



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HOLLYWOOD

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

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Pawluc Sworn In



On the night of Wednesday, September 24, 2008, in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of Local 44, a Special Executive Board meeting was called. The purpose of this meeting was to nominate and elect a new Secretary Treasurer to complete the current term. Anthony Pawluc was one of four members nominated by the board. Pawluc received 14 of the 16 available votes. President Erin Hennessey (on right) is seen here swearing in Secretary Treasurer Anthony Pawluc (on left).

2008 Picnic!



Local 44, 80,729 & 728 gathered together for the 10th Annual Family Picnic September 28th, 2008. It was a beautiful day at Calamigos Ranch in Malibu where all the back lot local families dropped by to sing with a live band, ride the mechanical bull, hang out with old friends or just indulge in some good ol' fashion BBQ. Not to mention our famous raffle where members walked away with everything from a 32 inch flat screen TV and power tools to premier Lakers, Clippers and LA Kings tickets. Fun was had by all. Check out some pics here or go to the online gallery at gallery.local44.com!

See some pics on pg. 8 and 9

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Ed Reiff, Jr.
Special Effects Rep. Alternate

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Coordinator Rep. Alternate

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Property Master Delegate

Michael Cappello
Propmaker Delegate

David Elliot
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Roman Samokish
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J.D. Streett
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Amy Wells
Set Decorator Delegate

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Emily Ferry
Property Master Delegate Alt.

Carl Hicks
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Andrea Joel
Set Decorator Delegate Alt.

Michael Loomer
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Anthony Pawluc
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Alex Hernandez

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J.R. Reynolds

Fox Studios
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Newsreel is:

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Questions? Call 818-769-2500 X118



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The Motion Picture & Television Fund relies on the support of donors large and small to continue to provide the safety net of services for entertainment industry veterans and their families.

There are many ways to give. Please visit us online and help us make a difference.

<http://www.Local44.com/links/mptfdonation/>

By Ed Brown



2008: A Year to Remember or Maybe Forget

In January of 2008 the industry had virtually ground to a stand still. The WGA strike affected not only those working in the film and television industry, but those that depended on it to survive. Members lost wages, benefits and worse, some lost their homes. We held strike survival seminars, provided financial guidance counseling, and looked to organizations like the Actors Fund and Motion Picture Television Fund for financial assistance. Our "out of work" numbers grew to over 40%. It was clear then that the WGA strike would damage the community, our membership and the Motion Picture Plans. The Bankruptcy of Axium payroll added to the confusion and stress. Yet, in the midst of this turmoil, the DGA reached a tentative agreement giving us a brief look at stability.

The International announced its intention to enter negotiations for the successor contract to the current Basic Agreement. This is where the first mention of participant monthly Health Premiums was noted as potentially being the biggest obstacle to overcome during these talks. Shortly thereafter, Local 44 lost two Union signatory companies that were forced to close due to the financial stress of lost production. Then finally after almost 100 days the WGA penned an agreement and production began to ramp back up.

The bad news of 2008 wasn't done quite yet though. In early June the back lot fire of Universal Studios lit up the morning skies, virtually wiping out years of filming history in addition to losing the ability to produce on that portion of the studio lot.

And lest we forget, hanging over the industry throughout these days; the threat of a SAG labor dispute still existed. We have faced brush fires throughout Los Angeles, not once, but twice this year. Many had to evacuate or worse, lost everything they owned to these disasters.

The country is experiencing the worst financial implosion since the great depression with massive foreclosures, the collapse of Wall Street, and what seems like never ending federal bailouts of financial institutions, insurance companies and now the U.S. auto industry. All of this bringing great emotional and financial stress to Americans from every corner of the country and in every economic sector. Unemployment throughout the U.S. has now reached levels not seen in decades. California stands as third highest in the nation (8.4% at the time of this writing). It doesn't take a genius to realize the United States is deeply entrenched in the midst of a solid recession, and that we are truly in a global financial crisis.

So here we are at the beginning of a new year, wondering what's next. It's just about anyone's guess at this point, given what we've seen so far. What we do know is that our industry is still facing uncertainty. It is apparent, at least for Hollywood, what we need now is stability in the labor community.

Not all of 2008 was negative though. The Local did have some very positive things happen in '08. Special Effects Skills Training was funded for the first time in twenty years. The classes began over the summer and will conclude in February 2009. The Local 44 Prop Shop members that have participated should be congratulated for their dedication to their craft. The Training Course required them to attend twenty-six, ten hour classes over the course of six months. No easy commitment to make to anything. I admire their conviction.

We signed Omega Drapery as a Local 44 signatory. Thereby making available a Union Drapery and Upholstery facility in the Hollywood area, something that has not been available in that part of town since the closure of Paramount Drapery.

Movieglas has signed a Local 44 agreement, continuing to expand the Local's resources in the area of glass fabrication and installations.

The Hand Prop Room Fabrication department has, after many years of attempts, signed a Local 44 fabrication agreement, giving Property Masters and Set Decorators a Union fabricator on the west side.

The Local's Retiree committee completed the first ever "Retiree Guidelines" book-

let, providing a roadmap to future Retirees as they enter a new part of their lives.

The Local held its first ever Joint Executive Board and Stewards conference of Locals 44, 80, 728 & 729, furthering the relationship of the back lot locals. We've experienced a growth in member participation, as witnessed by the October craft meetings, where a quorum was reached at three of the six meetings. We continue to build our political strength by participating on all levels during the past year's historic election. The Local was actively involved in member to member outreach and phone banking. We stood arm in arm with labor organizations across the city, the state and the nation, to bring change to America. We are proud to have participated in this historic turning of the page, in the biography of this great nation.

Tentative Agreement of the IATSE 2009-2012 Basic Agreement

By now all of you have received a summary of the Tentative Agreement, along with the announcement of the Joint Locals informational meeting, to be held on Saturday January 17th. This will be the first time Locals 44, 80, 728 & 729 have held a meeting of this type. As stated there will be no official business, nor quorum requirements at this meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to inform those in attendance of the specifics of the proposed agreement. Prior to the meeting you should become familiar with the summary sent to you. At the meeting each bullet point will be reviewed individually. Please remember this is not a ratification meeting, **NO VOTE WILL BE TAKEN**. These are difficult times, and these negotiations presented the parties with difficult choices. This agreement has triggers that will have different affects on you, depending on your lifestyle and consumer choices, some greater or lesser than others. Each of you should pay close attention to this contract summary, clear your schedule and attend this meeting.

