



THE BULLETIN

HOLLYWOOD
CALIFORNIA

CHARTERED
MAY 15, 1939

LOCAL 728 STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS
THE ONLY SET LIGHTING IATSE LOCAL IN THE WORLD

VOL. 19; No. 2
2009

728 Gold Card

Two members receive Local's highest honor



**Dick McConihay nominated
Dean Bray for the distinguished award**



**Jerry Posner was nominated for Gold
Card status by Branch Brunson**

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Pleasure and a privilege to honor Bray and Posner

by
Dennis K. Grow,
President



At the last Membership meeting I gave the oath of obligation to 12 new members. We now have 2421 members in our Local. I also gave the oath of office to our newly elected officers and delegates. It seems that each year more and more members are willing to get involved with their Local. Two of our newly elected Executive Board members, Michael P. Orefice and Pascal Guillemard are featured in this Bulletin.

The Local 728 Gold Card is the highest honor that we can bestow upon a member. The Gold Card is given in recognition to those who have dedicated many years of service to our Local. It is not easy to get. Over the nearly 70 years of our Local, only 24 have been given out.

A member must meet certain criteria. After the member is nominated, the Gold Card Committee researches and awards points based on the service performed by the member. Points are awarded for being an officer, serving on committees, chairing committees, being an IA convention delegate, CLC delegate, and attendance at meetings. The member who attains the Gold Card remains an active member (with all benefits) for life with their dues paid annually by the

Local. They also receive a plaque, an honorary gold card and an 18k gold lapel pin.

It was my pleasure and privilege to award two Local 728 Gold Cards at the meeting. Both Dean Bray and Jerry Posner have dedicated many years of service to our Local. They both

deserve this, our highest award. At the meeting, they both spoke eloquently on what the Local has meant to them and how important it is to get involved.

As Patric mentions, ratification ballots have gone out. Please read the information and vote informed. This new contract has many changes in it. We are

being hit hardest in our health care coverage. These changes could possibly mean many of you will lose your health benefits. Read the material and know what you are voting on.

Jim Plannette's article shows us that retiring can be complicated. Steve Mathis has promised me that he will update his excellent article on retirement from November 2007. Look for it in the months to come.

And "Welcome Back Bruce"! We missed ya. Glad to see that you are back to your ornery self.

Fraternally,

Dean

"The Local 728 Gold Card is the highest honor that we can bestow upon a member."

I.A.T.S.E. LOCAL 728 HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

PRESIDENT

DENNIS K. GROW

VICE PRESIDENT

GREG A. LANGHAM

BUSINESS REP-SECRETARY

PATRIC J. ABARAVICH

TREASURER-CALL STEWARD

R. BRUCE PROCHAL

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CBS - JOHN L. MURRAY

FOX - PASCAL M. GUILLEMARD

PARAMOUNT - GINA M. ISAACS

SONY - JOHN JACOBS

UNIVERSAL - JOHN TRUJILLO

WARNER BROS. -

GARY M. ANDERSEN

CLC DELEGATES

PATRIC J. ABARAVICH

MIKE EVERETT

DENNIS K. GROW

PASCAL M. GUILLEMARD

RICK KELLEY

IAIN O'HIGGINS

S. CRICKET PETERS

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THE BULLETIN

PUBLISHER

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PACIFIC MEDIA GROUP

EDITOR

DENNIS K. GROW

UNION SPOTLIGHT

FIRST NOTICE

HAROLD "CHIP" CABANA, MATTHEW CASTELLITTO, JOSHUA FOELS, JOHN PATTERSON AND KENNETH WALES

SECOND NOTICE

DEREK BOWMAN, CRAIG D. CHADDICK, JASON D. HANSON, BRUCE HONER, BRIAN MCKNIGHT, CARLOS ORTIZ AND ANTON SOHN.

NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW MEMBER DAVID GORDON WHO WAS SWORN IN ON JANUARY 30, 2009.

