



# THE BULLETIN

HOLLYWOOD  
CALIFORNIA

CHARTERED  
MAY 15, 1939

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

Vol. 22; No. 1  
2012

## IATSE International President Matthew Loeb



## Surprises Retirees with Visit

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# THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS



*by Pascal Guillemard,  
Vice President*

I often get asked why dues went up again. Even though the total increase in dues was just \$10 a quarter, this troubles many members.

Unfortunately, the cost of living and doing business goes up every year. Yet for many years we went without raising our dues, only to reach a point where we were underfunded and needed to increase dues substantially (\$60 a quarter, then \$40 a quarter a few years later). Having these big increases is very hard on the wallet. With the current plan, when our contract gives us pay raises, we can expect a small dues increase the following year which helps keep up with rising costs. The dues raises of 2011 and 2012 were more than offset by the 3% raise accorded each of those years.

At the November 2010 membership meeting, the current dues structure was approved. The plan assesses dues at 80% of a lamp operators pay at scale (basic agreement, rounded up or down to the nearest \$5). Among many, many things, dues pay for the cost of operating of the Local, salaries of staff and officers, building insurance, life insurance for our members, per capita stamps (the stamps in your union card), training classes, The Bulletin and the directory.

Still, many think that dues went up again because of our new building. Our new Local was built and paid for with funds that were in CD's and not with funds used to operate the business of the Local. These Certificate of Deposit investments were no longer generating the interest earnings that they did back in the 1990s and in the early years of this decade. By investing in real estate

when we did, we've actually increased the value of our monetary assets at a higher rate than we could have had if we continued investing in CD's. This, despite the current state of real estate investments compared to the pre-2006 hey-day. In other words, from a purely monetary perspective, we made a very good investment decision.

Beyond that, the value of having a real home for our members, where we've now held dozens of training courses, membership meetings and several retiree luncheons, gives us the benefit of having a Local that belongs to us all and is there to serve our needs, present and future.

We can be immensely proud of our Local today. Our self advancement-training program is un-paralleled by any other local in the world. Last year, IA President Loeb appointed our Business Representative to the MPIPHP board of trustees, the first 728 member to ever sit on that board. President Loeb came to our December retiree luncheon to see our new Local and spent time talking to all present. All who were there that day marveled at how accessible and friendly he was.

I can't recall any past IA Presidents ever visiting our old offices, nor can I recall them ever standing around participating in casual conversations with our members. We've come a long way and we should look forward to where we're headed. I am very grateful to be a part of this progressive and forward thinking Local and its extraordinary membership.

Be well everyone,  
*Pascal M. Guillemard*

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

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## THE BULLETIN

### PUBLISHER

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### EDITOR

GREG A. LANGHAM

## UNION SPOTLIGHT

### DECEASED

BROTHER JAMES R. RENFRO, 58 YEARS OLD, A MEMBER SINCE MARCH 23, 1974, PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 22, 2012.

### FIRST NOTICE

WESLEY L. ALLEY, MATTHEW BODA, CHRIS COTONE, RICHARD DE FINO, LAYNE MCISAAC AND BEAU R. SPENCER.

### SECOND NOTICE

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

### NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS: SWORN IN ON DECEMBER 30, 2011, KEITH SORRELL; ON JANUARY 11, MICHAEL WITHERS; AND ON JANUARY 14: DIMITRI ANDRADE, CHRISTOPHER J. CARROLL, GRAHAM N. CHART, AUSTIN M. CORTINA, RICHARD GALVAN, GEOFFREY S. KNIGHT, HAROLD LACUESTA, LEIGH MEIRKE, MICKEY PETERSEN, JACK SHAW AND GREGORY D. STEWART.

## **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

THE NEXT GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL  
BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M.  
(SHARP) ON  
**SAT., MARCH 10, 2012**  
LOCAL 728  
1001 W. MAGNOLIA BLVD.  
BURBANK  
**PLEASE BRING YOUR  
UNION CARD!**

### **IATSE LOCAL 728**

1-800-551-2158

1-818-954-0728

Fax: 1-818-954-0732



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

# THE SLEEPING GIANT IS AWAKE

**H**appy New Year, and what a year it's going to be. In many ways, we can thank the people of Wisconsin because 2012 is going to be big for pro labor and the middle class.