In closing, I would like to wish each and every one of you all the best for the New Year.

It's about you.
Fraternally,
Ed Brown

One Roster & One Call Board

How The Roster & Local 44's Call Board Actually Work

First, let's get the record straight: there is only one Roster and one Call Board. The Industry Experience Roster ("Roster") is administered by the Contract Services Administration Trust Fund ("Contract Services"), while the Call Board is run solely by Local 44. Each is governed by separate contract provisions and legal regulations.

The Roster is list of employees who under the Producer/IATSE MPTAAC Local 44 Contract ("Contract"), have satisfactorily fulfilled all of the eligibility provisions set forth in the Contract, and accordingly are placed on the Roster, listed as "qualified" to work on movie, television and commercial productions. Generally, the rules governing how one becomes qualified for placement on the Roster are described at Paragraph 68(a) of the Contract. Those rules and are too numerous to discuss in this article as different qualifications apply to each Craft represented within Local 44. Needless to say that once qualified and accepted for placement on the Roster, an individual can only be removed in accordance with the procedures laid out at Paragraph 68(c) of the Contract.

Additionally, placement on the Roster allows persons in certain Crafts - Propmakers and Property Persons - to upgrade their Roster status to, for instance, the Special Effects Craft or Property Master Craft. These Craft upgrades are also administered by Contract Services, pursuant to the Contract.

What is really important about Roster status is, of course, that placement on the Roster entitles one to preference for employment

with signatory Producers over those who are not Roster qualified. According to Paragraph 68(b) of the Contract, Producers are required to give "preference in employment" to those persons who are Roster qualified. This means that signatory Producers are contractually required to hire Roster qualified personnel for any Local 44 Craft to be used on a covered production. It is only when there are an insufficient amount of qualified Roster persons that a Producer may then, as the Contract tells us, hire workers "from any source."

This then brings us to the Call Board. Unlike the Roster, the Call Board is run by Local 44 and it exists for the sole function of providing the Producers with employees when Producers need workers on a production covered by a Local 44/Producers Contract. The Call Board, which is established under Paragraph 68(b) of the Contract, operates as a "non-exclusive hiring hall": a procedure through which the Producers must first attempt to obtain employees, in the Crafts represented by Local 44, before the Producer can hire "from any other source."

The Call Board does not maintain a separate "roster". The lists it uses are the names of Local 44 members who are in good standing with the union and are unemployed and seeking work. These out-of-work lists are kept on a Craft by Craft basis (i.e., a separate out-of-work list for Propmakers, a separate list for Property Persons, etc.). When the Call Board receives a request for workers, the Call Board Stewards go to the list for the specified Craft and begin, in order of placement on that Craft list (generally, members are listed in the order they reported being out-of-work: the member having the greatest length of unemployment

will be at or near the top of her/his Craft's Call Board list), calling the members on that list and offering them the opportunity to go to work. This process is repeated until the Call Board is able to fill the calls for workers it receives from Producers (or other Local 44 members who are authorized agents for Producers in the hiring of extra workers).

The Contract generally allows 24 hours in which Local 44 can fill a call for extra workers. Sometimes the Call Board cannot fill the call: the Producer is seeking too many extra employees, no one on the Craft list is willing or available to take the offered work or, in the best case scenario, there is full employment within the affected Craft. In this instance, the Contract then allows the Producer to "hire from any source." When this occurs - what the industry refers to as a "permit" or "turnover" takes place. The Contract allows the Producer to hire non-Rostered workers to meet its needs. This means that the Producer is then free to hire anyone to fill the open positions, even if those workers are not on the Roster, but only if Local 44 could not fill the Producer's request.

Finally, Local 44 has an unwavering commitment to its enforcement of the Contract's Roster protections. Local 44 will, and does, file grievances whenever it finds that a Producer has hired a non-Rostered person if, at the time of that employment, there were Rostered members available for work in the effected Craft. Local 44 recognizes that you have all worked long and hard to obtain and maintain your Roster status and you can rest assured that Local 44 will never do anything to jeopardize the employment protections which Roster status grants to its members.

Keep your Union Brothers and Sisters Working

Use Union Companies

Alpha Companies
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*MovieGlas
Motion Picture Glass Inc.
Movie Art
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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
Twentieth Century Fox
Studios
NBC/Universal City Studios
The Walt Disney Studios
Warner Bros. Studios
White Rhino Production
Services
*Denotes new additions

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.

Pushing Forward

By Anthony Pawluc, Secretary Treasurer



As you may have heard, there have been a few changes at Local 44 in the past few months. With the resignation of my predecessor, and at the direction of Local 44's Constitution and By-Laws, your Executive Board nominated and elected me with overwhelming support to complete the remainder of the term.

The night I was sworn in as Secretary Treasurer was one of my proudest moments. I have served this membership in a variety of capacities through the years, I am confident that my experience and knowledge of Local 44, its members, and the industry at large will serve every brother and sister with distinction and pride. I appreciate all the calls, emails and even letters that have come to my office from the membership offering their congratulations and support.

Since the beginning of the fourth quarter 2008, we have been very busy down here at the hall. In addition to dealing with the changeover with the Secretary Treasurers' office, I immediately looked into any possible financial short falls that the Local may encounter as a result of a lack luster year in our Industry. I had several meetings with our in-house accountant, Local 44's Investment Professionals, Local 44's Finance committee, the union's independent auditing firm, and our Trustees to be completely on top of the situation.

Business Office

Another immediate challenge that confronted this office was cleaning up customized promissory notes or "contracts" with dropped or suspended persons, that my predecessor had allowed to go on well after their expiration dates. I found it totally unfair for someone to potentially get union work when their financial obligations to the Local were not current, potentially taking a union job away from a member who has remained in good standing for years. As of November 26, 2008 all of the "custom payment contracts" were either paid in full to the union or the

"agreement" was canceled. I commend our Business Office and Melanie Perry for pursuing the monies owed to our Union.

Additionally, I have spent the past months re-familiarizing myself with the Business Office's and Call Board's procedures and protocols, appraising our Union's staff, and evaluating and/or reorganizing the several departments we have at Local 44. There are now regular staff meetings between all of Local 44's in house departments and we are finding that production, moral and communication have improved dramatically.