MEETING NOTICE

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M. (SHARP) ON SAT., MARCH 14, 2009 AT IATSE LOCAL 44, 12021 RIVERSIDE DR. NORTH HOLLYWOOD PLEASE BRING YOUR UNION CARD!

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Ratification ballot needs your attention, vote

by *Patric J. Abaravich,*
Business Representative - Secretary

By now you all should have received your contract ratification ballots. If not, please call the office and we'll get you a duplicate ballot. Also, by now, for those of you who did receive the ballot, you should have voted and sent them in.

Unfortunately, there are some of you that opened the ballot, looked at all the information, had a few questions (or something else to do), put it down and never picked it back up. There may even be some of you who didn't even open up the envelope and it's sitting in a pile on your dining table.

With all of the uncertainties in the world economy and many film and television jobs leaving Hollywood to go to places like Louisiana and New Mexico, it's difficult to be watching good middle class jobs move from the movie and television capital to places beyond, primarily because of the bottom line.

The good news is that even though the economy going to hell in a hurry, our proposed contract is affording us these wins: A solid 3%, 3%, 3% pay increase compounded over a three-year contract (not the 75 cents an hour like in the past); major new increases to the employer contribution to the health plans; guaranteed 13th and 14th pension checks for our retired members; and no premium co-pays.

These wins didn't come about without some price. Because of the skyrocketing costs of health care in

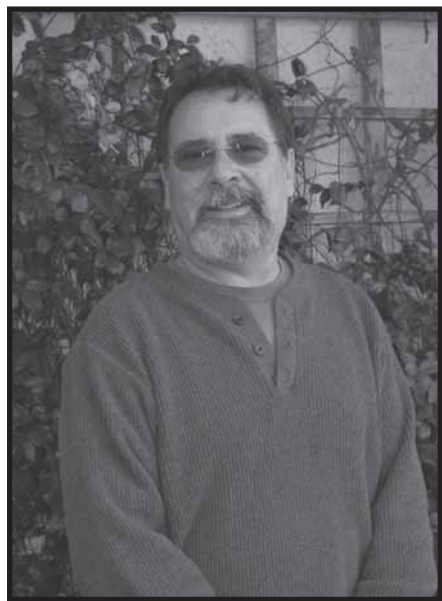
America, our price was an increase in some hospitalization deductibles, some prescription drug increases, and 400 hours to qualify for premium health benefits. Four hundred hours a period equals to approximately only 8, 50-hour work weeks to qualify. The producers also had a long list of working condition givebacks. All of them were unacceptable and were taken off the table.

Something new to our agreement includes jurisdiction over new media, and more importantly, we now have an additional revenue stream of residuals. This is monies that we've never seen before which will now feed directly to our health plan.

Yes I agree that it is not a great contract, but considering where we started from and where we ended, in my opinion I think it's a good contract. And yes, I am concerned about the 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 contracts. I have a 9 year-old daughter and a 2 year-old son. I do think about what their needs will be, along with each and every one of our members and their families.

Please, for those of you who have not sent in your ballots yet and those who are still weighing everything, please take a few moments to review the information and send your ballot in. If you have any questions please call me. I want you to make a well informed decision.

Meet Your New Executive Board Members



Michael Orefice

Several years ago, member Michael Orefice proudly served on the Local 728 Executive Board. Unfortunately, endless location travel forced the CLT to resign, believing that “the seat would be better occupied by someone who was always there.”

What a difference a decade makes. Michael has been elected to a new term on the Executive Board that began in January. “I ran,” he recently said, “because people kept encouraging me, saying they thought I could be an asset to the Local.”

A member for 33 years, Michael is becoming much more politically aware and hopes to put some of his boundless energy towards runaway productions. “One thing I am hoping for is to put some pressure on California so we can compete with other states for better incentives. Filming is leaving – and not just to Canada – and it’s killing the feature world.”

Michael is also interested in IATSE politics and would like to be a delegate to the conventions so he can have firsthand experience of the process.

