



Bulletin



Volume 15, No. 8

We Light Up Your Life!

Lighting those 'Global Gals' of



Desperate Housewives

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**Local 728
Officers and
Executive Board**

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Vice President

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**The Bulletin
Editor**

Patric J. Abaravich

*Prop 75 will severely hinder labor in its efforts to help elect
pro-labor candidates who care about working families*

Defeat Proposition 75!

**By Norman Glasser
Business Representative - Secretary**

A couple of months back I wrote about the special election being planned for November by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to implement his fiscal reform agenda. This month I would like to emphasize an important issue on the ballot for the upcoming election, Proposition 75, *Public Employee Union Dues, Restrictions on Political Contributions, Employee Consent Requirement, Initiative Statute*. Sounds like labor is in trouble again!

This legislation would prohibit public employee unions from using union dues for political contributions without individual employees' prior consent. This will severely hinder labor in its efforts to help elect pro-labor candidates who care about working families, living wages and health care for all workers. Also, this initiative would limit the amount of money labor may donate to ballot initiatives that it decides are in its interest. Although the governor has not officially taken a position on the initiative, the Small Business Action Committee, a Schwarzenegger aligned group that is funded by large corporations and wealthy businessmen gave proponents of Prop. 75, \$555,000 (Los Angeles Times August 14, 2005) for the campaign.

I cannot emphasize how important it is to defeat Proposition 75. This is a huge issue. I was to attend a conference in August in Oakland put on by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, about how best to deal with the upcoming special election and the ballot measures like Prop. 75. Unfortunately the conference had to be canceled, but will be rescheduled soon. This is only the beginning. If this initiative is put into law, labor's clout in the capital will be sorely diminished. The governor has attacked teachers and nurses in the past about pay and benefits especially hard, and ever since his campaign for governor began, he has always been critical of unions, vowing not to take contributions from them. Also, to prepare for the election, the governor is on a fund raising trip trying to fill his war chest to help pass three initiatives he does endorse, including making it harder for teachers (union members) to obtain tenure and giving himself more power over the state budget.

According to the California Labor Federation, corporations already outspend unions by 15-1! Prop 75 will only make this advantage worse. Organized labor is also fighting back by collecting signatures for its own initiative that would require corporations to get the approval of shareholders before spending money on political campaigns. If you would like to get involved please contact the Local office and we will put you on a list of volunteers. The I.A. as well as the County Labor Federation will be looking for people to help run phone banks, walk precincts and get out the word about the upcoming election and propositions. I implore you to read about the issues and become aware of what is at stake for you as a union member as well as your family.

ON THE COVER

Beautiful and friendly Nicolette Sheridan, one of the stars of "Desperate Housewives," was eager to join Local 728 members during our photo shoot on the set. Pictured (from left to right) are: Back Row: Rigging Gaffer Robert "Bob" A. Wood, Jr.; Middle Row: Greg Jarrett, Jerry Pondella, CLT Lon Thompson, Jack Galper and Phillip Sloane; Front Row: Jim Petretti, Sheridan, ACLT Jim Greene and Heather Newsom.

Last month's Bulletin was a hit, and a call for help from members with computer savvy skills

Pod Casting Meetings

**By Patric J. Abaravich,
President/Editor**

First of all, I want to thank all of you for the great response we received from last month's issue. I'd especially like to thank the retirees – particularly those who had disappeared but resurfaced with updated numbers and information.

Another high note, on Saturday August 13th we had a retiree luncheon. At the bash, Karen Weilacher took a video camera and got hours of the guys visiting and sharing classic, old stories – which of course, will soon start appearing in future issues.

And again I'm making a plea for all of you that have pictures – both old and new that you'd be willing to share – to please contact the Local. The photos will be given to Karen, Chairperson of the Heritage Committee, who is archiving our precious past. Photos can be forwarded to us a number of ways – originals, email, or copies on CD. We're not picky but we'd like the highest resolution possible. (Originals will be returned.)

Thirdly, a call for help: In the past we've tried to research web casting. The high costs of web casting vs. the amount of members who actually wanted to watch a missed meeting made this endeavor too expensive. The next best thing I can do to get you to meetings is send a bus to your house. Until, Pod Casting ... the next generation of radio. Today, thousands of radio shows are rebroadcast in this downloadable format.

