



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. 5
2010



Lighting sets the
many moods on
this popular
nighttime drama

on the set of

Brothers *and* Sisters



Pages 4 & 5

Also Inside:

- ◆ VP Guillemard: A detailed look at the IATSE District 2 Convention, Page 2
- ◆ More on Piracy, D2 and CSATF Protests: BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT, Page 3
 - ◆ It's the Season: TREASURER - CALL STEWARD REPORT, Page 6
- ◆ Tragic Accident Claims One Life: SAFETY & TRAINING DIRECTOR'S COLUMN, Page 7

Behind the Scenes of the IATSE District 2 Convention

Local 728 members recently attended the IATSE District 2 Convention. When Local 728 Vice President Pascal Guillemard filed his report, I thought it was so informative that I wanted to share it with the entire membership. So this month, I'm giving up my space so each of you can learn more about what was covered at this year's convention. - Greg Langham, Local 728 President

The District 2 Convention was held at Universal City May 15th and 16th. International President Matthew D. Loeb talked about the gains made in some of our low-budget agreements such as triple time after 14 hours of work on tier one contracts and a 48% increase in employer benefit contributions when you work under the "pink" contract.

Much attention was given to the importance of anti-piracy legislation and activism. The IATSE has partnered with the AFL-CIO and the LA County Fed to work for stronger enforcement of anti-piracy laws and the strengthening of existing laws. Pirated movies account for an estimated \$100 million dollars in lost revenue to our Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans. Please don't buy them and please discourage others from doing so.

In order to have a stronger voice in national and local politics, the IATSE is planning on raising money through contributions for its own PAC (Political Action Committee). It would be charged with looking for legislation, policies, issues and candidates that we could support financially in order to further our cause. A form is available which you can fill out to have a few cents of your hourly wage donated to the IATSE PAC.

The importance of continued



Pascal Guillemard,
Vice President

organization efforts was talked about in great detail. Trade show, convention, and concert venue workers are targets of the IATSE and success has been achieved. The more workers we

organize, the more difficult it will be for employers to find and hire unskilled, untrained non-union workers. It gives us more and more leverage during contract negotiations to negotiate better wages, working conditions and benefits.

The IATSE's LEAP program provides funding for IATSE officers at the National and Local level. This labor education program

reimburses the cost of labor education courses so that officers and leaders of our Locals can better represent their members in dealings with Employers.

President Loeb discussed the need to have – at all levels – better distribution of information among the alliance. He wants to achieve this goal through implementation of e-letters and e-blasts on both the Local and the National level and is encouraging all Locals to embrace this technology as a means of keeping the membership informed.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa spoke at length of his longstanding support of our union and its importance to the City of Los Angeles. The mayor, who started out public life as a labor

Continued on Page 6

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

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VICE PRESIDENT

PASCAL GUILLEMARD

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GREG A. LANGHAM

UNION SPOTLIGHT

PROUDLY CELEBRATING OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY

DECEASED

BROTHER JAMES L. COULTAS, 93 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER SINCE SEPT. 12, 1960, PASSED AWAY ON MAY 9, 2010.

FIRST NOTICE

STEPHANIE M. CHOI, HILLARY B. HANAK, CARLOS H. HERNANDEZ, BRYAN P. KLUNDER

SECOND NOTICE

MATTHEW BOEKA, DIMITRIS BOGIANTZIS, GRAHAM BREMNER, JAMES GINN, BRIAN HICKMAN AND RICHARD MORTELL.

NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO WERE SWORN IN ON MAY 8, 2010; DANIEL M. CASSELL, NICHOLAS HUIZING AND JORGE A. KUNZE; ON MAY 10TH, KEVIN PERRY; MAY 19TH, JASON M. RIOS, AND ON MAY 25TH, CODY STRONG.