After review of all the above, I am happy to announce that because of responsible leadership, tough decision making and tightening our belts in the final quarter of 2008, Local 44 was able to come in under budget.

Call Board

A long observed concern of our membership was the accuracy and freshness of Local 44's current show list that is housed in the Call Board. Since taking the reigns, I have worked with our Call board Stewards, Business Agents, and Studio Productions to get production updates weekly. If you have been working, you may have heard that your union's Call Board contacted your production to get an update of the crew and status of your show. This has helped us to get the most current information possible to keep you in the know.

During the Holiday Season, our Call Board shifted from dispatching work calls to, re-arranging production lists, and educating our membership about programs offered by the Motion Picture Television Fund and the Actors Fund to help provide financial relief for members in need. Our Call Board Stewards have been able to point many brothers and sisters in the right direction. In addition, Local 44 began a food bank for the holidays and will continue this successful program through the New Year. I commend Call Board Steward Joann Hicks for her vision and dedication to the Food Bank Program.

Website

For those of us who go to Local44.com, good for us! You will find a similar look to our site, but many of the features have been updated and improved. No longer will you find stagnant information (unless archived) or expired contracts, wage rates, or calendared events. We are working on streamlining our site to make it more user friendly and efficient. Hopefully we will have a new look in the near future.

Newsreel

This is our first edition for 2009. Within these pages you will find spotlights and interviews with Productions and their Local 44 crews, conversations with retirees, members' pride and joy baby pictures and a continuance of a variety of relevant information.

For years this union has been asking you to SEND US YOUR CREW SHOTS for the Newsreel, website and for display in our Union Hall. I want to give this magazine back to the members so I offer all of you this invitation. Call us. Call us and let us come down to your show so we can promote our membership's magnificent artistry and craftsmanship in our Newsreel. Let us take some pictures of the crew and do a few interviews so others can see what you have been up to in the past 5, 10, 20 years. This Newsreel is the Membership's magazine and you should be represented within its pages.

Wrap Up

In the frenzied last quarter we were able to put on a picnic, have six craft meetings with three achieving quorums (the first of its kind in at least ten years), host The Annual Turkey Shoot for active and retired members, have a few retiree gatherings, help a couple of members with catastrophic relief after the November fires took their homes, put out a friendly dues reminder post card to help members remember the date, and keep the Local moving in a forward and progressive manner.

As this goes to press, your Executive Board and I will be working on a budget for 2009. At the conclusion of that meeting, I will be reporting on future programs, events, and training activities that will take place in 2009.

On another personal note, in all my years, I have never experienced an Executive Office, Chief Financial Office, President, Vice President, Executive Board, Trustees and Staff all on the same page about doing what is best for the membership as a whole and being transparent at every turn. It has taken a lot of hard work and we will continue to improve as we go. I am thrilled to be part of all of this and optimistic about our union's future.

In closing, I wish you and your family a healthy, happy, BUSY, and prosperous 2009.

Best,

Anthony Pawluc
Secretary Treasurer
IATSE Local 44

Local 44 Brings Vegas to Life in "The Hangover"

By Buffy Morton

Keep your eyes out for the release of 2009's hilariously funny new comedy feature "The Hangover." Director Todd Phillips brings you a knee slapping escape to Caesar's Palace where three close buddies and their best friend engage in an epic bachelor party extravaganza only to awaken the next day to find that the groom-to-be has vanished.

Aside from watching the film for a good laugh "The Hangover" will offer its viewers a glimpse of the magic that Local 44 Craftspersons contribute to film.

Construction Coordinator John Samson started "The Hangover" project August 18, 2008. He delegated two crews, one of which would be responsible for the Las Vegas construction; the second working locally at Burbank's Warner Brothers Studio under the supervision of General Foreman Jeff McMahon and Burbank foremen Marco Campos and David Long.

On September 17, 2008 the Las Vegas crew left Los Angeles to begin the first phases of construction on the infamous Las Vegas Blvd. The crew put in place a pre-fabricated Wedding chapel on the strip which generated a great deal of resentment by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. According to John Samson, a representative of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce was so distraught over the construction that he began to chastise the foreman for opening another wedding chapel when they are trying to discourage such businesses. Eventually the assistant got word the chapel was part of a movie set and stopped hassling the crew.



While in Vegas, Local 44 Propmakers also installed an "Adult Store" sign on the strip which was fabricated in conjunction with Michael Lantieri and Mario Vanillo's Special Effects crew. It was articulated in such a manner that the hinged pieces would break off in a choreographed fashion when collided with. Another one of Local 44's prefabricated bits of scenery can be found mounted to the front of the infamous Caesar's Palace Hotel. Make visual note while watching the film... I've been told that mattress on Caesar's head plays a key plot point in the film.

By the end of the five week Sin-City con-



struction project five Propmakers, three painters, three Laborers, and three Greensmen along with 36 behind-the-scenes Propmakers had prepared some very beautiful and shootable scenery.

In the midst of the Las Vegas construction the Warner Brothers crew was hard at work generating "The Hangover's" elevator, apartment, and chapel sets. According to Property Gang Boss Paul Pastorelli, not only were a great deal of "The Hangover" sets built at Warner Brothers, but also its Props, were either fabricated or obtained at the Warner Brothers Property Department. He reveals that it was a strategy to keep our members employed. On September 22nd the first preliminary plans for the Caesar's Palace suite set were put into place and the deck was built. Over the course of five weeks the construction crew turned an idea into an astonishing work of art. With the combined creativity of Production Designer Bill Brzeski, Set

D e c o r a t o r Danielle Berman and her crew, and Construction Coordinator John Samson, your eyes will be entertained with a phenomenal replication of a Caesar's Palace high end penthouse suite. With the flavor of Caesar's Palace in mind, the 3,500 sq. foot Roman architectural suite was lavished with marble flooring and veneer, cathedral ceiling, tow-

ering pillars, a waterfall Jacuzzi, and bar; all of which embellished in the most amazing décor. Burbank foreman Jeff McMahon reveals "When the set was dressed and lit it became real and was what I found to be most memorable."

While the majority of the 44 crew spent their afternoons composing sets and seeking props, Property Master Russell Bobbitt was busy concocting some unique props of his own. One of his many responsibilities was to recover tigers in all forms of existence: stuffed, stand in, and body suit. Obtaining a real tiger was the least of his worries. After several attempts Bobbitt explored the internet and - lo and behold - found two life-like stuffed tigers for a very reasonable price. Once received, he used one of the tigers in its original form and the other he unstuffed and developed into a human tiger suit.

