



THE BULLETIN

HOLLYWOOD
CALIFORNIA

CHARTERED
MAY 15, 1939

LOCAL 728 STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS
THE ONLY IATSE LOCAL DEDICATED TO SET LIGHTING

VOL. 20; No. 2
2010

Local Members March in Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade



A torrential downpour couldn't stop Local 728 members (L-R) Malakai Simmons, Fitzhugh Banks, Karen Weilacher, Business Representative Patric Abaravich, Stephen Ohab, Somsy Vejsiri, Joseph Suarez and Vice President Pascal Guillemard from honoring Dr. King in the annual Los Angeles Kingdom Day Parade.

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"Thank you for your vote of confidence"

Committed to Serving Each and Every Member

by Greg Langham, President



In my first article as your newly elected President, I would like to thank the membership for their vote of confidence. Please know that I am committed to working hard and serving each and every one of you.

I would also like to thank the Executive Board for their support. I couldn't be more pleased with the board that we have. It's truly a hard working group that all of the members can be proud to have serving. I've been handed a well-run organization and an excellent group to work with who are committed and dedicated to the members.

One of the reasons why I ran for President and a main concern I have is to keep the Local fiscally strong, particularly with the purchase and construction of our new building. Don't get me wrong, I am completely in favor of Local 728 owning our own building and I'm very excited about the future in our new home. However, as many of you know who have done home remodels, costs can run up quickly if there isn't constant oversight. You can trust that I will be working closely with the Executive Board and the Building Committee to ensure that

we are keeping a close eye on the expenditures.

Moreover, like many of our members with their personal budgets, the Local needs to tighten our belts, particularly while we ride out the recession. Many members come to the meetings and suggest organizations and groups where we can donate money. I am sympathetic and wholeheartedly believe in donating to worthy causes. I frequently give on a personal level and encourage all of our members to give

"I've been handed a well-run organization and an excellent group to work with who are committed and dedicated to the members."

generously to the charities of their choice. Please know that the Local does donate, and will continue to do so, to a wide variety of charitable organizations. However, there are areas where we can really draw the line, and perhaps, think about

ways where we can help Local members who are truly in need.

As I begin my presidency, I would like all of my brothers and sisters to know that I am here for you. You can call me anytime. To emphasize this point and for your future reference, here are my direct contact numbers: Home, 661-714-3156 and Cell, 661-296-1836.

- Greg Langham

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

PRESIDENT

GREG A. LANGHAM

VICE PRESIDENT

PASCAL GUILLEMARD

BUSINESS REP-SECRETARY

PATRIC J. ABARAVICH

TREASURER-CALL STEWARD

R. BRUCE PROCHAL

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FOX - GINA M. ISAACS

PARAMOUNT - FRANK VALDEZ

SONY - JOHN JACOBS

UNIVERSAL - JIM FINE

WARNER BROS. -

GARY M. ANDERSEN

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THE BULLETIN

PUBLISHER

MARGIE STITES

PACIFIC MEDIA GROUP

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MPTF's Newest Health Center is Now Open in Glendale

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UNION SPOTLIGHT

DECEASED

BROTHER PAUL VAKAY, JR., 89 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER SINCE JANUARY 9, 1956, PASSED AWAY JANUARY 30, 2010.

BROTHER JON MARTIN ANTUNOVICH, 65 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER SINCE JUNE 13, 1966, PASSED AWAY JANUARY 30, 2010.

BROTHER JAMES S. WIROSKO, 56 YEARS OLD, A MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 24, 1977, PASSED AWAY FEBRUARY 4, 2010.

BROTHER RAYMOND JUNGE, 50 YEARS OLD, A MEMBERS SINCE NOVEMBER 10, 2001, PASSED AWAY FEBRUARY 6, 2010

FIRST NOTICE

ROBERT M. AMERIAN, III AND JASON RIOS.

SECOND NOTICE

RANDY DYE AND GREGORY CHMURA.

MEETING NOTICE ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M. (SHARP) ON **SAT., MARCH 13, 2010** AT IATSE LOCAL 44, 12021 RIVERSIDE DR. NORTH HOLLYWOOD **PLEASE BRING YOUR UNION CARD!**

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FILM LIGHTING EQUIPMENT - \$4000 - Sold as Package: Includes x1-5k, x3-2k's, x2 1ks, x1 wyeth soft box, 1 arri 650, x1 mole tweeny, x6 par cans, x4 high rollers, x2 c-stands, x2 ring lights, x4 4x solid, x4 2x3 scrim, x2 carts, misc, expendables.-connectors, bulbs, etc. Contact Debra Echard, 323-309-6576; email: debdecor@mac.com

11500 Burbank Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601
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1-818-985-0728
Fax: 1-818-985-8798



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

Can we stop the pendulum from swinging?