MEETING NOTICE

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M. (SHARP) ON **SAT., JULY 17, 2010** AT IATSE LOCAL 44, 12021 RIVERSIDE DR. NORTH HOLLYWOOD **PLEASE BRING YOUR UNION CARD!**

11500 Burbank Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601
1-800-551-2158
1-818-985-0728
Fax: 1-818-985-8798



It's been a busy month More on Piracy, CSATF Protests & District 2

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

I wanted to share with you an important update recapping last month's feature on Piracy: The team behind the 2010 Best Picture of the year, *The Hurt Locker*, (which grossed a paltry \$16 million in the U.S.) did some research and discovered that tens of thousands of illegal downloads of their award-winning movie were snatched off the web before the U.S. release.

Taking matters in their own hands, they contacted the U.S. Copyright Group and are preparing a massive lawsuit against the individuals who pirated their film. The movie was leaked on the web five months before the U.S. release and was a hot item in the P2P (peer to peer) circles, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

I don't know how you can stop cold a generation that just thinks downloading is their right of passage, but I think a hefty fine from the government or being threatened with a lawsuit is the right direction. And the U.S. Copyright Group has had some success. So far, they have sued roughly 50,000 individuals for pirating other movies, and only a handful has tried to quash/annul their subpoenas. Additionally, roughly 40% of people have already settled in the first two lawsuits they filed in January. More on the piracy issue as it comes up.

Quite a few of you have received letters from CSATF regarding your roster status. This is in regards to not fulfilling five days work in a 24-month period. Although situations are as different as the individuals who have received these letters, between you and the Local we are filing protests. If the protests are in line with what is considered good and sufficient cause under the contract, we should have no problem. We are working on the others and hopefully we will come to a positive outcome on those.

If you are still having problems with your letter, please call me to discuss your individual problem and we can begin working on your specific outcome. It has been discussed that Contract Service is going to try to do a purge of the roster on a yearly basis.

Unfortunately, since we don't get everyone's work calls, it becomes impossible for me to check and see which of you have not captured the five days in the 24-month period. This leaves it in your hands to figure out if you have gotten your five days in.

The IATSE District 2 Convention was held May 14-16. The theme throughout the convention was organizing shows and educating our members. This theme rang true for me the best in a seminar by the National Labor College on goals and strategies not only for our membership and our Local, but also developing modern communication tools for organizing.

This organizing and education drive is under the direction and leadership of IATSE President Mathew D. Loeb who is spearheading the drive throughout the International. The event was another well-planned District 2 Convention that was informative and tailored around precise goals for the future of the Alliance.

NEW CSATF

I-9 hours on Saturday

CSATF is now open on Saturdays to accept your I-9 documentation. Be sure to bring original, unexpired documents when completing your I-9 form. CSATF's new location is 2800 Winona Ave., Burbank, 91504. Lobby hours are Mon-Fri. 7am to 5pm and Saturdays, 7am to 3pm. Appointments are not necessary.

Lighting sets the many moods in this ABC drama
on the set of

Brothers^{and}Sisters

When it comes to nighttime dramas, there are few as gripping as watching the large Walker clan juggle their day-to-day lives dealing with business mishaps, national politics, a foreign lover, gay marriage, war, surrogacy, financial misfortune, a miscarriage, cancer, even HIV. And that was just this season – the show’s fourth. Add in this year’s final episode - a massive car accident that incorporated the entire family in different, mangled vehicles - and there’s little doubt why fans are hooked on *Brothers And Sisters*.

Although the written word is crucial to any production, it’s this show’s texture – the artful combination of photography and lighting – that captures the highs

and lows of the endearing Walkers. Every mood, every tear or laugh, is meticulously emphasized by one of the show’s strongest attributes: Lighting.

Chief Lighting Technician Willie Dawkins works closely with the *Brothers And Sisters* two DP’s, Mike Mayers and Cynthia Pusheck. “They both are very creative but have very different styles. As a gaffer, you have to balance the look of the show that each of them is trying to achieve. We use the same lighting instruments, but we may use them in different ways.”

Dawkins also has to consider sensitive, aging actors. “We basically do a lot of soft lighting. Chamara bags are favorable on this show, especially with the women. They’re nice and soft.”