When production was done John Samson acknowledged that "The Hangover" crew



was comprised of nothing but "All-Stars." "I usually enjoy my work, but with a crew like this, it makes coming to work all the more enjoyable."

I hope that "The Hangover" viewers enjoy the 2009 film, as much as your fellow Craftspersons enjoyed their contributions to its making!



Back Left: John Samson, Marco Campos, Jeff McMahon, R. Lucas Stewart
Front Left: Paul Pastorelli, David Long, Business Agent Ed Brown, Scott Duran, Michelle Benavides, Secretary Treasurer Anthony Pawluc

From The President

By Erin Hennessey



As we all have come to the end of one of the toughest years in the industry that I have experienced, the International and back lot locals have negotiated a tentative three year agreement. When I consider the tough economic times that have affected this entire country, I personally feel that it was a job well done by International President Matt Loeb and International Vice-President Mike Miller and all the Business Representatives

for the respective Locals involved. Although we are giving up some concessions in our medical coverage, I am quite amazed that they were able to come to an agreement without every member having to pay some kind of out of pocket premium. Yes, we are being pushed into a more HMO type plan but personally I have been using this plan for quite some time and I am actually pleased with it. They were able to maintain a 3% pay increase each year for the next three years as well as keeping the current contributions to the pension and IAP plans. The Retirees will also continue to receive their 13th and 14th checks. I'm sure there are areas that we all will not be pleased with, but times are tough right now and that makes for tough negotiating conditions. Ed Brown and the Business Agents for all of the respective Locals involved will be holding a meeting on

January 17th, 2009 with all the members concerned to discuss the details of this tentative agreement with the Producers. I encourage you to attend this very important meeting.

I would personally be happy to see everyone get back to work because, as you all know, if you're not working the producers are not contributing to the plans. Let's hope that the future offers us all better times than we have been presently experiencing. I truly believe that our new contract was negotiated for what is in the best interest of the members. I hope the future offers us better negotiating conditions. I wish you all hopefully a brighter New Year!

Respectfully
Your President,
Erin Hennessey

Spotlight on Matthew Azzarone

By Buffy Morton

Retired Property Person Matthew Azzarone has impacted the history of both film and freedom. As a participant of WWII's Office of Strategic Services, Azzarone used his multi-lingual ability, special spy training, and glider and parachute skills to drop behind enemy lines and interrogate the enemy. Through his involvement with the OSS, Matty helped our country conquer the German and Japanese regime, insuring the freedom of our country, Europe, and the world. The OSS went on to become the CIA so it is safe to say that Matty was a part of the birth of an agency that continues to protect our nation today.

Matthew Azzarone was born to parents Albert and Maria, on March 8, 1923, in Springfield, IL. At age 19 he was drafted into the Military where he lent his talents to the OSS. In the winter of 1947 Azzarone took a \$400.00 allotment and headed by Greyhound to Los Angeles, CA.

Azzarone's bright career in the film industry got under way in 1948 as a Laborer for MGM. Due to the shortage of grips and electricians, Matty had the opportunity to explore multiple crafts within the film industry. It wasn't until John Cassidy approached Matty about working in the property department that he began his involvement with Local 44. "Johnny was the best boss anyone ever had at MGM. He offered me a job in the prop

department, and heck yes I took it; \$100.00 more a day," reveals Azzarone.

On November 18, 1957 Matty was initiated into Local 44. His primary duty was working on a striking crew. However, rug racking and chandelier hanging had become his expertise. While under the wing of Dick Neblet on the Oscar winning production



Retiree Matthew Azzarone

"Sweet Bird of Youth," Matty was given his first opportunity to make set notes. "Dick handed me a yellow pad and a pencil and told me to work the rehearsal. I was so excited it was just me, the director, the stars, and the camera. I learned so much from him," says Azzarone.

Not only did Matty's propping career

begin to flourish in the early sixties, but so did his love for Francesca, a local waitress at an Italian restaurant. Get this...the two spontaneously wed on the same day as Vincent Minnelli and Francesca's original wedding ring came straight out of the prop box at MGM. The Azzarone's later went on to become parents with the birth of son Mathew and daughter Jennifer.

Matty continued working as an Assistant Property Master and lead for a persistent 33 years. His talent can be seen in such films as "American Gigolo," "Godfather II," "Taxi Driver," "Mommy Dearest," "The Brink's Job," "The Day of the Dolphin," and so on. One particular film became an Azzarone family heirloom: on "Portnoy's Complaint", Matty dressed the set with old black and white portraits of his parents and Brother Dominic.

After 96,000 hours in the business Matty was ready to break free from the industry. He entered into retirement on July 1, 1990. Although he may have said goodbye to propping he has never disconnected from his Union. At 85 years young, Azzarone can still be seen, club in hand, at Local 44's annual Turkey Shoot, and his unforgettable pearly whites smiling at our monthly coffee talks. Matty Azzarone's contributions to history, film, and this Local are appreciated!

ANNUAL Family Picnic 2008



44 80 728 729

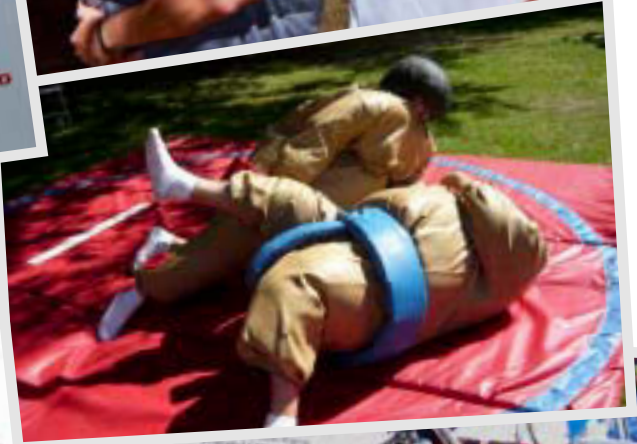
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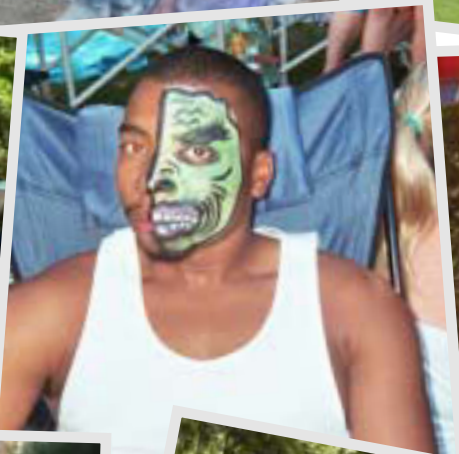
- Kristal Graphics
- Gonroy's Flowers
- Masicians Intergail
- Ver Sales
- Warner Brothers
- Celebrity Metals