He has been named Chair of the CLT Committee. “I’m not too proud of it in its present form. I think it’s hurting the gaffer right now and I would like to see some rules modified.”

Born in Hollywood and now an Agua Dolce resident, Michael is married to wife Robin. The pair has five children ranging in ages from 24 to 9. The large family lives on 2.5 acres and has four horses. And rare in this region, they also have Clyde the Camel who is quite famous not only throughout their neighborhood, but to movie buffs as well; Clyde has been in several feature films.

If Michael’s last name sounds very familiar it’s because he comes from a long line of industry veterans. While his Uncle Al got him into the Local, Michael proudly notes that over the years about 20 family members have worked in different television and motion picture crafts, and approximately 10 of those were members of Local 728. His son, Michael Jr., is following in his father’s footsteps and is a member of the Local.

“I’m proud to serve on the Local 728 Executive Board,” notes first-generation American of French descent Pascal Guillemard. But questions, “I wasn’t expecting enough votes to get on. Who knows me outside of Fox and a small circle of people?”

The former long-time 20th Century Fox Lot Steward has, however, been a very active member. Since joining the Local in 1993, Pascal has missed only a couple of membership meetings, and that was when his daughter was born.

Now on the board, he’s got some extended plans. “I’d like to learn much of the inner workings of the Local because I plan on running again so I can participate in shaping the future of our policies and how the Local works.”

Pascal is serving on the Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Central Labor Council which is part of the AFL-CIO. He’s also a convention delegate and is looking forward to attending those gatherings so he can learn about the politics and the process.

“My eventual goal is to participate and hopefully pass on what our particular desires and needs are so that in future contract negotiations we are well represented. We have a new IA president who seems more sympathetic to West Coast locals so it will be interesting to see how he interacts with us.”

Another area of interest is training. “I’d like to gain knowledge from Alan [Rowe] because I have some ideas about long-term training methods that might work well for our members.”

Born in Santa Monica, Pascal was active with the Air Force ROTC at UCLA where he graduated with a political science major. His thought was to go into the military as a pilot or attend law school when a disappointing offer from the ROTC and a friend’s financial success in the entertainment industry lured him to the studios.

Pascal lives in Van Nuys with his girlfriend, Laura. In addition to spending time with his 12-year-old daughter Victoria, the day player who use to race cars loves to drive – and drive fast. He also has quite the green thumb and has grown a wide variety of vegetables and herbs and enjoys tending to his eight different fruit trees.



Pascal Guillemard

Local 728 GOLD CARD Recipients



*Dean Bray and
Local 728 President Dennis Grow*

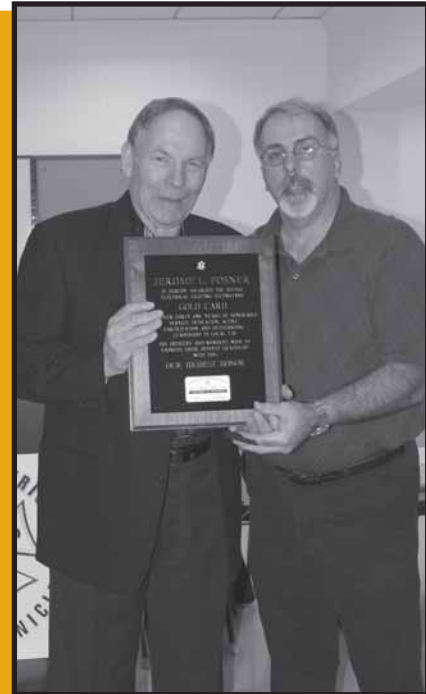
Charles Dean Bray was initiated into Local 728 on September 14, 1964. Dean retired on January 1, 2007 and over the course of his four-decade association with the Local, he was one active member.