The recent loss of Ted Kennedy's seat in Massachusetts should be a huge wake up call for all of us. If the pundits are correct, pro-labor, pro-union Democrats will lose even more seats during this November's election. Can we afford for the power of the House and Senate to flip so quickly back to Republicans? At stake are healthcare reform and the Employee Free Choice Act, to name but two important initiatives critical to working families everywhere.

In reality, our International union is a small fish in a big pond. The Teamsters and SEIU have millions of members – and they also have well-supported PAC (Political Action Committee) funds that help push pro-labor, union and middle class issues important to every member in our Local. On the other end, we – the IATSE – have very little monies in a PAC fund to identify hot spots and really put an effort towards raising member awareness about either the right or the absolute wrong candidates, and in the propositions that need our support.

Political Action Committees were created to help raise money, typically by a voluntary contribution, from people in an organization or group that have a common interest. The PAC's allow groups, who are otherwise prohibited by law from supporting political candidates, an avenue to do so. PAC funds can be used in a variety of ways including campaign contributions, direct communications, mailings, lobbyists, phone banking, precinct walking, etc.

We, as a Local union, can help

support the IATSE PAC by committing to a very minimal payroll contribution. (Most of our contracts provide a voluntary contribution clause allowing us to donate money through a payroll deduction.)

Supporting an International PAC fund has never been more important – particularly in this tumultuous political environment where we need viable health care, a bill that won't tax our premium "Cadillac" health plans, the Employee Free Choice Act and the passage of, and in some cases the protection of, a long list of pro-labor, pro-working family initiatives.

I understand that this is a difficult financial time for many of you. However, \$1.00 a day or \$1.00 a week can make a huge difference. Think about it, for less than a cup of coffee you can help get results and jump start our Local and the International to work for us in the political arena electing pro-labor candidates and supporting important legislation that's critical to our jobs. With your help, IATSE can have a viable voice and get on the same playing field as the big unions.

I'm waiting for PAC payroll deduction cards from the International that members can take with them when they get a job. We'll let you know when those cards are available.

We all have the same concerns and we've been in the background so long ... we really need to push forward and support an IA PAC fund to assure our members have proper representation from Washington to Burbank.

Getting to know you: A Look at Newly Elected E-Board Members



**Pascal Guillemard,
Vice President**

Last year, I was part of an E-Board which spent a tremendous amount of time studying and debating how to achieve the dual

goals of spending money wisely on our new building, so that it is a source of pride, meets our needs well into this century, and being fiscally cautious, keeps our treasury safe and our dues as low as possible.

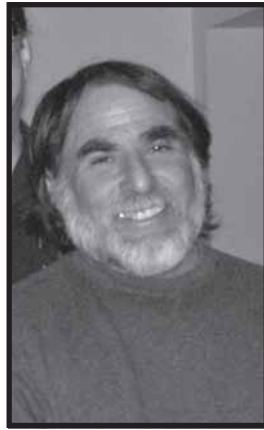
I believe the two can be achieved. By carefully examining every proposed expense, we can build a new facility that meets these goals. So far, we have been successful.

As Vice President Pro-Tem this year, I plan to propose ideas to help move the Local forward. Streamlining of our meetings, communicating to and keeping our members abreast of vital information and events in a timely fashion, both through our new upcoming web site and with the use of e-mail.

I want to help continue to expand our unparalleled training program, which has moved our Local to the forefront of safety and training within the IATSE.

I greatly enjoy the opportunity and privilege to contribute and be of service to our members. Feel free to call or email me with any questions or comments.

Pascal Guillemard, 818-416-4543
PascalMG@Gmail.com



**Darryl "Sparky"
Herzon**

Armed with a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and working towards a second in engineering, Sparky had learned of work at the studios through friends' fathers and thought it

sounded fascinating. The rest, he says, is history.

After "doing it all" over a three decade career, the now retired member re-joins the Executive Board. "Being on the Executive Board is an honor. I like being involved. I'm excited about the purchase of the new building, but I'd also like to see if we can change a few things."

He's an advocate for trying to get some kind of seniority program reinstated to protect members, and is concerned about the union's future. "We've got 2,500 members, some are working, shows are going out of town – I want to be a part of bringing up questions and putting ideas on the table."