- 20th Century Fox Fed. Credit Union
- Topanga Lumber
- Granger

- Nigro Karla Segal
- Astek Wallcovering
- binoleam City K5600
- Insurance West
- Entertainment Partners
- Chapman Studio Equip
- Pinecotel Chiropractic
- Alternative Health Care Concepts, Inc
- Aal Pipe and Steel
- Panel-It/The Kitchen Store
- Timakta Connections
- Keyes Tool Poach Co.
- Looney Bus
- Alpha Medical
- Local 800 Art Directors
- Local 706 Make-up Artists
- Event City

Special Thanks to local 767 Motion Picture Studio
 First Aid Employees for Volunteering their
 time for our medical needs year after year





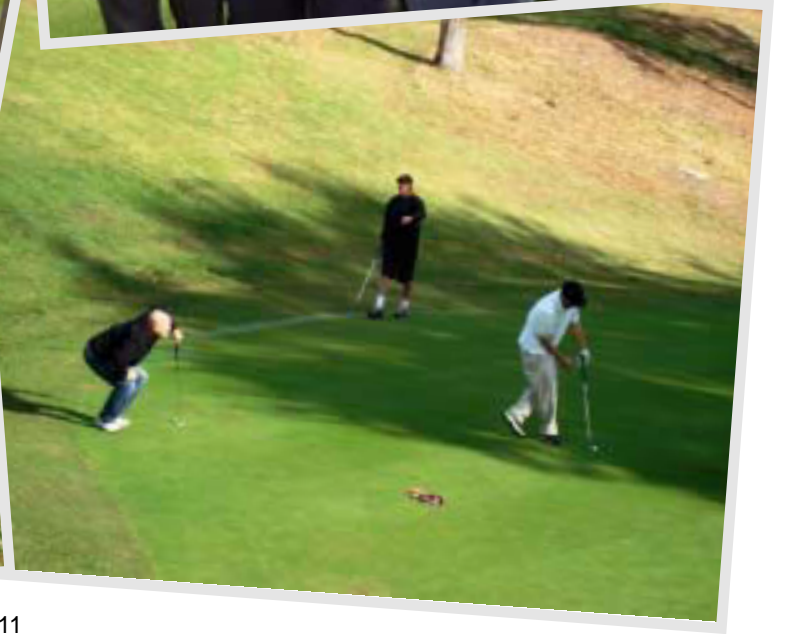
LOCAL 44'S 2008

Local 44's Annual Turkey Shoot 2008 was a success once again. The Turkey Shoot was held at Vista Valencia Golf Course on Tuesday, November 25, 2008. We had 75 active and retired golfers attend this year and beautiful weather to golf in. Prizes were given for closest to the pin, longest drive, and furthest from the pin. Closest to the pin for the active member category was won by Thomas Stepanovich and Frankie Inez won for the retired member category. The longest drive for the



Turkey Shoot

active members was won by Art Schneider and the retired winner was Eugene Molnar. Furthest from the pin for the active member category was won by Michael Diersing and Joe Lozano won for the retired category. The prizes given to the winners were donated by Alpha Companies and Vista Valencia Golf Course. Local 44 would like to thank Alpha Companies & Vista Valencia Golf Course for their generous donations. Local 44 looks forward to seeing you there next year.



MEMBERS DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP

AS OF JANUARY 5, 2009 ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR WORK

PLEASE NOTE: Members listed below may have put themselves back into good standing since the list was printed on 1/5/2009. 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 Set Decorator Kalish, Brandi	Property Agic-Gaudio, Tijana Baalbergen, Bryon Bankins, Robert Brown, Genise Burnett, Scott Cannon, Thomas Chambaret, Clovis DeSantis, Stephanie Drake, Amelia Ferreira, Matthew Herrmann, Charles Kanter, Peter Keeling, Rebecca Kirst, Alexander Klingerman, Michael Lombard, David Mata, Lorenzo McKay, Scot McQuade, David Morgan, Terence Norman, Daniel Parker, Francesca Prescott, Sarah Riley, Donald Roberts, Heather	Rohloff, Chris Scorsese, Catherine Smith, Samantha Streetman, Bruce Williams, Brent Jr. Williams, Mykal Williams, Jay	Frenkel, Jason Garrett, Nathan Garubba, David Gullesserian, Mark Holmes, Chad Ibarra, Louis Jackson, David John, Daniel Johnson, Patrick Lomeli, Javier Lyons, Dubois Martinez, Chris McBee, John McCann, Christopher Meier, Arthur Moore, Raymond Jr. Mueller, Paul Jr. Mullaney, Oliver Muscarella, Jared Neves, Robert O'Neill-Bryan, Kelly Parkinson, Christopher Parks, Justin Rosenthal, Shel Scarnechia, Michael Simper-Turney, Jonathan	Slaton, Justin Smith, Michael Sokol, Paul Stalker, Eric Sundt, Emiliano Takahashi, Phil Trollope, Matthew Uszak, Craig Vollmer, Scott Walters, Don Warren, Emil Watson, Brandon Wilson, William Wooten, David Yatron, Peter Youse, Rodney Zinn, Stephen
Coordinator Addotta, Frank Esparza, Eduardo Gruetzmacher, Rainer Jr. Krakoff, Gary Schultz, Erich		Propmaker Allen, Jerry Anton, Jeffrey Atilano, Miguel Bentley, Aaron Bizzy, Don Brooks, Robert Bullard, John Chase, Michael Chatem, Andrew Collins, James Cousens, Kenny DeMaria, Dino Diaz, Frankie Donegan, Jerry Encinas, Adrian Erickson, Terry Faight, Ryan		Set Decorator DeCinces, Richard Rubino, Beth Stone, Sarah
Greens Safron, Tom				Special Effects Guynes, Morgan Miller, Dean
Master Chavez, Richard Glennon, Donna Hadley, Beverly Long, Kevin III Maxwell, Chester Nasby, John Spears, Michelle Swift, Jerry				

