Attending the 66th IATSE Quadrennial Convention last month in Orlando, Florida were Local 728 Delegates (Standing, L-R): R. Bruce Prochal, Richard McConihay, Patric J. Abaravich, Dennis K. Grow, Jerry L. Posner and Raymond J. Poblick; (Seated, L-R): Cordell Boyd, Norman Lang, Larry K. Freeman, Michael Gips, Alan M. Rowe and Karen Weilacher; (Floor): Iain O'Higgins

◆ Photo courtesy of Kim Gottlieb-Walker, Local 600

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ATTENTION PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS GRADUATING IN 2010

The Local 728 Scholarship Applications for the 2010 graduating class are now available online. Please check out the information soon so you don’t miss the application deadline.

Quarterly Retiree Luncheon
Wed., Sept. 23, 2009
11:00am to 3:00pm
Burbank Elks Lodge #1497
2232 N. Hollywood Way
Burbank
The 66th International Convention was held in Orlando, Florida the last week of July. Local 728 was represented by 15 of our delegates. As expected, President Loeb was re-elected along with the rest of the “Official Family”. Our “sleep deprivation” resolution was referred to the General Office because it deals with contracts. It is not a “one size fits all” type of situation. Let’s hope it becomes an important negotiation item.

Some of the major points needing our support were:

- **Employee Free Choice Act** – Allows employees to join a union without being harassed by their employer.
- **Universal Health Care** – All Americans should be able to have affordable health care for themselves and their families.
- **Union Solidarity** – Show your support for not only the locals in our Alliance but all union labor organizations.
- **Stopping Piracy** – The theft of the products we work on means less money is going into our Health Plan.
- **Diversity** – All of us are equal, yet unique. We need to make use of the talents we all have.

The after hours get-togethers and receptions is where the work is done. Here is where you get to meet the delegates from the other locals. You get the chance to share and discuss matters of importance to your local. We have a lot more in common than you would think.

Along with Locals 44, 52, 80 and 729, we hosted a hospitality party. It was a huge success as it was very well attended. Many people later thanked me and said how much they enjoyed it. (See Bruce’s article for his perspective on the Convention.)

Thanks to our resolution, next year’s District 2 Convention will be in Los Angeles. Obviously, we will be one of the host locals.

Speaking of Diversity, I recently formed the Diversity Committee:

“The 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...”

Continued on Page 7
It All Starts With One Call

by Patric J. Abaravich,
Business Representative - Secretary

The first of August has come and gone and brought with it our new contract, with pay increases, contribution increases and plan modifications in our health care coverage. Without any backup, I'm probably one of the first 728 members to fall within the new modifications of the health plan. To be honest with you, over the last year my family has been frequent users of our health plan between spine surgery, cancer, and my most recent knee replacement.

What I've learned and what every member should know is, you must be your own biggest advocate and start with making a phone call to one of the MPTF clinics. This is where our real work begins. Once the MPTF doctor reviews your case and refers you to a specialist, that provider then does their trained craft. But if it requires surgery, we as healthcare consumers will have a million questions that could make a difference. Those are the make it or break it questions, and the ones you need to ask if indeed it's going to cost you more than a few hundred dollars out-of-pocket.

My first introduction into some of the questions to ask came from post-surgical questions that you asked me. Why am I paying this? Why is this so much? I thought this was covered? After doing extensive research to answer your questions and looking at my wife's back and cancer surgeries, I developed a game plan of certain questions to ask the doctors(s) which I've passed on to you when you've contacted me. In the long run, these questions may take you the better half of the day to get the answers to, but they may save you thousands – if not tens of thousands – by the end of the surgery.

Knowing that my knee surgery was pending and choosing a date after the new contract modifications were put into place, I knew there would be certain co-pays that I was absolutely going to have to pay. The offset of in-patient admission fee is insignificant compared to the outrageously low contracted price that MPIPHP can deliver from our referred specialist. I'm not talking just the ordinary appendectomy-type surgery. I'm talking the extreme discounted prices on highly advanced, state-of-the-art medical advancements.

These doctors work with our health plan and know our craft. They know the traumas our bodies go through. And yes, it's going to cost you a few dollars more for the hospital and the prescription medications, but in the long run, it's likely something that you don't have to worry about again for a long, long time.

How did we get here when most job-based health plans are eliminating or diminishing coverage while costs continue to skyrocket? We had a group of people that see the future in health care and try to control the pricing and think about not eliminating coverage. Instead, they've incorporated a small payment portion, and it's a small price to pay to have a state-of-the-art surgery.

This took diligence, good communication and a sound partnership between the leaders and negotiators of the IA, the business agents of the Hollywood locals, and the trustees and officers of the health plan. Our health plan continues to find the lowest contracted rates for the most advanced, comprehensive health care. However, it is every member's responsibility to use their benefits wisely. Not only will this save you out-of-pocket money, but it helps preserve trust fund dollars into the future.