Of course, there will be the presidential election. Labor is keeping a close eye not just on the parties, but individual candidates who will continue to help us and be the watchdogs for labor and the middle class.

Along with the election, there are a few things that will affect our Local. The first one that we face is the construction of the Golden Oaks Ranch in Santa Clarita. Although the sign says Disney | ABC Studios, they're claiming that another corporation is running it and they're just occupying the facility. In reality, they're just shifting ownership to another corporation to try and avoid organized labor from taking all the jobs. Of course they would prefer non-union labor.

According to the Disney | ABC Studios ranch web site, they claim during construction there will be 3,152 jobs and \$522 million in direct economic activity created throughout Los Angeles. At full build out, they have projected 2,854 permanent full and part-time jobs, \$533 million in annual economic activity throughout LA County, \$1.3 million in new annual revenues to LA County and \$26 million in new annual revenues to the state. But nowhere, at the moment, are they planning on using union labor in the build or the staffing of the facility.

Their big claim to fame is that the ranch is located within the 30-mile zone which is a union working condition.

Why should that matter since that – or any other union working condition such as overtime or meal penalties – would not exist if they're allowed to be a non-union facility? They're making it sound like there is going to be a union contract, but they're not even planning on using the LA County building trade unions to construct their stages, and they've already used non-union construction to build the facades. Unfortunately, they're going to be bypassing any organized labor in the build or maintenance of the facility.

So where do we fit in? We need to start now fighting for a Local 728-staffed lamp dock on the site before the facility is complete. It's not an easy challenge (these never are) since big corporations like Disney | ABC Studios have the money to buy everything they need to bypass the unions. That makes our jobs even tougher. The good news is that Los Angeles County has an extremely strong organized labor community through the LA County Federation. The plan is to activate the building trades and all organized labor throughout LA to support our position. In order to do this through the County Fed, active union lobbyists using their connections within city hall and the county government are being utilized to help better position us for this fight.

We're talking about real, full-time jobs here. Local 728 historically hasn't always rallied for these causes. However, we've gotten far more active, and vocal, and we're making a difference. We have become big donors not only of money, but of our time and resources as well. And although the back lot locals are leading this fight, we

*Continued on Page 8*

Universal Lighting Mourns the Loss of a Co-Worker ...  
Share Reflections of a Friend

# Farewell, Al B.

The way I can best describe Al is that I was one of his many translators. No one ever knew what he was talking about, unless you worked with him. I had the pleasure of working with Al for 10 years. Al definitely was the life of the party at the lamp dock. Everyone knew him, and everyone would always ask, "Hey, where's Al?" You could always tell he wasn't around because it would get too quiet around here. It's definitely too quiet now. It's hard to know that he's not coming back. We are all still in disbelief, and we all wishfully think he's going to show up any minute and say, "Hey, Brothers!" One of his many sayings. R.I.P. Al B., you are greatly missed!

- *Vanessa Johnston*

We loved our Brother, Al B., as he was known around the lamp dock. This "semi-crazy Mexican Indian," which is how he described himself, always seemed in good spirits, even when we were returning equipment. He would always tell me I had lots of M&D and was going to charge me for it! Most of his usual sayings can't be put into print here, but there is one he would always say, "I'm buried here guys!!" But, no matter how busy he was he kept his sense of humor. Now he is gone, and far too soon. We miss him so much and will for a very long time. With utmost respect and the highest regards,

- *Jim Fine*

"I started working at Universal as a temp in April 2011 and met Al. He would come in and say "Hi" and "Good morning" to everybody. He'd say, "Hi Virginia ... hi Vicki," and so-and-so ... and he'd tell me, "Don't let Vicki in our neighborhood in Eagle Rock." Funny, he'd say, "We'll have lunch together and not Vicki." But Al loved everyone here. It's a small world. My husband saw Al riding his bike for the last 10 years. Then, when I mentioned Al my husband finally met him and introduced himself. They were planning to ride Harleys together but it didn't happen. My husband was truly honored to ride with the guys on the day of his funeral. For the short time I knew Al, he was one of a kind, and a wonderful, friendly person. Al welcomed me and made me feel at home. I loved Al and will truly miss him."

