



Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians Local 728

# Bulletin



Volume 16, No. 3

*We Light Up Your Life!*



## On the set of *Will & Grace*

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**Local 728  
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Executive Board**

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Greg Argarin

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Pascal M. Guillemard..... Fox

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John Trujillo ..... Universal

Gary M. Andersen.... Warner Bros.

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Paul Caven

Mike Everett

Iain O'Higgins

**The Bulletin  
Editor**

Patric J. Abaravich

# The Web Site, Motions and Fire Marshals ... read on

**By Patric J. Abaravich,  
Business Representative**

Our web site is now in the capable hands of Brother David Watson. This is our first generation 'changing-of-hands.' I'm sure that there will be some growing pains but members can expect to see some exciting new content on the web site.

Brother Paul Caven was this Local's first web master, and he has done an outstanding job in this volunteer position. Paul will certainly be missed and we wish him all the best in his retirement. And while David has some big shoes to fill, he's more than ready for the challenge, highly capable and excited to bring a fresh spin to the site.

This is the perfect opportunity for members to visit the site and let us know what additions or changes you'd like to see. And as I always ask, production pictures are more than welcome.

At the recent March General Membership Meeting, the following motion was passed: ***Before any resolution is submitted to either Convention (International or District 2) it will be read at (1) Executive Board meeting, (1) General Membership meeting, published in The Bulletin, and published on the Web site.***

Since this motion passed, we the delegates, and we the members, will have our work cut out for us. As an example, this year's convention will be held September 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. The last membership meeting prior to the convention will be the July 15<sup>th</sup>. There are board meetings every month until then, the web site can be updated in real time, and the last deadline (to meet printing requirements) for The Bulletin is mid-August.

Considering these parameters, I am requesting any and all ideas for resolutions from the membership at this time. I normally ask for resolutions months before any convention, but if we look at our schedule and take into consideration the new motion, we really don't have that much time. This is critical because district conventions are for political purposes. In District 2 (California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii) any resolutions specifically towards Hollywood will be rejected by the General Secretary Treasurer of District 2 if they do not meet the above criteria. So again, if you have any ideas, please submit them to the Local as soon as possible.

We have been having meetings with the state fire marshals and the LA City electrical inspectors. The purpose of these meetings is many-fold but most importantly we are working on creating mutually beneficial lines of communication. With the city electrical inspectors, we are working with the Safety and Training program to set some guidelines on certain aspects of our jobs. Specifically, the now-regular use of 480V on or around our sets.

As for the state fire marshals, over the past few years and at their request, the Local has been conducting electrical safety awareness seminars

**Coming Soon!  
to your Bulletin  
Words of Experience  
from Larry K. Freeman  
Your Local's New President**

*Continued on Page 6*



# Don't Wait for The Baton

By R. Bruce Prochal,  
Treasurer / Call Steward

Greetings. The past month has brought sadness to the Local. As chronicled elsewhere in this bulletin, our bookkeeper of many years, Ken Lewellin, has passed away. He was a good man and a knowledgeable bookkeeper. I have learned many things from him. As your treasurer, and with help from outside sources, I have kept the Local financially stable.

During this trying time, our recently appointed Vice-President, Dennis Grow, has been covering the daytime Call Steward duties under my supervision.

The state of the business is busy, if you know where the work is. It is pilot season, but it is nothing like it was last year. If you want to work, put yourself "on the books" and then call everybody you know. Just remember to take yourself "off the books" if you get your own work. The Local is the last resort when it comes to finding members to work.

This brings me to this month's theme, relay calls or, if you read your contract (What do you mean you haven't!), Stand -By Calls, page 37, paragraph 18.

You are right now saying to yourself, "What the heck is he talking about, relay calls?" Let me explain. A relay call is a call given out one or more days before the actual work day, weekends and holidays exempted. Here is an example: You accept work on a Monday and get laid-off. But, as you are leaving the job, you are asked if you would be available to work on Thursday. You then say "Yes," and are told to come back at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday. You have just been given a relay call. You and the Best Boy are in violation of the contract if you accept or give out a relay call.