As most of you know, I'm not that quiet a person but I was surprised by the dozens of cards, flowers, calls, cookies and edible arrangements that have showed up at my doorstep. Now I have to use my new knee immediately to work off the pounds that I have been gaining. I would like to thank all of you personally – and I will. I thank you for your kind well wishes and thoughts. By the time you read this, I'll be back in the office fielding your calls.

Again, as always, if you have any questions, feel free to call.
Local Awards Longevity Pins

Local 728 President Dennis K. Grow presented 30, 35 and 40-year pins to a large number of long-standing members at the General Membership Meeting on July 18th. The Executive Board, Staff and Membership wish to congratulate each of these members for their service to Local 728.

30-Year Pin Recipients include back row (L-R): Rod Weaver, R. Bruce Prochal, Gary Mayer, Glade Knight, Steve King, Darryl Herzon, William Cueto, Glenn Corbett, Randall Burak and Norman Berens. Front row (L-R): Clive Richards, Glenn Schellerup, Karen Weilacher and Warren Fox.

30-Year Pin recipients not attending but who received their pins in the mail include: Richard Alanan, John Hawn, John Todd and Ray Wickman.

35-Year Pin recipients (right) include David Zacks, Thomas Powell, Bruton Peterson and M.C. Collins.


40-Year Pin Recipient Allen Pettebone

40-Year Pin recipients not attending but who received their pins in the mail include: Richard Alanan, John Hawn, John Todd and Ray Wickman.


30-Year Pin Recipients include back row (L-R): Rod Weaver, R. Bruce Prochal, Gary Mayer, Glade Knight, Steve King, Darryl Herzon, William Cueto, Glenn Corbett, Randall Burak and Norman Berens. Front row (L-R): Clive Richards, Glenn Schellerup, Karen Weilacher and Warren Fox.

30-Year Pin recipients not attending but who received their pins in the mail include: Steve Adams, Christopher Bateman, Herbert Bigelow, Joseph Clayton, John Di Poma, Eugene Duffy, Darrel Dyer, Jr., Ronald Kline, Ted Kredo, Kevin Lang, Larry Liddell, Ted Marshall, Malcolm McCampbell, Vince Orefice, Rodney Robertson, Karen Roseme, Gary Scalzo, Bruce Schultz, George Silic, Larry Spehar, Kurt Sturgis, Keith Tyrell, Will Urie, O’Shana Walker, Dennis Wehr and Randy Woodside.
Photo highlights of the
66th Quadrennial IATSE Convention

Convention Hall

Delegates from the locals hosting the “In Unity” reception

Local 728 (District 2) Delegate Table

Karen Weilacher and IATSE Secretary-Treasurer James B. Wood

Local 728 President Dennis K. Grow and Cordell Boyd

Larry K. Freeman and Michael Gips

Above: Business Representatives from the five locals who hosted a well-attended reception. Right: Patric Abaravich seconds the nomination of 2nd Vice President Michael Barnes on the convention floor.
Greetings everybody! I hope you are all doing well. Although I know a few of you are struggling, try to hang in there. The world’s whole economy has changed and, unfortunately, our business is also caught in it.

From my perspective, Hollywood is relatively busy. Many network and cable television shows have come back and new ones have started. Sadly, there are not as many as before and new ones have started. Cable television shows have come is relatively busy. Many network and cable television shows have come back and new ones have started.

From my perspective, Hollywood is relatively busy. Many network and cable television shows have come back and new ones have started. Sadly, there are not as many as before and new ones have started.

I am finally starting to put the pieces together as to how it all works. This was my fifth convention and, as with every endeavor, there is a learning curve. With this convention, I am finally starting to put the pieces together as to how it all works.

I was also fortunate enough to be assigned to the Resolutions Committee. It has been a long time since I recall any member of our delegation being assigned to a committee. Business Representative, Patric Abaravich, was assigned to the Constitution and By-laws Committee. I will not speak for Patric, but my experience on the Resolutions Committee was very informative. At future delegate meetings I will present my observations.

Once again there was a “white ballot,” meaning there were no challengers to the offices up for election. I feel International President Matthew D. Loeb presented himself at the convention as a capable leader. I also feel he has a very capable General Secretary-Treasurer in James B. Wood and a group of Vice-Presidents that will carry the IATSE well into the future.

One of the highlights of the Convention that I cannot ignore reporting was the combined hospitality room including Locals 44, 80, 729, 728, and from New York, Local 52. It was a tremendous success.

I would like to personally say “thank you” to the members who attended the Membership Meeting where this issue was presented, voted on and passed. Events such as this combined hospitality room demonstrate the unity of the locals in Hollywood and New York and help to promote the unity of all locals in the IATSE.