The episodic is filmed on four Walt Disney Studio stages. The 8-day an episode schedule has the crew on location roughly a half-day per episode. That’s good news for Rigging Gaffer Curtis Andrews whose small crew has “the stages pretty dialed in.”

However, there are challenges. “A lot of times we’ll get the scripts and a schedule then go on a scout a day or two before the episode starts,” Andrews explained. “The first part is really crammed. Since we don’t get a lot of time, I like to keep it simple.”

While the onscreen drama is never ending, behind the scenes the crew is a tight-knit, cohesive group who enjoys camaraderie coupled with family-friendly work hours. “The norm was to end at Friday night around 8 p.m. or so, and that was nice,” ACLT David Scott pointed out.

Crew solidarity, pleasing hours and a steady work schedule are all pluses for Local 728 members happy to be working while many Local brothers and sisters aren’t. And although the mood on the set is friendly and professional, in an industry hit hard by the economic downturn, the purse strings are tight on *Brothers And Sisters* – a show that features a large ensemble. The popular Sunday night ABC drama also casts a number of accomplished actors including Sally Field, Rob Lowe, Ron Rifkin, Calista Flockhart, Ken Olin and Rachel Griffiths.



Brothers And Sisters CLT Willie Dawkins

Crew solidarity, family-friendly hours and a steady work schedule are all pluses for Local 728 members happy to be working while so many Local brothers and sisters aren't.



Rigging Gaffer Curtis Andrews

“My biggest challenge was trying to keep the guys working. My budget would only be approved for so many man hours, and then I’d try to give the guys close to a full week,” Scott detailed. “My first show was *Melrose Place* and it was making money and no one cared. I would just get what I needed and hand the bill over from the rental house. They had faith in us and you just did what you needed to do. Now, it’s become more of a business, which I understand. I tell production beforehand what I need and the cost, and they decide if they can afford it or not.”

“That’s also one of my challenges,” Andrews added. “We try to come up with a budget that fits their needs while figuring out where the money is best spent.”

Despite budgetary constraints, Andrews is quick to point out the ideal working conditions. “Many of the trades were all together on *Aliens*. It’s like a family where everyone is treated with a lot of respect. That’s the best possible working environment you could have. We’re not dealing with people who don’t want to be here ... everyone wants to be here. And they’ve definitely kept us working

when things haven’t been so good anywhere else.”

Although some of the Local 728 crew is fairly new to the show, Scott agrees. “Willie has an eclectic group of guys that haven’t been together before but it’s really worked out well. We all have our own little specialty things we’re good at. It’s a good bunch of guys and I look forward to working with them again.”

“My crew is fantastic,” praised Dawkins, who has been with the show for some time but has just finished gaffing his first season. “From the very beginning, they were all very supportive. And they’re all self-starters. I certainly couldn’t have done the job or have the show look as good without everyone’s involvement – the rigging crew – everyone. They’re all very giving and they’ve worked very hard. I’m hoping to keep the crew together for the next season.”

ON THE COVER

Photo left: Top row (L-R): Damon Leibowitz, Martin Weeks, Mike Visencio, Billy Reilly and Mike Graves; Bottom row: Juan Morse, CLT Willie Dawkins and ACLT David Scott. Photo right: Travis Stewart, Rigging Gaffer Curtis Andrews, Conan Mastrangelo and Rigging Best Boy Rich Botchlet.



ACLT David Scott

It's the Season

by R. Bruce Prochal,
Treasurer - Call Steward

Jake - "Oh yeah! Me and the Lord, we've got an understanding!"

Elwood - "We are on a mission from God!"

From the movie "The Blues Brothers"

Greetings everybody! I hope all of our members reading this bulletin and your families are well.

There is not very much movement on the books.

Let's get to the theme ... "It's the Season."

Every year, when college basketball playoffs start, professional basketball playoffs start and baseball season starts, the business shuts down.

I do not know why! But it happens.

May and June are traditionally the slowest months of our work year.

