



Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians Local 728

Bulletin



Volume 16, No. 8

We Light Up Your Life!

**Inventor,
Business
Owner,
Rigging
Gaffer,
and DP
.... Vince
Contarino
is a**



MAN OF MANY TALENTS

**This November's election is critical;
you can help determine the
direction of our state and nation**

by Larry K. Freeman Page 3

**Called by this Local or a Best Boy
for a job? Why some of you are
setting a bad precedent and
breaking union bylaws**

by R. Bruce Prochal Page 6



**Do you really need a reason to go to Vegas?
We may have the perfect excuse.**

Calling a few good members to LDI Page 7

**Thanks to the digital age
Mobisodes
are here
and union watchdogs are
monitoring your financial rights**

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Local 728 Officers and Executive Board

Larry K. Freeman
President

Dennis K. Grow
Vice President

Patric J. Abaravich
Business Rep. - Secretary

R. Bruce Prochal
Treasurer/Call Steward

Executive Board Members

Cordell Boyd
Branch Brunson
Paul Caven
Michael Everett
Michael Gips
Roger L. Lattin
Steven Mathis
Richard McConihay
Jerry Posner
Karen Weilacher

Sergeant-at-Arms
Greg Argarin

Shop Stewards

John L. Murray CBS
Bernie Bayless Disney
Pascal M. Guillemard Fox
Frank Valdez Paramount
John Jacobs Sony
John Trujillo Universal
Gary M. Andersen.. .Warner Bros.

CLC Delegates

Patric J. Abaravich
Paul Caven
Mike Everett
Iain O'Higgins

The Bulletin Editor

Patric J. Abaravich

LETTERS to the EDITOR

*are always welcome, as are story
ideas, crew pictures, classified listings
or photos announcing birthdays,
anniversaries, etc.*

Coming to a cell phone near you: 'Mobisodes'

International Watchdogs Monitor Producers' Profits

By Patric J. Abaravich, Business Representative

Mobisodes? This is a new term describing cell phone technology that allows you to download your favorite television show. Asia and Europe have already been using this technology for the past few years. These ever-evolving tech tools are all well and good; at least with this one you get to watch your favorite television show while sitting in a condor.

But who is getting a share of the money for these programs as they become more widespread in America? The International Alliance has set watchdogs in motion to monitor the cause and effect of Mobisodes. Right now, popular cell phone companies are producing phones that allow users to not only store hundreds of Mobisodes, but they are manufacturing the devices with display screens that have outstanding clarity and quality.

This is another venue that the International is, and must, keep a close eye on. Rest assured that as technology permits cell phone users to have television shows at arm's length, the International is knocking on the producers' doors monitoring their profits for use in future negotiations.

It's busy, and with that sometimes comes carelessness due to over anxious lighting techs trying to keep one step ahead of extremely ambitious shooting schedules. Many of us are racing to get things done quickly, and we may be not as safe as we should on the job site. Be careful on the sets. And remember that although it is the producer's job to provide a safe working environment, it is up to us to make safety a priority. Notify either the producer's safety department or the Local of any unsafe conditions.

The November elections are coming up and I'm sure the majority of you are registered to vote. Some of you might have moved or had a name change which means you have to re-register. We have voter registration applications available at the Local and if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact our own Dennis Grow, the Election Committee Chairperson. You can even go online to get answers to all of your pressing questions, and even register to vote. Check out www.ss.ca.gov/elections.

I am urging you to register, and to vote. In the current political environment, labor has been swept underneath the carpet. And although I urge you to vote your conscience and be mindful of the current issues, it's also very important to find out where the candidates stand on protecting the rights of working Californians – and that includes your own jobs.

**For voter information,
polling places, election info and to register to vote,
visit www.ss.ca.gov/elections**

Standing united, we can make a difference in who is elected

Critical November Election Needs Your Attention

By Larry K. Freeman, President

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are in full swing of a brand new television season and it's great to see the studios and our members so busy. Your children are back to school, the holidays are right around the corner, and life is hectic.

Although your time is limited and your schedules are demanding, all of us must take heed that a significant election is only two short months away. Not only is this November's gubernatorial race going to be a decisive time for Californians, there are very important state, county and local issues on the ballot, as well as key elections for your representatives in Washington.

As union members and advocates, we have a real chance to change the direction of the state and the nation. Together, we must stand proud and united to support labor-friendly politicians and elected officials that support working families.