Local 728 President, 1985
Business Agent, 1991 – 1996
Assistant Business Agent, 1989
Executive Board Member
1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989
IATSE Convention Delegate, 1991 & 1994
CLC Delegate, 1981 & 1986

Committees:

Internal Affairs & Ethics; Trial Board; Technical Status;
Finance; Constitution & By-Laws; Negotiating &
Advisory; Contract Negotiating; Technical Status –
Teacher Training Program
Committee Chair: Training Program

Charles Dean Bray is hereby awarded the Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians' Gold Card for over 44 years of honorable service, dedication, active participation and outstanding leadership in Local 728. The officers and members wish to express their deepest gratitude with this, our highest honor.



*Jerry Posner and
Local 728 President Dennis Grow*

Jerome L. Posner was initiated into Local 728 on February 11, 1967. When he retired on January 1, 2007, Jerry had logged 40 years on the job and dedicated countless hours to the betterment of the Local and its members.

Executive Board Member, 1996 – 2008
IATSE Delegate, 1999 – 2008

Committees

Observation; Training Program Evaluation; Scholarship;
Gold Card; City Clock for Motion Picture Home;
Constitution & By-Laws; Picnic; Building;
LDI Exhibitor; Charitable Contributions;
Policy & Procedure; Trial Board

Committee Chair: Picnic; Scholarship Awards;
Safety & Training

Jerome L. Posner is hereby awarded the Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians' Gold Card for over 41 years of honorable service, dedication, active participation and outstanding leadership in Local 728. The officers and members wish to express their deepest gratitude with this, our highest honor.

I'm baaack! Let's hope the SAG settles soon!

by *R. Bruce Prochal*
Treasurer - Call Steward

Greetings everybody. I apologize for my temporary setback. My wife and I would like to thank all of you for your best wishes and kind thoughts, words and deeds during and after my medical emergency. I feel honored to have received them and I am sure, somehow, they contributed towards my recovery. The flowers were stunning, even the surgeon stopped and exclaimed "Wow!" as he entered my room.

I also want to specifically thank Karen Weilacher and Robin Strickland for temporarily filling my position while I was out.

Now, allow me to crack the whip and get this year started!

During my absence, I had time to pay attention to what is now becoming a drawn-out travesty with the SAG negotiations, and this with a ratification vote for the next IATSE contract coming to the forefront shortly.

Early last month, the AMPTP and the SAG were scheduled to meet, after the SAG claimed to have ousted their national executive director and chief negotiator and then appointed new ones.

Well, the same ousted director and negotiator have filed a legal complaint claiming their removal was illegal and renewed negotiations are postponed. It may be a legitimate claim, but where does it leave the IATSE membership and all of the other support people as a whole?!

It leaves a LOT of people out of work! Producers are ready to start projects but are reluctant to begin because the financing entities do not want to release financial commitments to a project that may be subject to a strike. Can you blame them?

On the bright side, while Hollywood is suffering from feature flight (when is California going to start competing with other states?), television production appears to be going strong or at least close to the same it was before the holidays.

Potential SAG strike or not, pilot season is coming and has started. Most of the networks and independent producers appear to be ready and willing to hire AFTRA actors (who have a contract with the AMPTP) to film/tape the pilots and at least sell them. This will allow them to sell advertising. It's all about the money.

While on the subject of pilots, and new shows in general, all ACLTs (Best Boys) and/or Chief Rigging Technicians (rigging gaffers or CRTs) are required to contact the Local when you start a new show and/or go on distant location by submitting a weekly report. The Local can fax or email you a form if necessary.

Many of you new members as well as seasoned veterans do not realize how important the information can be to our Business Representative. I often get asked about who is working on a certain show and many times I do not have any information about the show.

Finally, I have spent a lot of time removing members from the books who are working. I usually have found your name on the payroll and major studio reports.

If you got on-the-books while I was out and are now working, please call the office and make sure you are off-the-books.

