



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. 11
2010

BONDING AT THE NEW BUILDING



RETIREES KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH A FESTIVE GATHERING

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POSITIVE NUMBERS COULD MEAN BRIGHTER 2011



by *Greg Langham,
President*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy New Year! I know that many members have had a pretty rough couple of years dealing with the financial downturn. But as we begin 2011, the economic news seems pretty good. FilmLA, the not-for-profit agency that handles on-location filming in the area, reported that there was a 15 percent increase in filming last year compared to 2009. Keep in mind that this increase doesn't count filming done at the studios.

Even better, they reported that commercial production (more on this next month) was up 28 percent in 2010. I'm no financial guru, but those that are in the know say this indicates that companies are starting to advertise again and they're getting over the economic hump.

This is great to hear and makes me feel pretty positive about 2011. There is work out there so if you're not working and you want to, call the hall and get your name on the books.

We started out the New Year with a super gathering of the retirees. It was the first one in the new building and one of the biggest crowds we've ever had since Patric started organizing the events. I can't tell you how great it is to see our veteran members. Somehow the stories get better and more embellished as the years go by – but one thing's for sure, they never get old. We'll keep you posted in The Bulletin when the next gathering is. My hope is to see as many retirees as possible attend.

Speaking of attending union events, I've seen a lot of people that I haven't

seen in a long time at the last two membership meetings. It probably has to do with the new building and members wanting to see it, and that's great, but I hope that all of you that have taken time out of your busy schedules to attend, plan on being regular meeting attendees. It's important for you to be a part of *your* union and the business of running the union.

For those of you who haven't had a chance to come by yet, make it a point to attend the next membership meeting. You'll learn a lot, see your new digs (I give personal tours), you'll meet some new members and likely see some old friends. Mark your calendar: the next meeting is Saturday, March 12th.

One more thing: Props to member Salvatore Orefice for letting me use his bike as a prop for my column picture. It's a helluva motorcycle; ride safely, my friend.

- *Greg Langham*



728 Partners with Hollywood Locals

Local 728 has partnered with the Hollywood West Coast locals to provide informative seminars benefiting working families in our industry. A wide range of topics are covered and seminars are held the first Wednesday of every month.

To learn more, please visit
www.westcoastseminars.org

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

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VICE PRESIDENT

PASCAL GUILLEMARD

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CLAUDIA SMITH

THE BULLETIN

PUBLISHER

MARGIE STITES

EDITOR

GREG A. LANGHAM

UNION SPOTLIGHT

DECEASED

BROTHER MICHAEL VAN WOERT, 69 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER SINCE DEC. 11, 1967, PASSED AWAY ON DEC. 16, 2010.

BROTHER DAVID NORIEGA, 46 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER SINCE NOVE. 10, 2001, PASSED AWAY ON DEC. 28, 2010.

FIRST NOTICE

STEPHEN E. ALLEN, CASEY BYERLY, JOSE A. CALDERON, MICHAEL CHATEAUNEUF, DOMINICK KYPRAGORAS, VICTOR LOPEZ, JACOB PENNINGTON, JOHN TANZER

SECOND NOTICE

VICTOR GRAY, YUDAH HOLMAN, CARLOS JIMENEZ, TANNER LANGHAM, JEREME MAAS, MATTHEW MARKEY, JEFFREY PARKHURST, TONY SULEK, ANTHONY D. WARD, CHRIS YAZGULIAN

NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO WERE SWORN IN ON JANUARY 15: MATTHEW BOWMAN, DANIEL DEL TORO, DANIEL A. FRANCO, MATTHEW T. HEINZ, MICHAEL JECHORT AND TRAVIS PANOZZO; ON JANUARY 17 JOHAN MARTINEZ, AND ON JANUARY 18 JOSEPH E. KRATTIGER.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M. (SHARP) ON **SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2011** LOCAL 728 1001 W. MAGNOLIA BLVD. BURBANK
PLEASE BRING YOUR UNION CARD!

IATSE LOCAL 728

1001 W. Magnolia Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91506
1-800-551-2158
1-818-954-0728



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

HELPING YOU STAY HEALTHY AND WISE WORKERS' COMP AND SOCIAL SECURITY

As we begin what will hopefully be a very productive year for our industry, I wanted to bring your attention to a few changes with Social Security, and provide you with some information to help keep you safe and healthy now and into the future.

According to OSHA and the Independent Electrical Contractors Alliance, between 1999 and 2002, more than 30 percent of all employee compensation claims were related to ergonomics. In those four years those claims came to more than \$10 million. That was over a decade ago so you can just imagine what the costs are today.