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

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

In Memory of

Alan B. Bernay Born: 02/22/20 Sworn: 01/17/55 Died: 10/17/08 Craft: Property Master	Daniel P. Lester Born: 01/01/59 Sworn: 03/20/78 Died: 12/20/08 Craft: Special Effects	Gordon Brown Born: 3/3/1944 Sworn: 10/25/1979 Died: 8/9/2008 Craft: Propmaker	Mary Ann Good Born: 05/09/37 Sworn: 10/11/76 Died: 12/19/08 Craft: Set Decorator	Raymond W. Johansen Born: 12/31/11 Died: 10/11/2008	Robert L. Stover Born: 10/04/63 Sworn: 04/13/99 Died: 10/03/08 Craft: Property	Victor Frank Petrotta Jr. Born: 11/12/45 Sworn: 04/20/65 Died: 10/21/08 Craft: Propmaster
Billy L. Myatt Born: 11/18/29 Sworn: 02/18/61 Died: 09/12/08 Craft: Special Effects	Edward J. Golden Born: 08/05/33 Sworn: 11/15/73 Died: 08/29/08 Craft: Property	Irvin E. Duffy Jr. Born: 03/31/45 Sworn: 11/14/73 Died: 05/27/08 Craft: Set Decorator	Merle E. Jones Born: 05/16/15 Sworn: 08/28/47 Died: 07/15/08 Craft: Propmaker	Richard D. Wright Born: 02/14/55 Sworn: 01/06/95 Died: 11/01/08 Craft: Property	Ronald Lee Ferguson Born: 09/10/46 Sworn: 04/30/79 Died: 11/24/08 Craft: Coordinator	Warren E. Welch Born: 05/20/26 Sworn: 07/12/61 Died: 10/15/08 Craft: Set Decorator
Clarence L. Pierce Born: 07/14/14 Sworn: 02/01/21 Died: 11/26/08 Craft: Propmaker	Fred C. Nelson Born: 10/01/15 Died: 09/13/08 Craft: Propmaker	Joseph D. Tindall Born: 01/13/20 Sworn: 10/08/59 Died: 08/01/08 Craft: Propmaker	Morris Fleck Born: 03/03/12 Sworn: Unlisted Died: 05/20/08 Craft: Unlisted	Robert Bleckman Born: 02/13/55 Sworn: 02/09/76 Died: 11/28/08 Craft: Propmaster	Sam Lorenzo Sr. Born: 01/18/28 Sworn: 10/11/55 Died: 08/30/08 Craft: Propmaster	Wilbur Russell Born: 09/24/18 Sworn: 08/21/47 Died: 11/14/08 Craft: Propmaster
Daniel J. Kelley Born: 06/01/57 Sworn: 02/26/79 Died: 11/07/08 Craft: Propmaker	Gilbert Recchia Born: 1/28/1951 Sworn: 6/16/1986 Died: 8/2/2008 Craft: Floorcover	Lee Poll Born: 02/21/22 Sworn: 04/06/77 Died: 11/22/08 Craft: Set Decorator	Ralph L. Furst Born: 05/10/23 Died: 11/27/08 Craft: Propmaker	Robert Reed Born: 2/13/1947 Sworn: 12/8/1975 Died: 8/1/2008 Craft: Propmaker		

For complete tribute articles, and updated, detailed information on funeral and memorial services, please log on to our website at www.local44.com move your cursor over the "Local 44" menu under the blue pictures and click on "In Memory Of."

Hello, World!



Charlene Chotiga Schulthies, born in Chiang Mai Thailand, June 27, 2008. She weighed in at 3.66 Kgs and 51CM long. Retired Special Effects member Charles Schulthies, Mom, and baby are doing great!

For Charity



Business Agent Ed Brown (left), Lance Sorenson - President 24/7 (center), Secretary Treasurer Anthony Pawluc (right).

On a picture perfect Sunday for golf, 24/7 hosted their Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament at Robinson Ranch Golf Club in Santa Clarita.

Co-Sponsored by Ver-Sales, the tournament had a successful turnout of 144 players. Many of those swinging the wrenches that day were our very own Construction Coordinators, Special Effects Persons, Forman, Propmakers, and Property People. There were many prize par holes including a car to the player who could hit a hole in one.

After the day of golf, the players sat down for dinner and were treated to a great raffle that boasted a foursome at Pebble Beach along with many other prizes. The tournament was able to donate a very generous portion to the American Cancer Society and Local 44's Benevolent Retirement Fund.

Mad Props to Hollywood's own Gadget Guru



Russell Bobbitt on the red carpet at the Behind-the-Camera Awards

On November 9, 2008, Local 44's Russell Bobbitt was officially recognized for his 25 years of work as a top feature film Property Master: designing, procuring and manufacturing cinematic props. Hamilton Timepieces in conjunction with Hollywood Life Magazine honored Bobbitt at the third annual Hamilton Behind-the-Camera Awards for his outstanding contributions to Jon Favreau's Iron Man. At the Hollywood Highlands red carpet event, co-worker, actress Lucy Liu presented Bobbitt with the Property Master Honoree Award. Past recipients of the Property Master honor include Doug Harlocker (Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skulls and Spiderman) and Great Britain's Ty Teiger (Batman Begins and Star Wars Episode II). It's great to see some of Local 44's finest Craftspersons receiving the attention and long over due recognition they deserve.

FX Class In Action



Motion Base in foreground Justin Krause operating in background



Bruce Hayes operating WALDO in foreground

These pics submitted by Propmaker Sandra Stewart, who writes: "We had a class on 12/06/08 on Hydraulics, Gimbals, Motion Base, and Air Bag Platforms. Mark Noel and Joe Judd were guest speakers and demonstrated the 6-Axis Motion Base. FX Class students took turns operating the 16,000 LB capacity unit by manually operating a WALDO."

Thanks Sandra for the great pictures.