We'd like to apply the same technology and have both our Executive Board and General Membership meetings accessible to download on your computer or MP3/IPods to listen to at your own convenience. Though this idea is not new, trying to figure it out in-house is still in its infancy. My call for help is: Does anyone have the technical knowledge of the recording requirements needed to begin making our meetings accessible on our web site? If so, I would love to tap into that knowledge base.

We are trying to improve the way we do business with the membership and get the membership more involved by bringing the meetings to you. What do you think? Have any thoughts? Let me hear from you. These are our meetings, and not for the chosen few who attend every month.

And lastly, now that your shows are starting up again and you have photos and a story about your crew, let's share them with the rest of the membership. Simply contact me at the Local. Let's arrange for your crew to be highlighted in an upcoming Bulletin issue.

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 818-207-3094.

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.

Don't Get Left Behind!

**Exciting things
are happening at
your union!
Don't miss the
next regular
General
Membership
Meeting**

**Saturday,
Sept. 17, 2005**

9:00 a.m.

at

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

*Be sure to bring
your union card!*

UPCOMING ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

1 - Business Representative

4 - Executive Board Members

5 - CLC Delegates

20 - IA & Convention Delegates

* 1 - Vice President (Special Two-Year Term) *

on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Local 44, 12021 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, CA

UNIONBusiness

Deceased

Brother John C. Kirk, 70 years old, passed away July 24, 2005.

Brother Henry C. Radyx, 78 years old, passed away April 5, 2005.

First Notice

New applicants for membership are: David P. Carreira, Jesse Crusing, Robert V. Haggard, Jeff A. Heck, Joseph M. Lyons, Bryan Marks, Cass H. Rasmussen, Simon Thirlaway and Jason Truitt.

Second Notice

New applicants for membership are: John Amorelli, William C. Barnett, Jeffrey Chin, Lynn K. Costa, Noah Dille, Michael Francisco, Michael Garcia, Gustavo Graciano, Tyson Helsley, Dan C. Kanes, Greg Nadal, Adam J. Nevarez, Michael J. Piekutowski, Nick Pomerleau, Richard A. Schulte, Michael Sumser and James Troost.

New Members

The following members were sworn into Local 728 on July 30, 2005: Mitch G. Byerly, David Chung, Bernard Cistrunk, Trish R. Herremans, Daniel Lewis, John A. Locke, Steve Martinez, Cameron Michael, Walton D. Rowell, Charles Sears, Shawn Shemanski and Charles Sparks.

The following member was sworn into Local 728 on Aug. 1, 2005: Joshua Stern.

The following members were sworn into Local 728 on Aug. 5, 2005: Gary Breckel, Chris Greene and Todd Anthony Wimett.

The following member was sworn into Local 728 on Aug. 8, 2005: Patrick Brennan.

The following member was sworn into Local 728 on Aug. 12, 2005: Norbert F. Quiban.

Anything But Working with these

In one short season, ABC's well-written, quirky dark comedy *Desperate Housewives* has become so popular it's risen to mega-hot, global proportions. Some reports say it's clearly the No. 1 show in the world – seen in 160 countries and counting. Undeniably, DH is all the rage in the U.S.; but in some countries the show is even more impressive boasting a 50-60 percent audience share.



It's a wonderful life on Wisteria Lane: The Local 728 Lighting crew on "Desperate Housewives" includes (from left to right) Back Row: Greg Jarrett, Jack Galper, Jim Petretti and Jerry Pondella; Front Row: Heather Newsom, CLT Lon Thompson, Rigging Gaffer Robert "Bob" A. Wood, Jr. and ACLT Jim Greene. (Not pictured: Jamal Farley.)

Naturally, Local 728 members working on the one-hour drama feel fortunate to be a part of the much-talked about show, however there's much more to it: "I feel really blessed to be on the show. Not because it's gotten so big – that just means it could have longevity," CLT Lon Thompson explains.

"The reason I'm the happiest is because the people on top all care about people. That's why I took the job originally. George Perkins, the producer, thinks about people before numbers, and that goes all the way down. Everyone feels it."

ACLT Jim Greene agrees. "We have a really nice group – transportation, grip, electric, and all the crafts and cast. I've been on a number of shows and never seen so much camaraderie and closeness of the craftsmen and cast."