- *Virginia De La Rosa*



**Al Bastien passed away on December 11, 2011 leaving friends and coworkers heartbroken. He had been a member of the Local since May of 1980.**  
*(Please see the group photo on Page 7.)*

I had the pleasure of working with Al for the past 10 years. His amusing personality and all the stories he had will not be forgotten. He was a very special guy and we all miss him very much. He's now in Hog Heaven.

- *Richard Alexus*

Working with Al B. was a complete pleasure. He was the jewel of the loading dock at Universal. He always came by the 40 Repair Shop and said, "Hey Shumps." He had a very different vocabulary. Al was a mentor to the new hires. He always showed them the ins and outs ... the rock. I can't stop seeing Al in my mind at work. I will miss him very much and every day.

- *Hector Burruel, 40 Shop*

Every operation has people with different qualities and capabilities. But, few have a person like Al Bastien. A person who was the heart, soul and personality of Universal Set Lighting. Al had been part of the Universal lamp dock for over three decades. He came to work every day with the spirit and passion which this industry requires. He will be sorely missed and the Universal family will never be the same without him.

- *Rick Maas, VP Set Lighting Operations*

Al was a great man. He always made me laugh with phrases like, "I'm buried." But he always had a good word to say about any one.

- *Harold Bell*

Al's 'Full of Life' attitude and his caring ways will be truly missed but never forgotten! He was special and unique in his own way and that's what I will remember the most. "That crazy Indian"!! Love ya brother,

- *Dave Lerma*

Al Bastien, the Crazy Indian. When you came from an off-lot production, and you had spent any time at Universal, Al was the guy everyone came to see ... the personality, the character, the love he had for everyone. He always made you feel like you were home (welcome). Al always had something to say and always made you smile and think that guy is a little (crazy). Universal/728 lost a good man. When you needed anything, no matter what it was, Al would stay and help. Everyday he would ask me if there was anything else. Each and every day Al would ask if we needed him to work through lunch. I hope you are in a great place. I hope there are plenty of cold beers, great cigars and beautiful women. You deserve it. I, and everyone, will miss you. Universal is not the same without you here.

- *John Owens*

On July 6, 1999, Al promised to take me to lunch. Something came up and we had to reschedule for a later date. In the meantime, Al had purchased a new Harley Davidson motorcycle and was constantly adding accessories to enhance his "new toy." When I would approach him about lunch, he would tell me that he couldn't afford to take me because he was spending all his extra income on the bike. At least three times a year I would bring out the calendar page that I held onto and remind him that I was still waiting on my 'lunch'. That became our joke. Throughout the YEARS, he would show me pictures of his ever-changing, chromed out bike. Needless to say, he never took me ... I still have the calendar page.

- *Vicki Bennett*

"What a guy. He was one of the first I met when I started on the lamp dock in late 1996. He was very knowledgeable and helpful in all areas of the shop. I learned a lot from Al. I will always remember the time that he spent making sure I got it. I can still hear him now: "I don't cable."

- *Khalid H. Saleem*

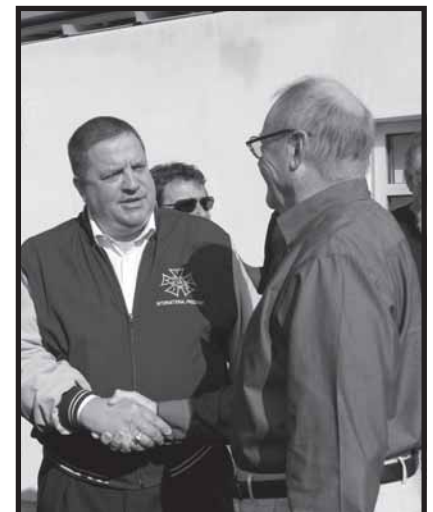
# Retirees Thrilled by Surprise Visit from IATSE International President Matthew Loeb



At the Local 728 quarterly retiree gathering on December 14th, attendees were surprised by a visit from IATSE International President Matthew Loeb.