You older members are probably aware of this. Our newer members may not.

The point I am trying to get to is, plan ahead. Know that in the middle of the year, there may not be any work and you may have to live off your savings. I have personally had to do this many times over the years.

When you are lucky enough to have a reasonably steady income, save what money you can over the course of the year for the lean times.

Good luck out there!

I've got to go, dinner is on the table ... 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.

IATSE District 2 Convention

Continued from Page 2

organizer, pledged to keep working to create and pass tax break legislation and permit consolidations that would encourage film work staying in L.A. He believes that the stronger our industry is here, the more relief the industry can provide from the fiscal crisis Los Angeles is facing because of the multitude of film-related businesses that employ Angelenos. He talked about being called the "red carpet Mayor" because of all the awards shows he is seen attending. He feels that doing so promotes the city where making movies and television shows is the premier industry. He touted how L.A. was the first major U.S. city to implement anti-piracy laws.

Maria Elena Durazo of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor spoke about the victories organized

labor has brought about in the last six months. One of the greatest was the recent victory by 600 locked-out workers of the Borax mining operation in Boron, CA. Rio Tinto Corporation had locked out the union miners who had refused to sign a new contract, which took away pension benefits, gave the employer the right to require full time workers to work part time and took away overtime benefits.

They had been replaced since January with scab workers from around the country. Durazo credited the pressure and attention brought to bear against Rio Tinto by organized labor, such as the 1,000-person march in front of the British Consulate office last month, and the Teamster-organized food drive that

caravanned 40-foot tractor-trailer rigs filled with supplies for the locked-out miners from Dodger stadium to Boron back in March.

The LA County Fed (to whose monthly meetings we send elected 728 delegates) pledges to continue promoting the IATSE. We are recognized as being the backbone of the entertainment industry in Southern California and an industry that employs thousands of affiliated workers.

The fight to organize the hotel workers was detailed. Several hotels have bowed to the wishes of their custodial staffs to receive fair representation. One, which has not done so to date, is the Disneyland Resort Hotel.

Continued on Page 8

One person dies on a student film set

Tragic accident is one we all fear

*by Alan M. Rowe,
Safety & Training Director*



It is my sad duty to report that a person was killed on a student film set last summer when a condor rigged with a 12K made contact with a high voltage power line. The accident scenario is one that we have all feared. It was a dark night exterior and the DP was giving directions to the person who was operating the condor. No one noticed just how close the basket was to the power line until the diffusion frame got too close. There was an explosion, the lights went out, and one person lay on the ground dying.

Surprisingly, the person killed was not the person operating the condor. He survived because he remained at the same potential of the lift and provided no path to ground. Since the contact was made with the diffusion frame on the 12K, the power sought earth through the equipment ground of the light. In so doing, it energized the ground of the entire distribution system. Every metal piece of the distribution system and every device plugged into it became energized at 14,000 volts. It was tragic that a film student on the far side of the set was holding a light at the time and he became the path to earth.

Act II of this great tragedy was the apparent unpreparedness of the production to respond to an accident. They were many miles away from the nearest city at an abandoned house in a cellular dead zone. They had not informed any local authority that they were shooting and when they finally managed to contact emergency services, they reportedly could not direct the response team to the location which resulted in a delay of over 45 minutes.

So what are the lessons that professionals can learn from these students? First that a condor operator can survive if a light on the basket makes contact with a high voltage power line, though I must caution that this person was extremely lucky that he wasn't hit by the arc blast. Had he been hit by the arc blast, he would have instantly caught fire with no way to extinguish himself. In other words, don't count on it.

The second lesson is that someone not involved with an electrical accident can still be injured (or in this case killed) by it. This person had no idea anything was even close to being wrong when he got shocked. It was almost literally a "bolt out of the blue."

