



# THE BULLETIN

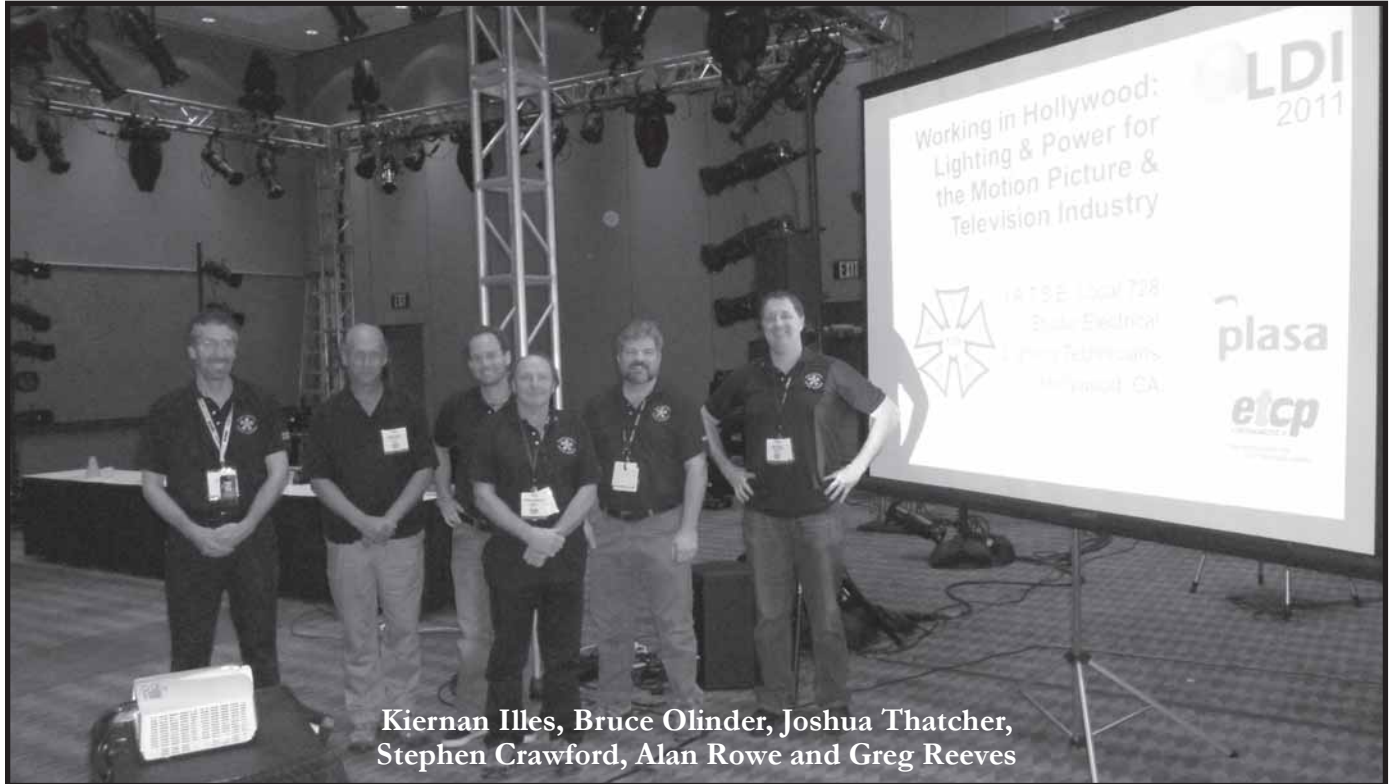
HOLLYWOOD  
CALIFORNIA

CHARTERED  
MAY 15, 1939

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

Vol. 21; No. 9  
2011

## LDI 2011



Kiernan Illes, Bruce Olinder, Joshua Thatcher, Stephen Crawford, Alan Rowe and Greg Reeves

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Holiday Party  
Pics! Page 7



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# TECHNOLOGY PROFILED AT LDI



*by Greg Langham,  
President*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I hope all of you are enjoying the holidays with your family and loved ones. The Local kicked off the season with a terrific party at Montrose Bowl. Everyone who attended had a great time, and I can't thank Jerrod Hettler enough for the excellent job he did in putting the party together. I know that this year's event fell on an odd date – Thanksgiving weekend – but Jerrod has already booked the bowl for the 2012 event and we'll give you plenty of time to plan ahead so as many members as possible can celebrate. (Check out the pictures from the party on Page 7.)

This Bulletin is our annual feature on LDI. I can't tell you how impressed I am with the event and the caliber of Local 728 professionals working the trade show and representing each of you. The entire team did a great job.