President Loeb was in town for meetings and took time out of his busy schedule to personally speak with retirees, visitors and staff, and take a tour of the Local.

“It meant so much to me personally that President Loeb came to the Local,” Business Representative Patric Abaravich said. “He shook hands, posed for photographs and answered any and all questions the retirees had. It really was a special moment for Local 728.”



# Good Start

by R. Bruce Prochal, Treasurer/Call Steward

*"I was born not knowing and have had only a little time to change that here and there."*

**Richard P. Feynman - Physicist**

**G**reetings everybody! The holidays are long put away by now, but I hope all of you enjoyed the holiday season.

As is usually the case, early in January most of the television shows started production again and things are just about back to where they were before Thanksgiving. Pilots are already starting production and, by the time you read this, more should be starting. I am predicting a robust pilot season with more pilots being made in Hollywood this year.

A few low-budget features continue to come and go. As for big-budget features in town, we have "Project HH" (aka "Star Trek - the Sequel") and a show titled "Burt Wonderstone." On distant location are many features, and most have Hollywood gaffers. Of these, a good portion have a partial Hollywood crew.

Let's move on to the theme ... "Good Start."

This year fewer members were delinquent in the beginning week of

January than in years past. That is a good thing and let us hope the trend carries on throughout the year. There did seem to be a greater number of dues apparently sent to the wrong address, either Nordhoff Street or Burbank Boulevard.

If you or the person who submits your dues payments have been saving the little envelopes the Local sends with your receipts, please check the addresses on them and if they do not read Magnolia Boulevard on them, discard them. After our last move, the post office did forward our mail, but they will only do it for one year and it has been over that since we moved in to the new building. The post office will not forward any mail to us and you will be lucky if they return it to you. Late charges for delinquent dues may apply.

Another issue that I have noticed this year is that Best Boys calling the Local to report their shows or to check the status of their crew members has dropped off.

I would like to remind all of you that reporting your shows and checking new

## — 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.

hires is very important. If the Local does not know about a show, it can make it more difficult for the Local to protect your rights on the job should a situation arise.

That is all for now ... RBP

## Farewell, Al B.

Last April we visited Universal and captured this shot of Al with his friends and coworkers (from left to right) Dave Lerma, Vanessa Johnston, Rick Alexis, John Owens, John Kennedy and Khalid Saleem.



Skills Training Program resumes in March;  
Local receives funding for 56 classes



by Alan M. Rowe,  
Safety & Training Director

# World-Class Training is Expensive, but it's free for Local 728 Members

I was recently at a conference where a group of us from the IATSE were discussing the value of training for the union member. There are two ways to look at this from our perspective. The first way is how specialized training will affect your life and work on set. It is really very simple: the more you know, the more likely you will get hired over someone who doesn't have the same skill set. Though, I must add a word of caution: no one likes a jerk so never underestimate the social aspect of being on set. If you are easy to get along with AND have all the skills, you can get a lot of work.

The other value that we tend to forget about is what it costs the individual to get the training. We found that classes for lighting technicians were not that common and are typically offered at events like LDI. The tuition for most of these training opportunities was in the neighborhood of \$200 per day, not including housing and meals, and some of these classes cost as much as \$600 per day.

We are fortunate to have an infrastructure that appreciates and understands the benefits of having Local 728 members being the most skilled lighting technicians in the industry. Through the actions of our Executive Board and Membership, along with funding from Contract Services, IATSE Local 728 members have access to world-class training in lighting and electricity for the entertainment industry.

There is one big difference between our classes and the classes that you can pay for—our classes are free for Local 728 members. In the entertainment industry, training can be very expensive but for Local 728 members, it is offered to you free of charge, as a

benefit of membership.

As we wind down the Skills Training year on January 31, I have been reflecting on what we have accomplished this past year. Since March 1, 2011, we have held over 60 events for our members and we have filled almost 600 seats in our classes.

In addition to our traditional skills classes such as *Overhead Rigging* and *DMX Networking*, we added new classes such as *Lighting for ALEXA* and *Wireless DMX Networking*. Our list of instructors is just as impressive as we have over 20 of our members signed on to share their skills and knowledge. Many of these instructors, such as Joshua Thatcher, Benoit Richard, and Andy Huber are well known in their areas of expertise outside of Local 728. We also enjoy strong support from the vendors in our industry and have excellent instructors from this area as well.