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

October

Over 50 Years

Reiss, Stuart	Set Decorator (70)
Brown, Claire	Set Decorator (53)
Butz, Carl	Draper (53)
Camerini, Eugene	Propmaker (53)
Dockrey, Samuel	Special Effects (53)
Gordon, Allan	Property Master (53)
Krisman, Harold	Propmaker (53)
Nifong, Frank	Property Master (53)
Parrish, Dennis	Property Master (51)
Reveles, Frank	Propmaker (51)
Richards, Robert	Property Master (53)

50 Year

No 50 Year For October

35 Years

Passanante, Jeffrey	Coordinator
Willis, Charles	Propmaker

25 Year

Hohman, Robert	Special Effects
Stearns, Speed	Propmaker

10 Years

Butler, Todd	Upholsterer
Menanno, Guy	Property
Olmos, Albert	Propmaker
Rodriguez, Mark	Property
Scott, Douglas	Property
Zamudio, Ricky	Property

November

Over 50 Years

Long Jr., Charles	Draper (66)
Petrotta, Victor	Prop Master (66)
DeMarco, Frank	Special Effects (61)
Alvarez, Alex	Property (53)
Azzarone, Mathew	Property (53)
D'Amico, Michael	Propmaker (53)
Dion, Irving	Propmaker (53)
Wainess, William	Prop Master (53)
Wunderlich, Martin	Prop Master (53)

50 Year

DiNieri, Richard	Prop Master
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35 Years

Bunch, Michael	Coordinator
Callas, Greg	Coordinator
Decinces, Richard	Set Decorator
DiGiovanni, Richard	Property
Fettis, gary	Set Decorator
Garcia Jr., Justin	Propmaker
Haines Jr., Paul	Special Effects
Holley, Karen	Prop Master
Johnson, Kent	Prop Master
Jones, Warren	Property
Krafft, Donald	Set Decorator
Litteken, Michael	Coordinator
Longo, Joseph	Prop Master
Lucene, David	Draper
McIntosh, Mary	Set Decorator
Moser, Rochelle	Set Decorator
Paneque, Renaldo	Prop Master
Reynolds, Clayton	Propmaker
Romano, Michael	Draper
Simpson, Mark	Property

Spina, John	Property
Stewart, George	Propmaker
Unger, Van	Coordinator

25 Year

Schmidt, David	Property
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10 Years

Bentley, Roger	Property
Pietsch, Paul	Com-Property
Lewis, Michael	Prop master
Brennan, Erick	Propmaker
Piscuskas, Richard	Propmaker
O'Brien, Jeffrey	Propmaker
Guevara, Patrick	Propmaker
Rosene, Rodney	Property
Anderson, Michael	Property
Vangilder, Darrell	Property
Doyle, Tracey	Set Decorator
DeWaay, Ronald	Propmaker

December

Over 50 Years

Roach, James	Floorcoverer (57)
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50 year

No 50 Year For December

35 Years

Cunningham, Paul	Property
Early, Leonard	Propmaker
Escobedo, Frank	Prop Master
Higelmire, Michael	Property
Humburger, Michael	Property
Miller, James	Propmaker
Robles, John	Special Effects

25 Year

Lopez, Frank	Coordinator
Pemberton, Daniel	Coordinator

10 Years

Morris, Elizabeth	Property
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January

Over 50 Years

Tomasino, Mariano	Property Master (75)
Ayers, Robert	Greens (53)
Barbier, Mark	Property (54)
Bell, William	Coordinator (51)
Crawford, Kenneth	Property (53)
Donelan, Louis	Prop Master (51)
Greenberg, benjamin	Prop Master (53)
Leggett, Alfred	Prop Master (54)
Ross, Michael	Prop Master (53)
Tafarella, Jean	Property (55)

50 Year

Dawson, Robert	Special Effects
Friaglia, Clara	Property Sewing Person
Green, Richard	Greens

35 Years

Blasdel, Bradley	Prop master
Bruner, Michael	Prop Master
Camomile, James	Special Effects
Chichotka, chris	Propmaker
Dutton, Robert	Property
Fisher, Wayne	Prop Master
Gerhardt, Charlene	Property Sewing Person
Gonzales, Richard	Property
Jimenez, frank	Property

Jones, robert	Greens
Kudroff, gary	Property
May, Joann	Property Sewing Person
McCulley, Anne	Set Decorator
Moran, Timothy	Special Effects
Quick, David	Prop master
Shaw Jr., Thomas	Prop Master
Wilson, Dean	Prop Master
Wolke, Steven	Special Effects

25 Year

No 25 Year For January

10 Years

Anderson, Rick	Property
Barrett, Joseph	Property
Bartlett, Tom	Property
Bennett, James	Property
Boudreau, Mike	Property
Camacho, Hernan	Set Decorator
DeBiasio, William	Set Decorator
Dechert, Chris	Property
Fitting, J.P	Property
Forster, Christopher	Coordinator
Foster, Bryony	Set Decorator
Francois, Jacob	Propmaker
Frankel, Melissa	Property
Frierson, Yukion	Property
Goldman Blanche, Margaret	Set Decorator
Gonzalez, Pierre	Property
Haaland, Arne	Greens
Jagerman, Tamara	Propmaker
Keller, John	Com-Property
Kelly, Jennifer	Property
Lewis, David	Property
Lima, Carlos	Property
Lindstedt, Sandra	Property
Lowry, Nancy	Property
Maheu, Jamie	Prop Master
Marais, Linda	Set Decorator
Mayabb, Donald	Propmaker
Neil, Phoebe	Set Decorator
Pollard, Bobby	Property
Root, Bryan	Property
Rosenthal, Carisa	Property
Rottenberg, David	Property
Rundblad, Anders	Propmaker
Sharrott-York, Lynn	Prop Master
Spatz, Harlan	Property
Stevens, George	Propmaker
Strom, Walter	Property
Tillotson, John	Property
Villalobos, Nicco	Propmaker
Wintersteller, Alexandra	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

Who Does That? - Special Effects

By George Paine

Questions frequently arise regarding specific duties and divisions of work involving our crafts. Every member would hopefully like to see full employment throughout the union, and certainly within their own craft. An informed decision on set regarding staffing may not always be popular with production, but it is the contractual and right thing for your union. Pressure from production to "just get it done" may tempt you to "cut" a member out of a job. Think of your brothers and sisters, think as though you were that member, think that if it happens once it will happen again. We cannot afford to lose work for our membership, whether for budget concerns or convenience. Hire the right person to do the job.

All crafts have "gray" areas that create challenging decisions that affect work assignments, flow and budget. Knowing who should be doing what helps provide employment for all crafts and may help you avoid a grievance. In this article we will address a few of the issues regarding Special Effects.

