanders, shop equipment cords, air hoses etc. too much to list. Also a 40 ft trailer with lift gate and side door. Stage and road boxes, ladders and much more. Buy all or part 310-455-0050

Retired Prop Master Selling everything! 42 ft. Utility Prop Trailer - Onan Generator, lift gate, roll up door, jockey boxes, Complete Equipment Package.....Ten fully stocked prop boxes, gun boxes, gun safe, set box, directors chairs with cart, a must see \$35,000 or best offer contact Jimmie Herron at 323.574.0754 or email at Jimmieprepdya@aol.com

PROP PACKAGE FOR SALE : 3 STOCKED BOXES, DIRECTORS CHAIRS, 2 CHAIR CARTS, SET BOXES, AND MORE, LEFT SO. CAL. \$3200 CALL JOHN NESTEROWICZ @ 661-212-1946

3 well stocked Prop boxes, 1 double decker. 30 Director Chairs, Best Offer (213)313-2604 Lance

Prop Package for sale: 3 Stocked Boxes, Directors chairs, 2 Chair Carts, Set Boxes and More. Asking Price \$3500. Call John @ 661-212-1946.

Tire Chains, Brand New - Z2331, \$20 Call (818)837-9729 as for John

Selling it all! 8 High Chairs, 10 Low Chairs, 2 3/4 Chairs, 1 Taco Cart, 2 Big Prop Boxes, 1 Rifel Box, 6 Big Truck Boxes, 2 Set; Prop Boxes. All boxes are steel framed, smart wheel all around. Everything is in Good Condition! Sammy selling for \$5000 818-421-0262

Motorcycle Awareness

The days are warmer, the sun is out longer, productions are back in swing, and gasoline prices are at an all time high. Now is the perfect time to bring out your motorcycle and commute to work. May is motorcycle awareness month and we know that many local 44 members are also avid riders. So here are a few things to take into consideration.

Five Rules for Riders:

- Get Trained and Licensed - Take a approved rider training course and get licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Courses are available for all skill levels, from beginners to advanced racers. Taking an approved course will save you money on your insurance, and save you from having to take the riding portion of the DMV licensing test.

- Wear Protective Gear - Wear proper protective riding gear, most importantly a helmet made to Department of Transportation standards.

- Ride Unimpaired - Ride unimpaired, never drinking or using other drugs before getting on a motorcycle.

- Ride Within Your Limits - Stay within your personal limits, never riding faster or farther than you abilities can handle.

- Be a Lifelong Learner - Be lifelong learners, regularly returning for refresher riding courses.

Five Rules for Car Drivers:

- Look Out for Motorcyclists - Use you eyes and mirrors to see what's around. Look twice & save a life.

- Don't Be Distracted - Hang up and drive, put down the food, the pet, the personal grooming gear, the CD, and the reading material and save it for later.

- Give Two-Wheelers Some Room - Don't tailgate or get too close side-by-side.

- Use Your Turn Signals - Signal your intentions. It's also the law.

- Keep it in the Car - Don't throw trash and cigarettes out the window, and securely lash down cargo that can fall out on the road and be a deadly hazard.

There are also many perks to riding a motorcycle including better parking, lower gas bills, and commuting in the HOV lanes. So remember to be safe out there and keep an eye out for motorcyclists.

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