I recently received a letter from International President Thomas C. Short. In it he has urged me to rally the troops – meaning you. By being informed and unified, we can have a voice and make a difference in who is elected and how our government is run.

There are only four very important steps you must make time for: Ensure you are a registered voter; become educated on your candidates of choice and where they stand on the issues; understand ballot measures and how they will affect you and your family, then exercise your right to vote.

Over the next two months, you are going to be bombarded by political advertisements. Do not let negative political ads sway you away from this critical election. Take a moment to investigate the candidates and the issues. And for those of you who really want to make a difference, you could volunteer to participate in Labor-To-Labor walks, phone banking or hand out leaflets at your worksite.

Labor has traditionally urged members and their families to vote Democratic because the party has a long history of supporting working Americans. All I am asking is that whatever your political affiliation, become an educated voter and make your voice heard by voting in the November election.

October 15th * Calamigos Ranch, Malibu * 10 a.m.

**Tickets
on sale
now**



**See your Lot Steward
or visit the Local**

Call Steward INFORMATION

Any Local 728 member representing the producer in filling calls or needing assistance, please contact this local during business hours. The local office operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you need to hire prior to 8 a.m., after 6 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.

**CHECK
THIS
OUT!**



**General
Membership
Meeting
Saturday,
Sept. 23, 2006
9:00 a.m.**

**at
IATSE Local 44
12021 Riverside Drive
North Hollywood**

Deceased

Brother Dana Michael Dahlquist, 41 years old, passed away August 13, 2006.

First Notice

New applicants for membership

are: Eric Anderson, Kenneth Closson, Anthony J. Denham, Carlos Fregoso, Craig Gleason, Chris Linares, David McGrory, David J. Myrick, Coby R. Nissen, Chris Quezada, Bradley D. Reed, Adam Richards, Daniel Roman, Stephen K. Tachera, Stephan Taylor, Michael Witczak, and Neil A. Wittman.

Second Notice

New applicants for membership

are: Michael P. Brady, Charles Dalrymple, Clayton De Perna, Damon Dulas, Fernando Espiritusanto, Paul Goldhammer, Matt Kovanda and Robert Novelli.

New Members

The following members were sworn into Local 728 on July 20, 2006: Richard Botchlet and William O. Foye. **The following member was sworn into Local 728 on August 4, 2006:** Peter Radice.

Delinquent List Third Quarter 2006*

AHRENS, ROBERT
ALDERSON, RANDY
ANDERSON, DONALD R.
ANDERSON, RONALD
BISHOP, SOFIA
BITHELL, WALTER
BOYD, J. CORTLAND
CARLSON, BILL
CARNEY, JOHN
CASTANEDA, STEVE D.
COHEN, MARC
COOK, DAVID AVERY
DAHLQUIST, JAY
DALEY, PAUL
DAVIS, KEITH M.
DE LA ROSA, JEFFREY
EDNIE, DOUG

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A Man of Many Talents

Vincent Contarino is an inventor, business owner, rigging gaffer and DP who somehow finds the time to get a little surfing in

Member Vincent Contarino took the old adage, "Necessity is the mother of invention" to heart. Over 20 years ago and new to the business, the resourceful lighting professional began inventing and manufacturing his own equipment.

"I'm always trying to make things simpler. That's why I started inventing products. I wanted to make it easier or lighter to carry around."

Contarino became a member in 1981. A year later he opened up A & V Rental in North Hollywood. Ingenuity and creativity kicked in and he was soon producing and renting wireless cue lights and a lightweight deuce board for the movie industry.

Keno flows had just started showing up on the sets when he was working on the movie *Rising Sun*. Seeing the hot new product got Contarino's creative juices flowing and he designed a dimmerable fluorescent lighting fixture that worked on AC or DC. He was soon dubbed the Mo-Flo Man and A & V Rental was thriving. His new design was used to light blue and green screens for such features as *Flubber*, *Casper*, and *The Flintstones*.

"On *Apollo 13* we had to manufacture enough lights to cover a 120 x 60 foot screen," he fondly recalls. "We had four or five people at a time on harnesses wiring the stuff up."

As word spread of his talents, he also recalls getting up at three or four o'clock in the morning to pull orders or work on a design before heading to work. "People came to me for special requests. I made a bunch of little



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“What I’ve always liked about this business is the new technology and staying ahead of it. It’s changed immensely.”