Let's all hope for a good year. I've got to go...RBP

— CALL STEWARD — INFORMATION

Any Local 728 member representing the producer in filling calls or needing assistance, should contact the Local office during normal business hours. The Local's normal operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you need to hire prior to 8:00 a.m., after 6:00 p.m. or over the weekend, please phone the Call Steward at 818-438-0728.

Members seeking weekend work should call the Steward at the Local on Friday to put your name on the Weekend Availability List.

Anyone who hires off roster or hires any member who is not current with their dues without first calling the Call Steward, shall have charges filed against them and shall be subject to the assessments levied by the Trial Board if found guilty.

Our present contract work week consists of any five (5) consecutive days out of seven (7) consecutive days.

1st Quarter 2009 Suspended & Dropped Members*

SUSPENDED

ADAMSON, ERIC S.
AGUERO, CARLOS
AHRENS, ROBERT
ALDERSON, RANDY
ALLEN JR., ROBERT E.
BROWN, KEVIN
CAPPILLA, JOHN J.
CUNNINGHAM, BRANDON
DAHLQUIST, JAY
DE PERNA, ROBERT J.
ESQUILIN, WILLIAM
FANNING, PAUL J.
FORD, WILLIAM G.
FREEMAN, PETER
HALL, THADDEUS GERALD
HARB JR., JOSE
JORDAN, MICHAEL R.
KENT, HAKIM
KING, CHARLES E.
LaRUE, LaRUE S.
LYONS, RICHARD
MABRY, BRETT
MAGARACI, TIMOTHY
MC CULLAGH, JAMES F.

Continued on Page 8

Funding awarded for 2009/2010 Skills Training; slow biz perfect time to hit a class



by Alan M. Rowe,
Safety & Training Director

Contract Services has just awarded the funding for our Skills Training Classes for the 2009/2010 training year. We have received funding for a total of 42 separate Skills Training classes. These cover everything from basic Rigging & Knots to advanced Media Server Technology.

To get the latest updates on classes & seminars, please sign up for our Local 728 Training Notification Group by sending an email to: 728Training-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. If you do not have email, please feel free to call me at the Training Office, 818-843-0012.

With the industry being slow right now, many of our members are taking the time to brush up on their skills and knowledge. Our classes are filling quickly so the best way to get into a class is to sign up for the mailing list. Our recent Color Measurement Seminar was attended by 33 of our members.

This year's Skills Training course offering has a balance between our more traditional skills and emerging technology. Electrical & Rigging Skills are the basis for everything we do and are essential for every member. For example, it is equally important for the Rigger & the Programmer to understand the dynamics of voltage drop. If you don't know why, then it is a good indication that you should start taking our classes.

We will be implementing a few new policies throughout this year. One will be a cancellation policy. Most of our members let me know in advance when they can't make a class and there is no problem. I certainly don't expect anyone to give up work in these financially tight times. However, we have had a few events where I had turned members away from a class because it was full and then someone didn't show up. By the time I knew the first member wasn't

going to show, it was too late to get the second member into the class. Not only is this unfortunate, it also costs us money as our funding is dependent on member participation. I will post more details on this policy as it develops.

This year I will continue to offer free Notary Services for members to update their I-9s with Contract Services at Skills Training classes and Membership Meetings (by prior arrangement.) This is important to our Training Program as CSATTF will not give us credit for attendance by a member who has an expired I-9. If you sign up for a class and your I-9 is expired, I will notify you in advance of the class.

We will be posting descriptions of the classes on the website as well as schedules and notices as they develop. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or suggestions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan M. Rowe'.

Non-scientific poll results may surprise members

Recently, I conducted a non-scientific survey among our members who participate in our various online groups. I asked for opinions on what people thought were the top 5 skills that a new member needed to know before coming to work on their crew. Surprisingly, the top response was not a skill, but an attitude.

Overwhelmingly, the members that responded indicated in one way or another, that an attitude of professionalism was the most important thing that a new member could bring to the crew. Set etiquette, proper tools, radio protocols, personal hygiene, safety, respect for the crew and the craft, and a self-motivating attitude were all listed as important. All of these things are

manifested in a professional attitude.