The third lesson is that you should NEVER take an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for granted. The EAP can be as simple as listing the location of the nearest Hospital on the call sheet (with an appropriate form of transportation available), or as complex as a Safety Meeting & Walkthrough before an explosive special effect. Even though Production is responsible for providing a safe workplace and coming up with the EAP, it is up to you to know what to do and be responsible for executing your escape should the worst case scenario happen. Pay attention to the briefing, understand the EAP (ask questions if you don't), make sure there is nothing preventing you from reaching safety (blocked pathways, etc) and always be aware of your environment and the potential hazards around you.

Within every tragedy, there are lessons to be learned and as professionals we must recognize these lessons in order to prevent tragedies of our own.



Second Quarter 2010 Suspended and Dropped Members*

ANDERSON, ERIC
ARGARIN, GREGORY
BITHELL, WALTER
DE LA ROSA, JEFFREY
EMMONS, SEAN
EUBANKS, JERRY
FITHIAN, JOE
FORD, BRENDON
GALLART, MICHAEL
GIVENS, STEVEN

GROSHON, HAL
KALLEN, JASON
OTTO, WILLIAM
PEACOCK, SEAN
RENLIE, JEFFERY
RICHTER, SHANE
RYMES, CHARLES
SANDERS, RALPH
SCHNEIDER, KENNETH
SCHULTZ, PERRY

TAMAYO, VLADIMIR
THORPE, JAMES
TOMICH, DON
TREYZ, AMANDA
TROOST, JAMES
TROY, TONY
WINKLER, ROBERT
WOLBERGER, PERRY
WRENN, VINCENT

DROPPED
BARTELL, II, EDWARD
DAWSON, BRIAN
RODRIGUEZ, CARLOS
THIRLAWAY, SIMON

List current as of May 21, 2010

STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS

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11500 BURBANK BOULEVARD
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Don't miss the special Retiree Gathering to celebrate **Art Frantz's** induction into the ranks of the retired!

Saturday, June 12th

In order to ensure that we have enough space and food, RSVP's are essential. Please call the Local for more info and to reserve your party hat.

IATSE District 2 Convention

Continued from Page 6

Thousands of L.A. carwash workers, who often work for tips only, are in the process of joining an affiliated union organization and receiving representation. This effort will hopefully end the illegal and unbelievably unfair and unsafe working conditions these workers have traditionally found themselves in.

Art Pulaski, of the California Labor Federation, spoke about the importance of this fall's election, and about giving support to pro-labor candidates. He said some gubernatorial candidates have pledged to dismantle 8-hour paydays and break time guarantees.

He discussed how the CLF has the most sophisticated voter targeting technology and how it is being used to educate undecided middle class workers about the dangers to the working class should certain candidates be elected.

The convention adopted the following resolutions:

- Support of Senate Bill 810, the California Universal HealthCare Act. This is Single Payer Health

- Care legislation. As well, the resolution supports any such legislation in any of District 2's states that may be proposed.
- Continued commitment to provide labor and education training through the LEAP program and seminars at IATSE conventions.
- A resolution from District 2 that Congress enacts the Employee Free Choice Act. This reform would allow private sector workers who wish for and ask for union bargaining representation to achieve this desire through a simplified and more direct process, devoid of coercion and delay.
- Resolution against piracy. Support of national anti-piracy legislation and creation of a Cabinet level position to fight piracy. The resolution also calls for Congress to appropriate \$30 million for investigation and enforcement of anti-piracy laws.
- Sending a letter to the

Governors, Representatives of District 2 states and President Obama affirming our condemnation of the Arizona immigration law and urging them to do so as well and work for its undoing

Local 728 sent a delegation of 20 (out of 22 possible) to the D2. This allowed 728 delegates to be present on virtually all D2 committees. Several committees had two or more 728 delegates. Our voice was recognized and heard in committee on the convention floor throughout the two days. Some of the ideas presented by 728 delegates were adopted for future conventions. Your voice was heard!

Fraternally,
Pascal Guillemard
Vice-President Local 728

Many important issues and decisions are made at the D2 Convention that affect all of the members of Local 728. I want to thank Pascal for this in-depth and informative report.

- Greg Langham