LDI is an important event for us to attend, and to be seen at. Not only are we the respected leader in set lighting and have a chance to host informative, well attended seminars at the event, but it also gives a chance to see the latest technology. And I have to tell you, there are a lot of companies out there selling a lot of (keeping it clean) crap. There are also a lot of companies out there who are phonies who are copying designs from legitimate manufacturers. And I have to say, it all looks the same until you get into the meat of it. You really need to be there, hands on, one-on-one with the manufacturers to

really know who have the best of the best out there.

The technology is changing all the time in our industry, especially in lighting with LED. If you're hesitant about using LED, I'd like to recommend consulting with Pat Grosswendt. (He had a booth at the show with his Lite Panels.) I spent a lot of time talking to him and he knows everything there is on LED and he'll give you the straight scoop. I can't think of anyone better to trust than a fellow Local 728 member and someone in our industry versus a salesman from a fly-by-night company.

LDI is going to be back in Las Vegas next year and I'm really encouraging every member to attend at least a day or two of the show. One final thing on LDI: Member Ron Dahlquist wasn't able to make it to the show this year. We really missed seeing you at the Dadco booth, buddy.

Happy New Year!



President Langham visited member Pat Grosswendt at his LDI Lite Panels booth.

**I.A.T.S.E.**  
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GREG A. LANGHAM

## UNION SPOTLIGHT

### DECEASED

BROTHER HAROLD JAMES CORNICK, 80 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER SINCE NOV. 18, 1967, PASSED AWAY ON NOV. 27, 2011.

BROTHER ALFONSO R. BASTIEN, JR., 59 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER SINCE MAY 17, 1980, PASSED AWAY ON DECEMBER 11, 2011.

### FIRST NOTICE

ERIC HANSEN, BRIAN J. HOCH, CHRISTOPHER A. KANOWSKY, THEO P. SPITLER

### SECOND NOTICE

DIMITRI ANDRADE, CHRISTOPHER CARROLL, GRAHAM CHART, JEFF CONRAD, AUSTIN CORTINA, NIKOLAS GARFF, JOHN GORMAN, GEOFFREY S. KNIGHT, HAROLD LACUESTA, LEIGH MIERKE, JULIAN NAJM, JACK SHAW AND MICHAEL WITHERS

### NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS: SWORN IN ON NOVEMBER 22, 2011, PATRICK HUBBARD; AND ON DECEMBER 14, JEFFREY D. SILIJENBERG.

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

THE NEXT GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL  
BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M.

(SHARP) ON

**SAT., JANUARY 14, 2011**

LOCAL 728

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

# IT'S BEEN A FULL YEAR

Here we are at the end of December celebrating the holidays, and our first full year in our new building. It has proved to be a well-used tool by the membership. From meetings and training classes to member functions and retiree gatherings, we finally get to have these at our new home. As with anything, there are some growing pains and some tweaks that need to be made here and there, but over all we've settled right in.

Speaking of a full year, we are now moving into the second year of the new HBO agreement. On January 1, 2012, the rate increase will be 33 percent of the difference between the Basic Agreement rate and the 2011 HBO rate. The IA has driven a hard deal that has now put HBO where it should have been for the longest time: parity with the wages in the Basic Agreement.

Another big push for our members this year was our active involvement in Workers Comp and disability benefits. This is kind of new territory for all of us but we've made it past the learning curve. I'm happy to report that a lot of disability cases have turned fruitful. In the past, members would have returned to work injured or too soon only to re-injure themselves. Members are now getting the care and the benefits they need by having the information and the ability to apply for Social Security disability allowing them time to heal. It has taken awhile but we now have a better understanding of the Workers Comp nightmare and have resources available to us to help wade through the maze and support our members after a work-related injury.

In addition to assisting members with disability and Workers' Comp, in 2011 the Local finally regained a seat on the MPIPHP board when I was appointed as a trustee. We haven't had a voice on the board since 1952. There's been a learning curve with the intricacies of the health and pension plans but I'm looking forward to arming myself with all the information so I can assist the membership.

On the work front, we did see an up-tick – especially in the last half of the year – here in Southern California. The boom of television shot in town and the longevity of the shows has provided long and overdue employment to well over 90 percent of our members. We've also seen an upswing in producers taking advantage of other states tax incentives, and more and more have been taking our members on long-distance locations. There is a core reason for this: over the decades, producers have learned to appreciate – especially in their pocketbooks – the Hollywood pace of our workers.

Although other states have been offering tax incentives for years, we are going into our third year of the California film tax incentive AB 1069. Because of the incentive to keep those jobs here, our local members have benefited. Starting at the end of summer, we were pushing for a 3-year extension of AB 1069. Because of a lot of hard work and dedication by many of us, through letter writing, emailing, phone calls and faxes, and numerous trips to Sacramento – where we knocked on every door of our state's leadership explaining our position and

*Continued on Page 8*

# 2011 LDI Orlando

I am always happy to serve our local, especially when representing ourselves to brothers and sisters out-of-state. This was my second LDI. As before, we had two seminars devoted to the art of motion picture and television lighting. Both events (“Working in Hollywood” and “Advanced Lighting and Media Technology”) were well attended, with the Saturday event being especially lively.