The large ensemble cast counts on the expert lighting of Thompson, Greene, and a dynamic crew of professionals including Universal Best Boy Phil Sloane and lighting technicians Jerry Pondella, Heather Newsom, Jamal Farley, Greg Jarrett, Jack Galper and Jim Petretti.

"I think I have the best crew in town. They're very attentive and are always thinking on their feet. We have fun together, but we get the job done," Thompson

Continued on the Next Page

Desperate Housewives

DH's hard working riggers include (from left to right) Back Row: Mel Ramsey, Jimmy "C" Cornick, Gaffer Robert "Bob" A. Wood, Jr., and Mike "Hollywood Hen" Hennessy; Front Row: Jay Houston, Ted Rapp, Mike Cerone and Ngoli Nyirenda.



noted. "These are experienced veterans that are courteous and really step up when the time comes."

Both Thompson and Greene are quick to point out that their job is made much easier because of the outstanding work by the rigging crew. "We have a very special rigging crew headed by Bob Wood and Mike Hennessey. They make the difference for us. They make it so we work the 60-hour weeks. If not, we'd be working the 90-hour killer weeks. They're wonderful," Greene summed up.

By early August when we caught up with the crew, they were already filming episode 4 and maintaining the very doable 60-hour weeks with no weekend work. Thompson also gives his crew the option of working only four days a week, but most maintain a five-day work week.

Riddled with script changes – which the crew doesn't mind because it enhances the show – and often slowed by down time waiting for the actors to do publicity, the show surprisingly stays on its 8-day per episode schedule. Filmed at Universal Studios, roughly two days are spent on location and six days in – whether on the now infamous Wisteria Lane or any one of four stages that all contain permanent sets.

Furthermore, Thompson stays within his \$75,000 per episode budget. "We're making it work. Again, I have a good relationship with the people on top. They know I wouldn't ask for it if I didn't need it. And if I ask for something, I usually get it."

The crew also uses a lot of control grids, cutting down on grip work, and is actually operating with less equipment. "We've honed it down to a smaller amount of equipment from the previous year and we've added some really amazing specialty equipment like beam projectors for daylight and incandescent. It's very realistic," Green explained. "We didn't have these things last year. In fact, we turned in one-third of our equipment."

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*Delinquent List Third Quarter 2005**

AHRENS, ROBERT
AMINI, CYRUS
ANDERSON, RONALD
ANSON, TIMOTHY L.
BAIN, DAMON
BERARDI, PHILIP N.
BISHOP, SOFIA
BLUMBERG, MORRIS A.
BONEWITZ, MICHAEL
BRISCO III, SIDNEY
BUTTERS, JEFF A.
CANTRELL, MATTHEW O.
CASLIN, FRANK C.
CHARLES, CHRISTOPHER R.
CICCONI, HENRY
CLAYTON, JOSEPH DELPHINE
CORTINA, HUGO P.
CYBULSKI, JOHN
DALY, JUSTIN
DE BLAU, JOHN W.
DEALBA-YOUNT, AUGUST
DUBOIS, DAVID W.
ERICHSEN, ERIK A.
ESQUILIN, WILLIAM
FANNING, PAUL J.
FINO, CRUZ S.
FISCHER, SAMUEL M.
FITZGERALD, JEFFREY D.
FREDRICKSON, GARY M.
HALL, ANTHONY A.
HARRISON, RICHARD R.
HARTMAN, MARK
HERNANDEZ, RICHARD H.
HOLT, KENNETH J.
HOOD, ALBERT A.
HUBER, DUSTIN A.
HUME, ROB
JACKSON, RENALDO
JOHNSTONE, STEVE
JORDAN, MICHAEL R.
KALLEN, JASON A.
KENT, HAKIM
KIMURA, JAMES
KINNISON, TY J.
KORBEL, BLAIR
LUKASIK, DAVE
MAGARACI, TIMOTHY
MANNING, WRIGHT K.
MC DUFFEE, MICHAEL W.
MC LACHLAN, WILLIAM
MOORE, WARREN G.
MORRISON, JON D.
NAKAHARA, MARK
NEVILLE, ROBERT S.
O'MELIA, MICHAEL K.
OREFICE, JARED KEITH
PALMER, MICHAEL
PARKS, DINO
PENTEK, JEFFREY D.
POTTER, DAVID K.