Even more importantly, Sparky's desire to serve again is personal. "What brought me back is the way we, as union members, are being treated by our insurance reps and Workers Comp," he explained. "The system is a joke. People are getting hurt and are being turned down or turned away. It happened to me and I've been through the system so I know I can be some assistance to members who get injured and don't know which way to go."



Iain O'Higgins

Newly elected Executive Board Alternate Iain O'Higgins joined the local 15 years ago and quickly became very involved. While doing "bits of everything – music videos, commercials, features and

TV on rig crews and the sets," he's also been serving on the Contract Negotiating Committee, as a District 2 Delegate, and is the Local's representative on the LA County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO board.

"I wouldn't have what I have or the standard of living I enjoy if not for the union," Iain plainly states. "The union has given me what I have." His sense of giving might just be inherited as well: "My father was a shop steward and I have a lot of relatives in the union."

As an alternate, Iain has a voice on the board but no vote at meetings unless a board member is not in attendance. "I would like to become much more familiar with the inner workings of the Executive Board, and try to get more members involved while increasing our membership," he said of his term.

A native of Ireland, Iain moved to California in 1988. "Sex, drugs and rock and roll brought me to the U.S.," he said laughing, explaining, "I went to London to do sound recording in the music industry. I worked with different pop bands and went on various tours with groups and I landed in the States."

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A Proud Day in the Local's History

Members March in the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

Forget soaked clothes and banners brought on by an unrelenting downpour, nothing could dampen the mood for a group of Local 728 members who proudly marched for the first time in Los Angeles' annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on January 18.

"The rain was nothing to what the civil rights marchers went through," Malakai Simmons pointed out. "There was no downside. It was the least I could do to pay honor to a great man. And if one person on the route saw us and said, 'when I grow up, I want to do that,' then all the better."

The small group of members were quickly organized to participate when Local 728 Vice President Pascal Guillemard heard at an LA County Federation of Labor meeting that anti-union Wal-Mart, after trying to pay \$20,000 for a sponsorship in the parade, was turned down. When Guillemard shared that information with the Local 728 Executive Board, the news spurred Diversity Committee

Co-Chair Karen Weilacher to take action. With the help of her co-chair Cordell Boyd, and only days to spare, the pair swiftly organized Local marchers.

"Dr. King was one of the great visionaries of our generation. As we look at our country and unions today, we see reflected the image he dreamed of for our nation," Karen Weilacher emphasized. "Personally, I feel a recipient of his determination to bring equality to all. I couldn't imagine a better undertaking for launching Local 728's Diversity Committee than walking in support of this remarkable American, proudly carrying our Union's banner."

Member Fitzhugh Banks, who lives at the end of the parade route, graciously opened up his home to Local marchers. "It was the least I could do for everyone willing to march in the middle of a rainstorm," he said.

Using it as a makeshift command post, the group gathered at Banks' home prior to the march, and then finished their exhilarating day eating barbecue from a local favorite spot while watching the remainder of the parade on television.

"I've always watched the parade but never

participated," Banks said. "I loved being a marcher. For me, I felt honored to maintain Dr. King's vision."

Dr. King was in Memphis trying to help a labor union gain better working conditions and wages for its members when he was assassinated. He was shot at 6:01 p.m. April 4, 1968 while he was standing on the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel. Later that evening, Dr. King was pronounced dead at the age of 39. A federal holiday celebrating his mission and honoring his legacy was first observed in 1986.

"Dr. King thought collective bargaining was a step towards equal rights and that it would help level the playing field," Guillemard noted. "I thought it was very exciting and really wonderful to be there. And the fact that so many people were out there in the driving rain, sitting under umbrellas or makeshift covers was surprising. But the crowd was so enthusiastic; it was very uplifting and inspiring."

"Everyone was there for a purpose and a reason, and to celebrate Dr.



A prominent display: Somsy Vejsiri and Karen Weilacher carry the Local 728 banner during the parade



The rain didn't dampen any spirits during the parade, including these young, inspiring participants.

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Newly Elected E-Board Member



Frank Valdez

One could almost say ‘the industry’ is in Frank’s blood: He grew up in the heart of it, graduated from Hollywood High School, and was a cook in the Universal Studios commissary back lot near Stage 7 feeding lighting techs. Then one day, opportunity knocked and Frank was hired in the Set Lighting Department.

Thirty-three years later and with a career filled mostly as an ACLT on features, the Paramount Lot Steward has now joined the Executive Board.