Moderated by Alan Rowe, speakers Bruce Olinder, Kieran Illes, Joshua Thatcher, Stephen Crawford, and myself shared stories and insights into our work with technology in production. The Friday seminar was well attended, with the focus on the importance of the rigging department in preparing the set. For future LDIs, we are exploring the expansion of our seminar offerings, and potential rebranding of the “Working in Hollywood” seminar to be more focused and specific to television and rigging.

On the convention floor, the traffic was quite busy despite the number of vendors being fewer than last year. But our presence did not go unnoticed. Our booth sat along a main drag, next to IATSE Local One and the International, garnering a steady flow of traffic. While we see a large amount of Local 728 members when LDI is in Vegas, due to its proximity to Los Angeles, we only saw a few this year.



But on the east coast, our presence serves as a reminder to regional vendors and labor that we are committed to the craft, and more importantly, to the workers who perform that craft. Proof of this is in the over 100 union members who came by our booth, collected Local 728-branded pins and Cheer Phones, and signed our guestbook in solidarity and appreciation of our visiting Florida. We met folks from Locals 16, 18, 476, 478, 479, and 322 to name a few. One union brother from Atlanta was happy to be working

with our members on “Neighborhood Watch” at the Screen Gems facility.

In addition, German producers approached us looking to employ our members for long-term projects abroad. We referred them to our BA with the hopes that more members looking for work are hired.

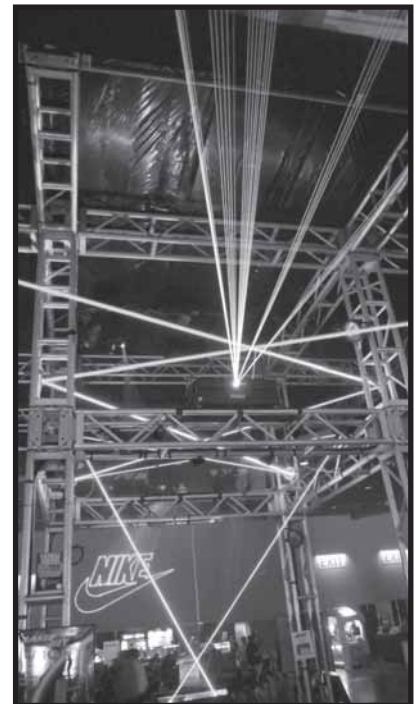
LDI will be held in Las Vegas for the next three years. If you are interested in being a delegate, be on the look-out for applications to join the 2012 delegation. Either way, we hope to see you at LDI 2012. It is shaping up to be an exciting event!

Fraternally,

**Greg Reeves,**

Co-Chair

Trade Show Committee



## LDI Report

by Alan M. Rowe,  
Safety & Training Director

Once again, LDI brings good things to Local 728. While the show may have been smaller, our place in the entertainment industry as the experts in portable power and lighting for motion pictures & television was demonstrated time and again by people coming to us and asking questions. In one case, a producer came to us to find a crew for a project in Germany.

Our delegation performed excellently in all aspects of the show. We had Stephen Crawford, Keiran Illes, Bruce Olinder, Greg Reeves, and Joshua Thatcher representing us on our showcase panels and on the show floor. These panels are designed to show off the skills and talents of our members in the areas of portable power distribution systems and the use of advanced lighting and media technology. Local 728 President Greg Langham was in charge of assembling and running our booth and did an excellent job interfacing with



Greg Reeves, Stephen Crawford, Greg Langham, Bruce Olinder, Local 1 (New York) member Paul F. Dean, Sr., and Roger Lattin

attendees as well as our neighbors Local One and the International. Both of our panels were well received and I am proud of how well all of our members presented themselves and represented Local 728.

The theme of the show this year seemed to revolve around LED technology. There were so many LED products on display that I was

trying to convince show management to change the name of the trade show from LDI to LED. There were a lot of innovative designs concerning the packing, rigging, and use of LEDs but the standout for new technology was ETC's Source 4 LED Ellipsoidal.

For me the highlight of the show was the interaction I was able to have with the developers of RDM and ArtNET. These are new technologies that are being used in lighting equipment and will make our jobs faster and more efficient. I intend to add classes on these topics next year and was able to get some great resources from attending LDI. I also spent time with several companies including Swisson, Bob Goddard, and Doug Fleenor Designs to further our relationships and support for our Training Program.