Contarino and asked him if he had ever run an Arc. “I went out and ran the arc. I was on that job for two weeks,” he recounted. “It was a cash-paying job and I saw it as a lucrative business.”

Stark and gaffer Tim Evans helped him get in the business, but it was a challenge. “It was brutal back then. I was trying to get my days in. I was stuck at a Group 3 for awhile,” he points out. But his perseverance prevailed. Contarino’s first gaffing job was on *Moonlighting* followed by second-unit gaffer on *Garfield II* and now a wide variety of television, game shows, movies and sitcoms fill his resume.

Moreover, not only has he been an inventor, business owner and rigging gaffer, but Contarino is also a DP and a member of Local 600. Because of his photography work on *Fear Factor*, he was recently highlighted in an industry trade publication article on reality television.

The father of three daughters – who tries to squeeze in time for a little boating, camping and surfing – is currently the rigging gaffer at 20th Century Fox for the NBC/Universal production *House*.

“What I’ve always liked about this business is the new technology and staying ahead of it. It’s changed immensely. We’ve gone from soda fountain DC dimmers to AC, and now controlling them with laptop computers. We’ve gone from Arcs to now running HMI’s,” he noted.

Contarino says he learned real early how to manage his time and his business thanks to laptop computers, faxes and emails. Hopefully, the ease of communicating may just give him more time to devise new and improved lighting equipment.

things along the way because they knew I was doing all the wireless stuff.”

A Massachusetts native, Contarino began visiting his California-based father and at age 16 made the move permanent. A passion for still photography led him to photojournalism studies at Valley College and the Artography Institute in North Hollywood.

While he was photographing such things as a bowling league, industry veteran Gary Stark approached



Delinquent List Third Quarter 2006*

Continued from previous page

ENRIQUEZ, ERNEST R.
FEINBERG, ADAM R.
FELLAND, ERIC J.
FITHIAN, JOE
FITZPATRICK, EUGENE
FRANCO, MICHAEL A.
FREDRICKSON, GARY M.
FREEMAN, PETER
GALLART, MICHAEL
GIVENS, STEVEN L.
GLICK, ADAM SETH
HINKLE, BRADLEY
HOLDSWORTH, JUSTIN MICHAEL
HOLT, KENNETH J.
ISWARIENKO, KURT A.
JOHNSON, KURT H.
KAISER, DAVID
LINDSAY, DAVID T.
MAGARACI, TIMOTHY
MASSARO, JOHN J.
MC DOUGALL, MIKE D.
MC EWEN, JAMES MARK
MC MAHAN, JUSTIN G.
MILLER, TED C.
MORAN, JOSEPH
MORTON, TIMOTHY LEE
NIETERT, DAYTON E.
OREFICE, JARED KEITH
ORSA, JEFFREY E.
PARRA, ROLAND
PEIRCE, JOHN JEFFERY
PETERSON, DENNIS L.
RAMOS, ROBERT J.
REGAN, ROBERT A.
REILLY, TIMOTHY JAMES
SELF, WILLIAM
SMITH, ERIC D.
STEWART, JOHN JEFFERY
THOMAS, JON B.
TILLMAN, JAMES W.
TURPIN, JAMES A.
TYRELL, KEITH
WEAVER, MICHAEL N.
WEIL, JENNIFER
WOODS, ARTHUR RANDALL
ZUCKER, JEFFREY A.
ZUMPARO, JOHN E.
ZWIRNER, CHRISTOPHER A.

SUSPENDED

ALONSO, GARY
BARGINEAR, ERIC
BERARDI, PHILIP N.
CASLIN, FRANK C.

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COCHRAN, ERIC H.
CRISP, LOWELL E.
DE BLAU, JOHN W.
EUBANKS, JERRY
HANNAS, RONNIE MARKWOOD
HOLMES, TREV M.
HOOD, ALBERT A.
KATZ, DUANE
KINNISON, TY J.
MC HUGH, DENNIS
SIMS, SHARON
VALENTI, JORDAN
WATSON, JACQUELINE J. JONES

Dropped

BARRERA, REYNALDO
CICCONE, HENRY
COX, THOMAS P.
SINGER, RANDY GUY
TAKAMURA, SATOSHI

Retiree 728

ABBOTT, MARK

**List current as of August 24, 2006*

OUR SINCERE APOLOGY

In last month's issue of The Bulletin we featured an article on veteran members who had received either their 50-year or 45-year union pin. Several members were left off of the list, and we deeply regret the omission. Congratulations to the following members who also achieved this most impressive standing:

50-Year Pin Recipient

Patrick J. Fennell

45-year Pin Recipients

Warren Bateman
Lawrence Gilhooly
Eugene Glick
Robert C. Horton
George N. Rumanes
James C. Wehr

If You Accept a Call, Show Up!