“As a best boy, I wasn’t around much. But, the last few years I’ve been more active in the union,” he said. “I am getting older, and I wanted to learn more about what’s going on.”

A resident of Chatsworth, Frank’s been married to Terry for 35 years. The couple has a daughter and two sons, and enjoys gardening, particularly xeriscaping. The self-described ‘straight shooter’ also likes helping people.

“Members need to understand that the union is here to help them. There are a lot of people in our Local who care. They have your back. They want to help you and that’s very important. People need to have that security.”

He also thinks it’s vital to have a strong union. “We’re doing great. I like the direction we’re going and I want to keep it that way,” he summed up.

Sparky Herzon

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The Littlerock resident has been married to wife Kathleen for 39 years. The couple has two children (son Brandon is a Local 728 member), and two grandchildren. Now with his surfing days behind him, Sparky is committed to serving the members. “My home number is open to all members who have questions or ideas and want representation at the general membership or Executive Board meetings.”

But with so many members hurt or working injured, he emphasized: “The Workers’ Comp system is crazy but there are ways around it. The membership needs to understand they have benefits. Most importantly, if you go home and have a backache, report it. It needs to be documented.”

Iain O’Higgins

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Today, he and wife Nancy, with daughters Isabel and Fiona, call Ventura home. And Iain is still heavily into music in his spare time. “I

have a band called Cash Concept. I draw my influences from the Beatles to The Beach Boys and Bach to Beethoven. It’s a recording project with all original music. I’m like the Irish Steely Dan,” he explained.

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.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Do to a family emergency, R. Bruce Prochal’s column, which regularly appears on this page, will not be published this month.

First Quarter 2010 Suspended and Dropped Members

Suspended:

ACQUISTAPACE, CLINT W.
ALLISON, THOMAS M.
BARTEL, II, EDWARD C.
BOUZA, DAVID
CONATY, CHRIS
COX, THOMAS P.
DAVIS, MILES T.
DAWSON, BRIAN M.
EDINBURGH, ERIC E.
GEMBALA, JAMES
HATRIDGE, JAMES L.
HAVIS, WILLIAM
JORDAN, MICHAEL R.
KELLEY, KEVIN THOMAS
LaRUE, LaRUE S.
LEVIN, RONALD M.
MABRY, BRETT
MAGARACI, TIMOTHY

MARQUEZ, MICHAEL S.
MC KANE, WILLIAM T.
MEYER, RYAN
MILLER, KIRK D.
PERSAUD, WILLIAM
RAMOS, ROBERT J.
RICHNER, JONATHAN B.
RODRIGUEZ, CARLOS
SCHNEIDER, TRACE K.
SIMMONS, ROLAND M.
THIRLAWAY, SIMON
WOLBERGER, PERRY

DAVIS, KEITH M.
GLOVER, WALTER
HALL, TERRANCE W.
NORIEGA, DAVID M.
PETRETTI,
VINCENT JAMES
REDDISH, PATRICK M.
RICHARDS, ADAM N.
ROGERS, JOHN R.K.
SMITH, ERIC D.
SMOCK, RICHARD CARL
TYRELL, KEITH
WASHINGTON, WARREN
WILLIS, ERIC

Dropped:

ANGUS, JASON M.
BERARDI, PHILIP N.
CRESTOL, STEVE M.

* List current as of February 8, 2010

Seminars scheduled before comprehensive classes begin in March



by Alan M. Rowe,
Safety & Training Director

The 2009 Skills Training Year just closed and many of our members took advantage of slow periods to learn new skills and sharpen the ones they already know. This gives them the ability to do more and be able to take a wider variety of calls and ultimately, work more often.

We had outstanding attendance in most of our classes with some notable stand-outs being: *LED Technician; Adv. HMI Technician; Lighting Previsualization; Automated Lighting Technician; Electrical Systems Planning; and EOS Series Lighting Consoles*. In all, we had nearly 600 seats filled in our Skills Training classes between March of 2009 and January 2010.

I have proposed a comprehensive set of classes beginning in March which include more classes in Electricity,

Rigging, Moving Lights, Lighting Control Technology, and Underwater Lighting. We will start the Training Schedule again as soon as I get confirmation of the Skills Training classes that Contract Services approves.