As all of us know, our bodies literally go through hell when we're working. Even if you're lifting, pulling, etc., the right way, these repetitive motions take a toll. OSHA explains it this way: Ergonomics is the science of fitting workplace conditions and job demands to the capabilities of the working population. Common examples of ergonomic risk factors are found in jobs requiring repetitive, forceful or prolonged exertions of the hands; frequent or heavy lifting, pushing, pulling or carrying of heavy objects; and prolonged, awkward postures. Even more, they say jobs presenting multiple risk factors will have a higher probability of causing a muscle/skeletal problem.

We saw a lot of Workers' Comp claims in 2010 and I'm hoping through education and knowledge we can lower or even prevent some of these kinds of injuries. The industry is finally starting to turn around and I want to keep everyone working – and working the right way so when you do retire,

you're healthy and not suffering from years of abuse to your bodies.

I'll be talking about this more in the coming months, but in the meantime I'm urging you to visit www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/electricalcontractors to learn more.

In late 2010, the Obama Administration tweaked the Social Security program and those changes began at the beginning of the year.

First off, the amount you're paying into the SS trust fund temporarily dropped from 6.2% of taxable wages (up to \$106,800 annually) to 4.2% for this year only. Employers will continue to pay 6.2%. For the self-employed, the tax rate will drop from 12.4% to 10.4% next year.

Secondly, retirees who apply for SS benefits on or after May 1 of this year will no longer have the option of getting their checks in the mail. From that date on, SS payments will be directly deposited into your bank account or loaded onto a prepaid Debit MasterCard. If you're retired and getting paper checks in the mail, you have until March 1, 2013 to switch to direct deposit or the debit card.

This may sound like a hassle for some of our retirees who enjoy getting those paper checks, but it will save all of us taxpayers a boatload: \$120 million a year or \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

Other changes to SS that I encourage you to investigate are the elimination (this year) of the free loan option and changes to the retroactive benefit suspensions.

As always, my door is open. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me.

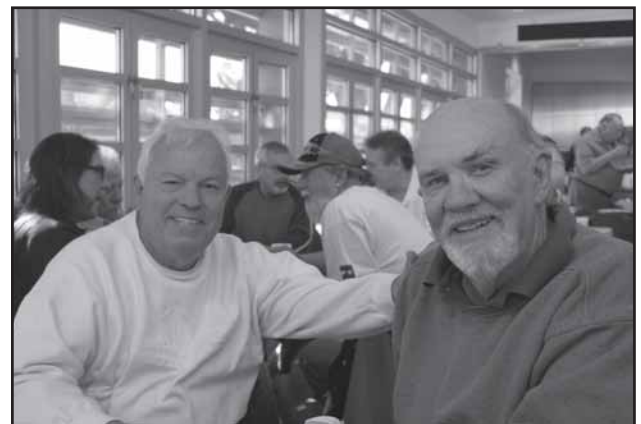
“WORTH EVERY DIME”

RETIREES GATHER FOR THE FIRST TIME AT NEW BUILDING



*L*ocal 728 retirees gathered for a raucous luncheon in January marking their first gathering in the new building. While some of the retirees had stopped by after the move in and had seen the building, this was the first visit to the hall for the majority. “Worth every dime,” Herb Hughes simply stated.

The full-house enjoyed lunch, the presentation of Gold Cards to members Dick McConihay and Dean Bray, followed by a short briefing on different union issues by Local 728 Business Representative Patric Abaravich.





The new union hall has already proven itself to be a comfortable and convenient space to hold gatherings. More importantly, as many veteran members noted, it's a place they can finally call home.

“Our new building only became feasible because of the foundation our retirees layed years ago. They should enjoy the space as much as possible. It is because of them and the many long-standing members in our union that have worked so hard over the years that Local 728 finally has its own home,” Abaravich pointed out.





MEMBERSHIP APPROVES SKILLS & TRAINING LAB

by *Pascal Guillemard,*
Treasurer/Call Steward Pro-Tem

I am thrilled to report that the initial building phase of our Skills & Training lab has been approved by the Membership. This state-of-the-art training facility will be critical in providing our Membership with basic training and computer skills, as well as the most advanced technological training available in our field. Beyond that, for the first time in our history, members will have a place to go and practice these skills. The lab should be up and running by the time spring hiatus rolls around.

The importance of staying current with new technologies is our prime objective. It is imperative that we integrate them as a part of rigging and lighting sets. Technological changes will keep coming. It wasn't that many years ago that dimmer boards were new and cutting edge. The Local only had a handful of qualified programmers and a/c dimmer boards weren't used that much. Now they are a standard part of virtually every show. We must continue to embrace and incorporate technological changes or lose the work.

We have a great advantage over other IA Locals in that we are the only exclusively Set Lighting Local in the country. We can devote all of our training dollars to set lighting skills enhancement. Locals in other jurisdictions must divide their

training budgets (if they have any) amongst several crafts. We also have the advantage of being located in the heart of Hollywood. Here is where we can learn and master basic skills, ground breaking technologies and demonstrate the value of being the best and the most knowledgeable technicians to our employers. All of us cannot be top notch console programmers.