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*Delinquent List Third Quarter 2005**

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PULFORD, DARRIN M.
ROWAN, JOE M.
SANDERS, RALPH A.
SELF, WILLIAM
SIMS, SHARON
STERN, THOMAS EVANS
STROMP, MICHAEL G.
TANDROW, GARY BRADY
TILLMAN, JAMES W.
TIMMER, BRAD D
TODD, JOHN DOUGLAS
TOWNSEND, FREDRICK A.
VALENTI, JORDAN
WILKING, STEFAN
WILLIAMS, KEITH
WILLIS III, JOHN
WOOLLEY, JASON R.
WRENN, VINCENT
WYCOFF, ERIC

Suspended

BREEDLOVE, SHAUN
DAMBRA, CHRIS J.
GALLART, MICHAEL
HINKLE, BRADLEY
JOHNSON, VAN
KANESHIRO, ALAN
MC HUGH, DENNIS
OLIVER, MARK R.
REGAN, ROBERT A.
SAUCIER, PHELT MICHAEL
STEWART, JOHN JEFFERY
SVOBODA, MARTIN P.
TAKAMURA, SATOSHI
WEISS, ROBERT RYAN
WHITESIDE, MATTHEW T.
ZAMOSCIANYK, CHRIS

Dropped

AASLAND, JOSEPH D.
BARNETT, BILLY H.
CRONN, ROBERT
CROSS, WILLIAM
DAHLQUIST, MICHAEL D.
DE PERNA, ROBERT J.
DELGADO, DAVID
DOUGHERTY, JOSEPH E.
FERRAT, RICHARDO F.
FORTUNE, JAY
GUSMAN, ANTHONY D.
LAYNE, JOHN L.
LOGAN, GUY

Retiree

DUNN, REGIS J.

**List Current as of Aug. 19, 2005*

**Visit Your Web Site:
www.iatse728.org**

Retiring from the Local: The Choice is Yours

By R. Bruce Prochal, Treasurer/Call Steward

Greetings everybody! My time off was very refreshing. July and August are traditionally two of the busiest months and this year was no exception. Once again, almost everyone who wants to work is working.

Last time, the topic here was roster removal, both before and/or after retirement. This time, let's explore your relationship with the Local when you decide to retire and collect your pension.

First of all, let me make this perfectly clear: When you apply to the Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plan (MPIPHP) to retire and collect your pension benefits, there is generally no communication sent to Local 728. Your retirement is strictly between you and the MPIPHP. This includes early, disability and normal, if there is such a thing, retirements. To put it bluntly, they do not tell the Local that you have retired. How your retirement affects your relationship with Local 728 is entirely your responsibility.

When you retire there are three basic options available to you at the Local level. These options do not have any effect on the pension plan of your choice with MPIPHP unless you decide to work occasionally. Contact the Plan for more information.

Here are the options:

- 1) You may elect to remain an active member by paying full dues (currently \$160 per quarter) and have the option to work occasionally. This entitles your beneficiaries to the full death benefit (currently \$20,000) through the Local and all regular membership privileges. Many of our retirees choose this option.
- 2) You may elect to become a Local 728 Retiree. This would entitle your beneficiaries to the reduced death benefit (currently \$10,000) through the Local, a reduced dues rate (currently \$91 per year) and all regular membership privileges. (If you want to work in one quarter, all that would be necessary would be to pay the balance of the current quarter dues.)
- 3) You may elect to completely sever your ties by resigning from Local 728 and the International Alliance (a mistake in my opinion). With this option, there is no turning back and none of the benefits of Local 728 will be available to you or your beneficiaries.

Unfortunately, some of our members retire, start to collect their pensions, and some months later, find out they have been dropped from membership for lack of dues payments. This is not the fault of the Local. When you retire, it is your responsibility to inform the Local of your intentions.

If you opt for option (1), just continue to pay your dues on time. If you want to tell the Local that you have retired, please do so.

If you opt for options (2) or (3), your dues must be current and your change in status will become effective in the next quarter. If you have been dropped, all back per capita and the past dues will have to be paid plus the current quarter, if the International Alliance allows it.