By R. Bruce Prochal, Treasurer/Call Steward

Greetings to everybody! The town is very busy as of this writing. The "books" have been hovering at about sixty (60) members. If you think you are "on the books," please do not hesitate to call and remind me that you are looking for work. A lot of you get "on the books," and when I call you, you do not return my calls.

Now to this month's theme, "If You Accept a Call, Show Up! Let's dive in.

There has been a rash of members who accept calls from the Local and directly from Best Boys, who do not appear for the call. To add to the insult and injury, some of these no-show members are calling other members to replace themselves. I do not care what you did in the non-union world, but you are now a Union member and you have sworn to abide by the rules.

I have received several calls from Best Boys and Rigging Gaffers after hours and the next day asking me why the guy who appeared for a call is not the member who accepted the call. In every case, I have told – and will continue to tell – Best Boys and Rigging Gaffers that at their discretion they may refuse to hire the replacement member who appears for the call and to phone the Local immediately (and this includes calling me after hours).

Let me explain the reason for this policy. Our Constitution & By-laws specifically mandates that the Local is to refer work and that you, the member who accepted the call, appear for work. There are fines of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) each for replacing yourself and for not appearing for a call. If you are making a habit of this behavior, charges for "conduct unbecoming a member" may be filed against you and, if found guilty, the fines could be greater than already described.

If you accept a call from this Local Union, or any Best Boy for that matter, the responsibility is on you to report for work, not somebody else. If you absolutely cannot make the call, for whatever reason, please have someone inform the person who gave you the call and contact the Local. Contacting the Local is very important in order to protect yourself from certain types of repercussions.

We are at the height of the work season and every call is valuable to someone. Do not waste them. Read your Constitution and By-laws.

Until next time...RBP!

"... If you accept a call from this Local Union, or any Best Boy for that matter, the responsibility is on you to report for work, not somebody else ..."

Computer Technology

By Alan M. Rowe, Master Instructor

We all know how computerized lighting consoles can save us time and make ourselves more efficient. These advanced consoles are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to how computers and software can better all of our lives on set. Recently, we started classes in *Vectorworks* (computerized drafting software) whose "Spotlight" program is specifically designed for the entertainment lighting industry. These classes are very popular and the drawings generated by programs like *Vectorworks* benefit the entire Set Lighting Department.

Riggers can use these drawings to plot, plan, layout, and install rigs including cable runs, weight loads, waterfall locations, dimmer room layouts, phase balancing, and power source information. Associated paperwork like equipment lists, expendable orders, dimmer schedules, and even some personnel requirements can be generated from the lighting plots. CLTs and 1st Unit crews use drawings known as maps or "magic sheets" that allow them to quickly reference control channels on lights, additional dimmer channels and power distribution locations. For archival purposes, these drawings can accurately record the placement, elevation, color, and output of each light and associated exposure for each set-up on set. This effectively eliminates guesswork during re-shoots.

Useful software for our craft goes much further than the just drawings. ACLTs can save time and aggravation by handling the daily tasks of time cards, crew lists, inventories and petty cash budgets through the use of spreadsheets & databases like Excel and Filemaker Pro. The use of word processors will create a "paper trail" and put an end to all of the forgotten verbal agreements with Production that come back at the end of the show to haunt us.

This technology is here and easily accessible to every Gaffer, Best Boy, and Operator in the Local. However, some of these programs have a steep learning curve and many of us have learned them incorrectly through trial and error. Our *Plotting/Visualization/Archive* class is a forum that specifically addresses how software can be used by the motion picture lighting technician and is an important first step towards getting more computer-related classes funded by Contract Services. If you are interested in more training opportunities for software like *Vectorworks*, *Excel*, *Word*, *Acrobat*, and *Filemaker Pro*, please sign up for the *Plotting/Visualization/Archive* class.