In closing, I would like to say that one thing I took away from the Convention is we do not realize how good we have it here in Hollywood. We take our working conditions for granted.

I spoke with delegates from small locals in various parts of the country and heard what they have to go through to get a fair contract under which to work. Often these locals have no choice but to call the IATSE office in New York for help. Many of the contracts negotiated are similar to our low-budget agreements.

We should all be grateful for what we have here in Hollywood.

Anyway, I’ve got to go; dinner is on the table…RBP
Safety includes your Personal Health & Well Being

by Alan M. Rowe,
Safety & Training Director

One aspect of safety that is almost always overlooked is personal health and well being. If you get sick, you can’t work and you won’t get paid. Taking into consideration the close quarters we work in, illnesses frequently run rampant on set. It is extremely important that we all follow basic health procedures such as washing our hands frequently, getting enough rest, and eating properly. If you do get sick, do everything you can, (including not going to work) to avoid spreading germs to others.

In addition to the dangers of a contagious illness, we also must be vigilant for things that can make us sick that are not contagious. A simple scratch can lead to a staph or blood infection that can easily hospitalize you with very serious consequences. This recently happened to one of our members who had a scratch on his leg and went swimming. His leg swelled up and a rash started moving up his thigh. Had he not received medical care (including a few days in the hospital), it is possible that he could have lost his leg or worse.

It is vital that we treat every cut and scratch seriously no matter how insignificant it seems or how busy we may be at the time. It is important that the injury be cleaned and dressed properly to avoid contamination. We have medics on set and we should be utilizing their services. The second part of this is that it is very important that every injury that happens at work should be listed on the Production Report and in the Medic’s Log. If yesterday’s small scratch turns out to be tomorrow’s major infection, you must be able to prove that it happened on set. If there is no record of when it happened, you may face some difficulty in getting it treated.

It is also very important to avoid causing long-term damage to our bodies by bad habits we have at work. Just about everything we touch is heavy and improper lifting techniques will, over time, cause significant injury that will restrict our abilities to enjoy the very things we work so hard to afford. These bad habits are not just limited to lifting, but also activities such as moving carts, handing off equipment, patching socopex cables and camlok connectors. We are currently offering frequent Body Mechanics/Injury Prevention seminars with Jason Pamentel, D.C., CCSP who consults with several labor unions on how to avoid long-term injury so we can all retire comfortably.

One more thing about health and well-being: CPR and AED training. This training is something that can save your life, a fellow crew member’s life, or the life of a loved one. When cardiac fibrillation is the result of electric shock, an otherwise healthy person has an exceptionally high rate of full recovery when a combination of CPR and the use of an AED are administered. CPR and AED training is available through organizations like the Wellness Program, Red Cross, and Emergency First Response. We are working to provide it through our training program as well.

President’s Message
Continued from Page 2

If you would like to be a part of this committee, please let me know. Cordell Boyd and Karen Weilacher are Co-Chairpersons.

The annual Backlot Picnic is Sunday, Sept. 20. Trust me, this is a lot of fun. If you have children, you must go. There is so much for them to do. Save some money and buy your tickets from our office or the lot stewards. If you see me there, please say hi.

Fraternally,
MEMBERS:
Be sure to visit www.iatse728.org for a complete list of upcoming Training Classes.
For more information and to sign up, contact the Training Office at 818-843-0012 or via email at safetyandtraining@iatse728.org

COME JOIN US FOR OUR
11TH ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC
CALAMIGOS RANCH, MALIBU CA
SEPTEMBER 20, 2009 10AM

Ticket Prices:
Pre-Paid ($12.00) at the Gate ($20.00)
children under 5 are free

(Pre-Sale Offer) Buy 5 get 1 FREE!!
Pre-Sale Offer is only available if tickets are purchased through the Business Office
* FERRIS WHEEL * SWIMMING POOL * ROCKSTAR KARAOKE * FOAM MACHINE *
* DUNK TANK * VOLLEYBALL * MECHANICAL BULL * ADULT & KIDS BINGO *
* FREE THROW BASKETBALL * HORSE SHOES * PING PONG * TV FOOTBALL ROOM *
* OLD FASHIONED PICNIC GAMES * INFLATABLES AND MUCH MUCH MORE...

Enjoy BBQ Lunch from 11:30am - 3:00pm
BBQ Chicken, Fried Chicken, Vegetarian Chili, Corn Cobbett,
Crispy Garden Salad, Macaroni Salad, Country Potato Salad, Rolls & Butter

From 10:30am - 3:00pm
Hot Dog Station with all the condiments & Fresh Popped Popcorn

From 10:00 am - 3:00pm
Ice Cold Beer & Wine - $4.00 – per glass * ID Required *