The need for professionalism does not stop with new members. While we all enjoy our work, we take it seriously and we are the best in the industry. It is precisely this attitude of professionalism that makes us the best.

However, being the best in our business does not stop with taking our jobs seriously. In order to be the best, we constantly have to push ourselves to improve our skills and better our knowledge. We do this through continuing education, using new equipment, and learning new techniques.

I again issue the challenge to our members who want to prove to the rest of the entertainment lighting community that the members of Local 728 are the

best in the business by becoming ETCP Certified Entertainment Electricians. To receive this certification, you must prove your qualification through an examination and experience. For more information on the ETCP Certification, please contact me or check the ETCP website at: <http://etcp.esta.org/>.

Attention Product Developers and Marketers

I am working on getting a list of members who have developed and marketed products for our industry. My plan is to put together a Product Showcase of items that were built by our members. If you have a product that is for sale to the general public, please let me know. - AMR

Taking Your Pension

By Local 728 Member Jim Plannette

I elected to take my pension beginning in November 2006. Since that time, I've learned some things that aren't commonly known.

I've discovered that not many union members are aware that if you elect to take full retirement, defined as being fully vested and reaching age 65, you may return to work after the first two months.

You may not work during the first two calendar months of your retirement, but after that, you may work. If you work less than 40 hours (*per month*), you can collect your full pension. If you work more than 40 hours (*per month*), you lose your pension for the months that you work. This is called a month of Suspendible Service.

A month of Suspendible Service is based on a payroll month instead of a calendar month. The dates are different each year and the only way to know the dates is to request a "payroll calendar" from the Pension Fund. Not being aware of the "payroll month" can be devastating. You could end up working

and earning a few thousand dollars and losing far more than you were paid.

I've also found an error in my work history. Each month the payroll companies report work dates to the Pension Fund. There was a mistake in the dates, which indicated I had worked more than 40 hours in a payroll month, when in fact I hadn't. I have brought this to the attention of the Benefits Committee.

The Pension Summary Plan Description covers everything, but some of it is difficult to understand. I suggest an appointment prior to retirement so that a member of the staff can answer all your questions.

(Editor's note: For those over or nearing 50 there is a retirement seminar that is highly recommended. We will put a notice in the bulletin to let you know when the next seminar is scheduled. Unfortunately you can never understand all the options without their help.)

Suspended & Dropped Members First Quarter 2009

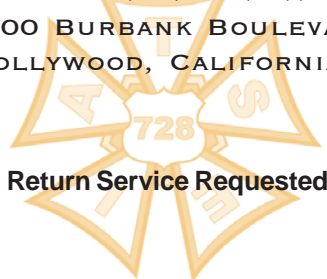
Continued from Page 6

MC CUSKER, JAMES
MC DONALD, ERIK
MC KENZIE, JOSEPH C.
MORTON, MARK A.
MYRICK, DAVID JOSEPH
OREFICE II, MICHAEL PAUL
PETRETTI, VINCENT JAMES
POPIENIUCK, JASON M.
REDDISH, PATRICK M.
RICE, CHRISTIAN
RICHNER, JONATHAN B.
ROBERTS, NATHANIAL A.
ROBERTSON, CHRISTOPHER D.
ROBERTSON, CHRISTOPHER J.
SIFUENTES, ROBERTO
STRONG, JAMES K
WARFEL, DAVID M.
WEBB, WILLIAM E.
WEILAND, PETE
WIELAND, MATTHEW
DROPPED
BANDY, JAMES E.
BERNSTEIN, EDWARD B.
FISCHER, SAMUEL M.
IRWIN, MIKAL SKY
JACKSON, RENALDO
JUNGE, RAYMOND
KREBSBACH, ROBERT JOHN
NENONEN, KEVIN
REDDISH, CHRIS H.

**List current as of February 13, 2009*

STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS

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