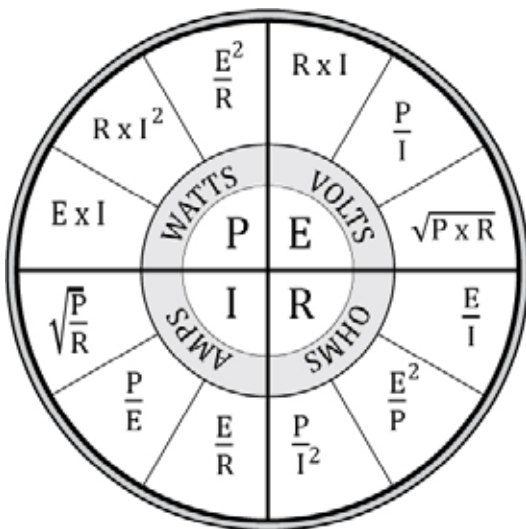
We have two seminars co-sponsored with Local 80 coming up. On March 4, we will have a seminar on *Interviewing Skills with Rachael Stanley* and on March 10, we will have a *Body Maintenance/Injury Prevention Seminar* with Dr. Jason Pimentel and Dr. Michael Abaian. Please contact me to sign up for these events.

Contract Services has announced that they will begin to reimburse the cost of the ETCP Entertainment Electrician exam for Local 728 members after March 1, 2010. This

indicates that the AMPPTP is taking this certification seriously and they might, at some point in the future, consider requiring it for certain positions on our crews. For more information, please contact me at the Training Office (818-843-0012 or amrowe@iatse728.org.)

Sometimes training opportunities happen quickly with little time to get the word out. For immediate notification when an event is scheduled and for the most recent information on training events, please subscribe to the Training Notification Email list by sending an email to: 728training-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or join the *IATSE Local 728* Group on Facebook.

Ohm's Law - Essential Knowledge



Math, love it or leave it, is an essential part of planning our rigs. In our world, math goes hand-in-hand with Ohm's Law, which is essential knowledge for anyone who wants to understand how our equipment works on a deeper level. Ohm's Law defines the relationship between Intensity of current/Amps (I); Electromotive force/Volts (E); Resistance/ Ohms (R); and Power/Watts (P). To understand this relationship, we use the Ohm's Law wheel.

To use the Ohm's Law wheel, choose the value you want from the center (Watts, Volts, Amps, or Ohms) and then select the formula in that quadrant that has two known values.

For example, to find the amperage for a 20k fresnel on a 240V service, you would select the lower left quadrant (Amps) and select the formula that contains Wattage (P) and Voltage (E).

The correct formula will be Amps (I) = Watts (P) / Volts (E). Plug in the values and you get $I = 20,000/240$ or $I = 83.33$.

Next month we will look at resistance and the incandescent globe.

- AMR

STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS

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**Quarterly Retiree Gathering
Wednesday, March 10th
11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Burbank Elks Lodge
2232 N. Hollywood Way**

Bring your appetite and favorite stories!

Local Marches in MLK Parade

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King,” Somsy Vejsiri added. “It was pretty exciting. The energy was great.”

While the weather conditions were extraordinary, Stephen Ohab recalled it didn't dampen anyone's spirits. “No one was cold because of the energy and the amazing feeling we got from the crowd. I had an incredible time.”

All the Local members who participated walked away with the same sentiment: Rain or shine, they'd march again next year.

“For so many years, the Local has watched this event from afar. Thanks to the Diversity Committee, we were able to participate and march shoulder-to-shoulder with other unions representing tens of thousands of union brothers and sisters in our area,” Local 728 Business Representative Patric Abaravich said. “It was a proud moment in my life and in the Local's history. Although we had a nice turnout, I anticipate next year's march will bring out more concerned members to celebrate this important holiday.”

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL 728 MEMBERS DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Past President Dennis Grow formed the Diversity Committee after returning from the 2009 IATSE Convention. He appointed as Co-Chairpersons Karen Weilacher and Cordell Boyd.

In the words of Past President Dennis Grow, “I charge the Committee with this mission: The Diversity Committee will help the members of Local 728 recognize the enriching values in the cultures, experiences, perspectives, talents and ideas unique to each one of us. Everyone is equal and is entitled to the same opportunities regardless of their age, national origin, disability, gender or race.”

The Diversity Committee will build on that mission to “Create methods of exposing and educating our established and incoming union members to diversity and all its complexities.”

Valuing Diversity – seeing the value found in our differences and welcoming different thoughts, perspectives and people into how we live and work will be a primary focus of the Committee.

These aspirations and goals are attainable with your, our Local 728 Members, participation.

The Co-Chairs are extending an invite to and encouraging Local 728 Members to become active members of the Diversity Committee.

All interested, please contact the Local at (818) 985-0728.

Fraternally,
Karen Weilacher
Cordell Boyd