LDL

LDI is the major Trade Show event in the Entertainment Lighting industry and is where new technology is unveiled to the lighting community. Both vendors and end users from Broadway through studio mechanics attend LDI to see the new equipment and interact with the manufacturers. This year Local 728, being the only labor organization in the world solely dedicated to the art of Set Lighting, is hosting a booth on the Trade Show floor. LDI will be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center October 20 – 22. We are looking for volunteers to represent the Local on the Trade Show floor. If you are interested in representing the Local please request or download the application form from the website and submit it to the Local with a resume and brief statement of why you would like to represent us. ***Applications must be received by the Local before the end of business September 15.***

LAS VEGAS * OCTOBER 20 - 22

ETCP Entertainment Electrician Exam in LA

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) has expanded the opportunities to become an ETCP Certified Entertainment Electrician by offering an examination in Burbank this November 11. This administration of the exam is in addition to the one offered at LDI in October. Please contact Katie Geraghty, ETCP Certification Director, or visit the ETCP website (<http://etcp.esta.org>) if you would like for further information. The deadline to apply with ETCP for the November 11 exam will be October 1.

Candidates who are registered for the LDI exam and wish to change locations, must contact the ETCP Office. Local 728 will reimburse exam fees (up to \$500) to any member who registers with the Local and passes the exam.

For more information on the ETCP Entertainment Electrician Certification, please visit the ETCP website at:

<http://etcp.esta.org/candidateinfo/electricalexam.html> or contact the ETCP Office at 212-244-1505 or kgeraghty@esta.org.

The Local's Skills Training Classes are an excellent way to prepare yourself for the exam. Most of our classes cover areas that are listed as topics on the exam's Body Of Knowledge. Recommended classes to prepare for the exam are: *Rigging I & II*, *Power I & II*, *DMX Networking/Dimming Technology*, *Equipment Specialist*, *HID Lighting*, and *Plotting/Visualization/Archive*. The Local will be providing other resources for members who wish to become certified. Please contact the Training Office for more details.

ELECTION NOTICE

Upcoming Election of Officers

Please be aware that there will be
**Nominations for
Election of Officers**
at the
September Membership Meeting

Saturday, September 23, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

IATSE Local 44 Office Building, 1201
Riverside Drive, North Hollywood

FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

1 President

1 Vice President (to fill remaining term)

4 Executive Board Members

Election Guidelines

Section 4 – WRITE-INS No write-ins shall be allowed.

Section 5 – NOMINATIONS FOR ONE OFFICE ONLY

No member shall be permitted to accept a nomination for more than one (1) office, this not to include nominations for election of delegates to conventions or Central Labor Council.

Section 6 – NOMINATIONS AND REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

a). In order to assure the most democratic nominations possible, all nominations will take place on the floor at the Membership meeting regardless of odd or even year, and that notice of such nominations to take place shall be put in Local 728 monthly newsletter "THE BULLETIN" prior to the meeting.

B). Any Member working in our jurisdiction, on the day of nomination, may send the Local a written request to place his name in nomination for any office; said request to be placed in nomination by the presiding officer of the meeting.

Section 7 – ELIGIBILITY

A person must have been a member of Local 728 for a period of two (2) years before he can become a candidate for any office, and further must be in good standing at the time of nomination. A member in good standing shall be any person who is

not in arrears and who neither has voluntarily withdrawn from membership nor become inactive from membership nor has been expelled or suspended from membership.

Additional Bylaws include:

Section 3 – RETIRED MEMBERS

I.A. Retired Members shall not hold elective office in Local 728.

Section 4 – FAILURE TO ATTEND

Non-salaried Officers who fail to attend three (3) meetings, both Executive Board and Membership within a twelve (12) month period without a satisfactory excuse, in writing, shall be recognized as vacating such office. This Section is not in conflict with Article 17, Section 16 of the Constitution.

ARTICLE 8 – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Section 1 – LENGTH OF TERMS OF OFFICE

President, Vice President, Business Representative-Secretary, Treasurer-Call Steward, Delegates to the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O. Convention, Delegates to the Central Labor Council of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO shall be elected as hereinafter provided, and shall hold their office for a period of three (3) years or until their successor has been installed, as thereinafter provided.

Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians



Local 728, I.A.T.S.E.
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