The first and most important item is to make sure that the person listed as the key for Special Effects actually HAS a Special Effects classification. This may seem ridiculously obvious, but the fact is many Propmaker/Prop Shop members are working

as the FX coordinator for a production. Although these members may have the ability and knowledge to perform the work, they may not have the proper classification to do so. Should anything unfortunate happen on set, production can be grieved at the very least, and could be liable due to improper staffing. Members holding a Propshop classification may work doing special effects under the supervision of a properly classified Special Effects cardholder.

The duties and division of work for Special Effects are defined on page 113, in our 2006 agreement with the AMPTP (yellow contract book).

96. Special Effects

"The supervision, setting up, operating, striking and storing of all equipment and material in making special effects, such as wind, rain, air effects, snow, artificial atmospheric window frosting, frost, fire, smoke, flares, torches of all kinds, fog, steam, mist, water, waterfalls, portable spill tanks, storms of every nature, waves, cobwebs, lightning and explosives. The creation and operation of all sound effects used in the making of motion pictures, except that written into the musical score as part of the rhythm or requiring a musician to operate, shall be done by Special Effects per-

sons. All powder or explosives requiring a licensed Powderman shall be handled only by a licensed Powderman."

In conjunction with the production of these effects, any type of machine or device that moves the air on camera should be run by a Special Effects member. Brother and Sister locals, and our members, know that they should not be controlling fans but someone may need to "remind" them that the work belongs to the FX dept. of Local 44. Wet downs, elevators, e-fans, neon, plumbing for practical drinking fountains, showers, sinks, gas stoves, fireplaces and candles are instances where a Special Effects cardholder should be on set. Rigging and operation of apparatus for flying of objects or people, work on automobiles, poor mans process should also have Effects personnel on set. Adding to the lack of knowledge about the intricacies of craft divisions of labor are the pressures from productions to "get the job done" for the least amount of money. Hopefully this article will help to clarify some questions regarding Special Effects duties and division of work. We can't answer all of the questions here, so, the best thing to do when in doubt is to call our Business Agent or his assistants.

Calling All Food Stylists...

Through the years, some Property Masters have hired non-signatory companies or non-union people for food scenes on shows. There are several members who need employment and may be able to assist with the food styling for your production. We encourage all Property Masters to call Local 44 when you are in need of a food stylist.

Members, please let us know if you are truly skilled in this area so we can pull your name up if someone requests a list of food stylists.

This skill requires the ability to not only prepare the food, but to present it in a way that is best suited to camera. You should also have knowledge of what will survive the lights on set, please actors when they must eat on camera and be able to break down the scenes and come in on budget.

If you have these skills or know another 44 member that does, please call us. Because this specialty is unique, we can't send someone out who is "winging" it. We cannot add this to your skills inventory unless we receive confirmation of past experience. Please send in a brief resume of shows or projects you have worked on in this capacity along with pictures and references. We need to verify your experience.

Use union brothers and sisters whenever possible, there are many people who can use the work.

Executive Board Meeting's Highlights

IATSE Local 44 invites and encourages all members who are in good standing to take interest in their Union's business. One of the best ways to do that is reviewing your Local's Executive Board Meeting minutes. It is very easy to do. All you need to do is follow Article VIII, Powers and Duties Section 4 Secretary/Treasurer paragraph K (I) Minutes and Log of Motions of Local 44's Constitution and By-Laws. The article states: "Any member in good standing who submits a written request to schedule an appointment to review a copy of the minutes or the log of motions may do so."

This allows members to draw their own conclusion on the entire meeting, not just some highlights that someone else thought was important to print. The Business Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Contact the Secretary Treasurer to schedule an appointment so we can accommodate your request.



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.

Special Effects Equipment: For more information call Mark at (818) 314-2996.

Propmaster Kit For Sale: Organized and ready to roll on your Truck. Can takeover existing storage unit if needed. \$4,700 obo. Call (360) 296-3647.

klunkers For Sale: 48 hit with remote & carry out - \$2500. 24 hit with remote & carry out \$1800. Both come with battery box. Call David at (818) 282-5505.

2 E-Fans for sale: both for \$6000.00 used in balance and not dinged or \$3500 each. Look at new prices and decide. No roll cage, no stands. Call Wayne at (661) 547-1100

Special Effects Equipment: Ross Taylor 1/2 Capsule gun \$1500, Morton Full Capsule Gun \$1500, Morton 68cal Ball Gun \$1500, Createafog System (MEE) \$1000, Little Blizzards \$350 ea., Igeba Smoke Generators \$750 ea, Electric Oil Crackers (SML \$350/LG \$450), much more available....Call Todd at (661) 575-3077

Classic Studio Bike: 1981 Schwinn 5-speed beach cruiser with fenders & large basket. Good working condition. Needs new seat. \$100, OBO. Contact Don Spencer at (818) 489-2457

Gun Safe for sale: Sentry safe Model ET8523 Features include: 22 long gun maximum capacity, meets California DOJ requirements, programmable digital combination lock, solid steel pry-resistant door. Perfect for gold room, prop truck, or garage. Safe is brand new, still crated on the pallet. List price is over \$1500, asking \$700. Call Mike at (323) -353-8928

Special Effects Equipment for sale: For more details contact Mike at (818) 314-2996

NO HAGGLE -7 PROPBOXES FULLY LOADED: 30 chairs, 4 podiums, medical rack with equipment, large safe with replica rubber guns, helium tank, office desk , just too much to list. \$6,300.00 takes all deckers food cart with fold out sides. Please call Paul Iannizzotto at (818) 521-1167

WANTED: Used MII and SKS for personal use. (818) 489-2457

Upcoming Events!

2009 12th Annual INDEPENDENT STUDIO SERVICES
PROP "MASTERS" SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

DATE: APRIL 10th, 2009 - THAT'S ON GOOD FRIDAY

TIME: 8:30 A.M. - SHOTGUN START

LOCATION: Robinson Ranch Golf Course, Valley Course
27734 Sand Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91387
www.robinsonranch.com

COST: \$150.00

MADE PAYABLE TO I.S.S., THIS COST INCLUDES EVERYTHING FOR THE DAY. BREAKFAST, LUNCH, and AWARDS IF YOU WIN ANYTHING.

CREW SHOT

Send Us Your Pictures!



Bryce Vardanian



Irma Martinez



Matt Lutz



Robert Amato

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. Photos **MUST** be accompanied by a name of the production and names of everyone in the photo.

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North Hollywood, CA 91607

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