However, the need for state of the art knowledge cuts across all skill levels. Knowing how to rig properly, efficiently and safely is just as critical as how to program a control console.

If we are to continue providing our employers with the best crews in the world, we must persist in preparing ourselves to provide top notch, knowledgeable and skilled crew members at all levels. If we cannot, our employers will look for qualified personnel elsewhere.

I'd like to remind everyone about the importance of keeping the Local informed of your skills training. The more the Call Steward knows about your qualifications, the greater the opportunity for employment becomes when those skills are called for. Call, or email the office during the year as you master new skills to keep your file updated.

— 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.

I'd also like to ask that best boys take advantage of the Call Steward's email address to send in crew changes whenever they occur, at LOC728@LATSE728.ORG. Or, you can continue to phone or fax in your lists. The more the Steward knows about who is working and where, the better we can help meet your needs and protect your jobs.

Cheers!

- Pascal Guillemard

First Quarter 2011 Suspended and Dropped Members*

Suspended

Kenneth Berkhout
Michael Bonewitz
J. Cortland Boyd
Chris Conaty
Brandon Cunningham
Allen Dial
Joseph Gallo
Luis Gonzalez
Wendell Harris
Nick Haynes
Dave Hengsteler
Jeff Hill

George Hock
Bradford Jamieson
James King
Jim Krattiger
David Lee
Ronald Levin
Michael Marquez
Alan Mc Kay
Joseph Mc Kenzie
Justin Mc Mahan
Robert Nellis
Kurtis Pomerleau

Brennan Price
Robert Ramos
John Smith
Brad Timmer
Amanda Treyz
Greg Wardell
Vincent Wrenn
Randy Dye
William Updegraff

Dropped

Eric Adamson
Eric Edinburgh

Michael Gall
Walter Glover
Neely Hall-Kaffe
William Havis
Michael Jordan
Hakim Kent
Jack Mc Lean, Jr.
Chris Reddish
Adam Richards
Perry Wolberger

Jay Dahlquist
Larue Larue

*List current as of
January 31, 2011

Develop and master Windows and Apple skills

LOCAL CREATING STATE-OF-THE-ART, ON-SITE COMPUTER CENTER

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



Our Skills Training Program starts back up in March and 2011 looks to be a big year. We won't receive our Skills Training funding from Contract Services until mid-February, but I anticipate that we will once again receive a full compliment of classes as in years past. In addition to our classes in Rigging, Electricity, Lighting Control, and Special Operator Classifications, we will be putting a focus on computer skills and how they will benefit our work on set. This will start with basic computer skills and work up to advanced programs like previsualization and virtual lighting.

Computer technology has become an integral part of our lives both on and off of the set. Computer skills are essential for keeping track of inventories, time cards, and communicating with production. The benefits of using spreadsheets and word processors on set go far beyond replacing illegible handwriting. These programs will help to cut down on confusion with production and rental shops and can provide a paper trail when someone forgets exactly what

they approved. In our personal lives, email has become the main way many people keep in touch and people are using computers to keep track of personal finances and correspondence.

Local 728 is creating a state-of-the-art Computer Lab (with Windows and Apple computers) to help you develop and master these skills so that you can become more efficient on set and in your personal lives. This will give you more time to do other things, organize your activities to cut down on waste and lost items, and allow you to communicate more clearly. Ultimately, this technology is a tool that, when used properly, can help you have a richer and more prosperous life.

We will be offering classes in everything from our basic computer class ("I've Turned the Stupid Thing On - Now What?") to the latest technology in Vectorworks and Previs. After you have taken a class, the Computer Lab will be available for you to come in and use the equipment and software so that you can decide if it is for you before you invest your hard-earned money. Considering that

some of these programs costs thousands of dollars, this is really a great opportunity to "try before you buy."

Also, starting in March will be the unveiling of Training728. This is the Safety & Training Program's complement to the Local 728 website. This site will have a full list of all the classes offered; a full schedule (up to two months in advance); online signups with automatic confirmation; reminder emails with class details; a list of vendors & rental shops; links to useful resources; instructor bios; and online training that will complement some of our Skills Training classes.

Another feature of Training728 is the "Test Your Knowledge" section which will have comprehensive quizzes to give you an idea of how thorough your knowledge is of the various aspects of our craft. The site is in BETA and enrollment is currently closed. However, you may sign up for an account and preview the "public section" at <https://www.training728.org>. This is a secure site so please do not forget the "s" in "https."

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



STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS

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PRE-SORT FIRST CLASS

LOCAL 728 HOLIDAY PARTY



MONTROSE
BOWL



12.11.10