Our Safety & Training website, Training728 is up and running and is of immense help to our Safety & Training Program. Through the great work of Local 728 Brother David Kane, you can use this site to look through the list of classes that we have to offer, take online quizzes, sign-up for classes, research vendors, get assistance from the 728 Help List, read and submit articles, and take online classes.

In the next year I plan to expand the site to include podcasting and expanding the online class library. You can access the Training728 site through the Local's website (<http://www/iatse728.org>) or directly at <https://>

[www.training728.org](http://www.training728.org).

Our Skills Training program will resume in March and I'm happy to announce that we have received funding for 56 classes including core classes in Rigging, Electricity, Computer Skills, Lighting Control Technology, Fixtures, Balloon Lighting, LED Technology, Digital Lighting, and Underwater Lighting. We will also be adding new classes to our course catalog including *Remote Device Management*, *ArtNet*, *Electricity 201B*; and *Wire Rope Rigging*. Please check the Training728 website for the full list.

Our Training Philosophy also includes having smaller classes more often. This gives you more opportunities to learn a skill as well as having the option of training your entire crew. Classes are often scheduled by demand so if there is a specific class you would like to take or have given to your crew, we can make that happen. All it takes is a phone call to 818-954-0728.



Lighting for the ALEXA class included members David Kane, Miles Anderson (partially hidden), Daryl Didier (background), Patrick Toole, and Instructor Stephan Ukas-Bradley (background).

STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS

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PRE-SORT FIRST CLASS

## The Sleeping Giant is Awake

### Business Rep's Column

*Continued from Page 3*

plan to get International support. When the dust settles and this battle is over, our goal is to have another 728 facility with real jobs.

Another fight we face this year is keeping jobs in California. Although we successfully fought to get a one-year extension (we were looking for three) of the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program, this year we need to go back to the mattresses and back to Sacramento knocking on all the doors (like we did last year) pushing our legislators to continue this important incentive program. We want to help fill the stages being built and we want to staff the shows coming in with 728 members, and we need to walk the halls in Sacramento to do this. Like last year, this is going to require myself and the other locals heading to the capital to state our case yet again.

Hopefully, in this go-around we can get it extended longer than one year. This is the only tax incentive program that the California State Labor Fed has ever endorsed. As a matter of fact, they use our program as the template for any other tax incentives that they would

support but none have shown up.

Along with that, the California State Labor Federation is trying to work on campaign contribution legislation. As it is now, unions are capped on the amount of their contributions, yet businesses are unlimited. We're not looking to raise our cap because that could lead to some unions going back to their members for additional funds. The direction would be to put severe caps on the limitless campaign donations businesses and corporations can make to anti-labor candidates and legislation. The goal is to level the playing field and take away the overwhelming advantage corporations have.

These are some of the things that we are looking at that will not only create, but keep our jobs here at home. Local 728 support is crucial. We need to be active players and can't sit back. In the past, Local 728 has sat on the sidelines in the battles that directly affect our members' jobs. I'm proud to say that over the past few years we've been getting more and more involved. We need to continue that involvement and continue to support pro labor issues and

candidates no matter what side of the aisle they're on.

Along with moving ahead with financial commitments, it's vital that we all get involved with precinct walks, phone banking and the numerous volunteer opportunities that come with campaigns. It doesn't take much time – a few hours here and there – but that's the way we're going to reap the rewards.

The people of Wisconsin had a wake up call. And when anti-union legislation started affecting their good, solid middle class jobs, they stood up. Just like them, it's our turn. We need to be a major player in what's directly affecting our jobs. If we sit back, they might have a union facility but no lamp dock. If we don't get involved with the tax incentive program, movies will be made out of state. If we don't get off our butts, more anti-labor legislation gets bought. The anti-union, anti-middle class legislation woke up the sleeping giant that was the people of Wisconsin. I'm proud to say that what is happening in our state, affecting our jobs, has woken up the sleeping giant that is Local 728.

A handwritten signature or set of initials in blue ink, appearing to be 'P' followed by a flourish.