*Continued on Page 8*

# ONE YEAR ENDS AND ANOTHER BEGINS

*by R. Bruce Prochal, Treasurer/Call Steward*

*“A filmmaker has almost the same freedom as a novelist has when he buys himself some paper.”*

*- Stanley Kubrick*

Greetings everybody! I hope this Bulletin finds you all in good health and in the Holiday spirit. This year has been one of the oddest years I can remember.

Before getting too far into this article, I would like to make an addition to the recent mailing about the dues and the ACH transactions.

The first is, yes, the Local will honor personal and business checks as a form of payment for dues.

Second, for ACH transactions, it is not necessary for a member to enroll in the automatic deductions program in order to have a no-fee transaction. ACH dues transactions may be made as a one time only transaction. Keep in mind that the Local will not keep records of your routing number or account number for a one time only transaction. Additionally, you may enroll to participate in the automatic dues deduction at any time, but be aware that it will not take place until the next quarter's dues. If you have any questions about the ACH transactions, please call the Local.

Looking back on the summer, towards the end of August, the majority of network broadcast and cable television shows had settled in with their crews. The “on-the-books” list stayed constant at around 70 to 80 members. Most summers have had fewer members consistently “on-the-books.”

Hollywood also saw a lack of feature films being shot here. The California tax incentives on movie and television production appears to have only attracted the National Low Budget (NLB) tiered agreement shows. Some

work is better than no work. Remember that 400 hours are now required to qualify for your health benefits every six months.

Several features came back to Hollywood for reshoots and pick-ups, probably because Hollywood is where most of the post-production is done.

This stayed constant until the end of October going into November, when many shows start the holiday hiatus. In November, the books started to swell again through Thanksgiving.

Then came December. I do not know why, but a flurry of short and long term projects started to be called into the Local and many members were calling in to remove themselves from the books.

The general shutdown at the holidays should hit towards the end of December. If a show has not been canceled, it will probably be back. By mid-January, Hollywood should be back to its pre-holiday volume of work and then some.

Several features appear to be scheduled to start here in the new year and pilot season should start toward the end of February.

I want to remind all of our members, as a union member, you need to report your work, both union and non-union. Reporting your work enables your Local union to better protect you in the workplace.

To all Best Boys and Rigging Gaffers, I would like to remind you that you are required to report to the Local your crew when you start a show and to report your day players. Try to do this before hiring to make sure the members' dues are current. A member found

## — 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.

working prior to paying their dues will be assessed a \$50.00 (fifty dollars US) working while delinquent fine. Best Boys and Rigging Gaffers may report their crews by phone call, fax, or email at [callsteward728@iatse728.org](mailto:callsteward728@iatse728.org).

That is enough Call Steward business.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your good wishes and for your support through this year. I hope all of you enjoy a great Holiday Season!

Time to decorate the tree ... RBP

**When planning your charitable giving in the new year, please consider**

**The Motion Picture & Television Fund**

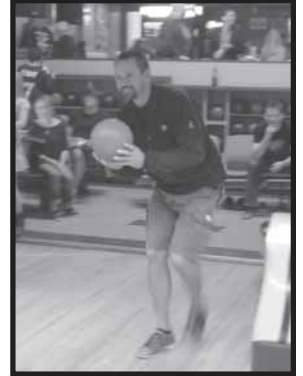


[www.mptf.org/ia](http://www.mptf.org/ia)



# Holiday Party 2011

November 26th ♦ Montrose Bowl



**STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS**

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## Business Rep's Report

*Continued from Page 3*

the need to keep jobs in California and the need to keep Hollywood in Hollywood – in the end, we received a one-year extension, and it's better than nothing.

Come this spring we are going to have to get back on the horse and do it all over again. More effort, more phone calls, more letter writing, more door knocking will need to happen to ensure that we don't lose the tax incentives that other states are using to lure the jobs out of California. And another big thing on the agenda for the upcoming year is to ensure that we continue to keep labor-friendly politicians in office and to make sure those that will protect workers rights are elected. It's imperative that non-labor friendly incumbents are replaced by those that will protect the middle class.

All in all, we had a very productive, positive, full year and the upcoming year appears to be equally as full. We have a lot of work to do, but working as a team as we did this year will produce equally positive results.

From both my family at home and my family here at the Local, all my best wishes to you and yours for a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

## LDI 2011

*Continued from Page 5*

For the past five years I have had the honor to be the force behind our participation in LDI. This year I am happy to pass the torch to Trade Show Committee Co-Chairs Greg Reeves and Stephen Crawford. Greg and Stephen did an excellent job putting the show together and

interfacing with Show Management to deal with the inevitable hiccups that happen at trade shows. I look forward to seeing what they come up with for next year's Cinegear and LDI.



The Local 728 booth at the LDI trade show in Orlando