Please call the Local to tell us your intentions so that the proper forms can be supplied to you.

As we have been saying for years, the responsibility is yours to keep your Local informed as to your situation.

Until next time, RBP.

Local must fill classes now to demonstrate demand for more training

Your Participation is Crucial

By Alan M. Rowe, Master Instructor

The fall season is under way and we are back in full swing. Our classes started on August 20th with an Advanced Dimmer/Lighting Console Programming class at ETC West. There is still space in many of our classes coming up and I encourage everyone to participate in our program.

Our program is provided solely for our benefit and is not part of the required Safety Pass Program. Next year, I hope to offer more classes and seminars on Power, Rigging, Equipment Maintenance/Running Repair, Dimming and Console Technology, Followspot Operation, Computer Aided Drawing, and working underwater but we need your participation now to make that happen.

We must demonstrate that we have a demand for new classes by filling the ones that are being offered now. Please fill out your applications and send them to Contract Services. If you need more applications, they are available on the website at www.iatse728.org or you can reach me at the local office.

It is very important that you keep your information updated with Contract Services and the Local. Your I-9 must be updated with Contract Services before they will accept your application for our Skills Training Classes. Many of our members' applications for our classes have been denied based on expired I-9s. The information on how to update the I-9 is on their website www.csatf.org.

Desperate Housewives

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ACLT Jim Greene is enjoying his first season on "Desperate Housewives."

Thompson, a member since 1990, was quick – but non-judgmental – to identify the crew's biggest challenge: "Lighting women over 40 who need special attention. I don't mean that in a bad way, but I have to make sure they look good. I did the pilot and have been watching them for a long time. I know the problems they have, minus Eva [Longoria], and we have some things we really need to watch. It's my job to be attentive to their special needs," he carefully explained.

"Because of this we can't use hard lights. They have to be soft lights. It wraps and fills in the things that age does," he added.

"Lighting the girls requires Lon to be more of an artist than the average person," Greene emphasized. "They are so fabulous looking, but because he's so talented the actresses look wonderful."

The actresses are also generous. Delighted with their initial year and

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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT DMX Mergers

With Lighting Consoles becoming so complex with multiple universes and monitor feeds it can be difficult to quickly move the console to a better vantage point. Sometimes cues are too subtle to be executed from a monitor and the Console needs to be next to the camera for the best effect. Remotes are often too simple and can't handle quick programming changes. The solution is to use a second, smaller console (preferably one without a fan) with a DMX Merger. The DMX Merger allows two or more consoles to control a single universe of DMX simultaneously. The protocol is HTP so the Programmer at the main console would be wise to Park the channels used by the second console. Mergers can also allow multiple units to be shooting independently on the same stage or allow the Rigging Crew to use their own console when 1st Unit is not shooting. Mergers are manufactured by several companies and available for rent or purchase through most theatrical lighting shops.

FOR SALE

6K HMI Par with magnetic ballast. (DN Labs.com) uses inexpensive double-ended 6K globe, big reflector, impressive output (dwarfs LTM's) includes diffuser lens, power feeder, one head feeder. For more information, call Michael at (310) 396-9387. Email: Katzfilm@adelphia.net

How to reach
YOUR LOCAL
(818) 891-0728
(800) 551-2158
Fax (818) 891-5288

Desperate Housewives

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wanting to show their appreciation to a hard working crew, the five leading ladies hosted the show's first season wrap party. The celebration also underscored the strong bond behind the camera.



*CLT Lon Thompson
on the set of "Desperate Housewives."*

"Sure we feel lucky to be on the show, but we all just enjoy each other so much. If we can be on for another year and have this much fun with each other, then it was a great run," Greene noted. "We're really overjoyed. It's great to share this experience working with friends."

Thompson summed it up: "It's really just a pleasure to go to work."



Kids will be Kids

Nine-year-old Drew Huber, the son of Lighting Technician Josh Huber and grandson of retired member Dusty Huber, took some time off the go-cart track to be ... well, just a kid. Drew, a straight A student, has been racing go carts in the West Coast series for several years and is currently ranked among the top five racers in Nevada and California in the 8-12 age group. "I really have the best kid in the world," his proud dad noted.



Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians



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