From a hiring stand point, I know from experience that we all want to work with members we know to fill out our crews. I also know, at times that may not be possible. We make calls to members and "pencil them in" for a future days work and get upset when we call them back a week later and are told they found other work. The reverse also happens. A member gets "penciled in" and calls back the day before the promised call and is told there is no call. Keep in mind, if you give out or receive a specific call time, the production company IS responsible to honor it.

To you Best Boys and Rigging Gaffers out there, **DO NOT GIVE OUT RELAY CALLS**. If the Local becomes aware that a member has been denied employment because of a canceled relay call, you may be asked to appear before the Executive Board to explain your actions and may be fined, the production company may be grieved for a day's pay and you may have to explain to your producer or UPM why you should continue to be employed by them. You make the call (no pun intended!).

A related topic is members replacing themselves after accepting a call and then accepting a second call (usually better paying) without notifying the person who gave out the first call. You must call the Best Boy or the major lot who gave you the call and tell them you will not be able to make the call. You can not replace yourself, especially if you were dispatched from the Local.

Best Boys, Rigging Gaffers and the major lots all fight very hard for the manpower they require on a project. When they call the Local, it is generally because they have called everybody they know and they need help filling their calls. Do not disappoint them by not reporting for work or attempting to replace yourself. This type of behavior reflects negatively on your Local.

I've gotta go! See ya next time...RBP

## 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.



There's really no excuse to  
miss the next

**General  
Membership**

**Meeting**

**Saturday,**

**May 13, 2006**

**9:00 a.m.**

**at**

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



# UNIONBusiness

## Deceased

Kenneth R. Lewellin, 73 years old, passed away Feb. 15, 2006.

Brother Manuel Fernandez, 45 years old, passed away Feb. 19, 2006.

Brother Brian J. Hartley, 71 years old, passed away Feb. 23, 2006.

## First Notice

### New applicants for membership

**are:** Cedric Bonier, Alexander Brown, Salvatore Cocuzza, Steven Dorowsky, Christian Grosselfinger, Nick Haynes, Pedro Huerta, Karron Johnson, Christopher Kraning, Mark Manthey, Michael Parry, Warren L. Purfoy, William Reilly, Michael V. Roy, Wolfgang Steinbeck, Dale Tibor, and Kenneth Tucker.

## Second Notice

### New applicants for membership

**are:** Joseph Ayer, Scott Ballew, Nathan Blauvelt, Cortland Boyd, David Carter, Richard G. Cronn, Jr., Brandon M. Delgado, Ruben Escobar, Gene Fereaud, Augustus Gordon, Jr., Jeremy Graham, Jarrod W. Heath, Mikal S. Irwin, Jarred R. Kennedy, Kyle Kovacs, Lance Nicholls, Justin Martel, Kurtis Pomerleau, James Reynolds, Marc Ritzema, Scott Shaver, Owen G. Simmons, Alexander Szuch, Cale Tompkins and Peter Weiland.

## New Members

### The following members were sworn into Local 728 on March 11, 2006:

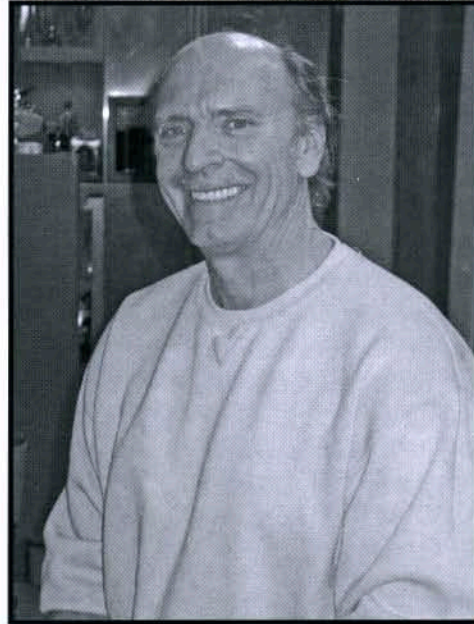
Benjamin Agee, Phillip Badger, Kerry K. Camak, Ryan Clemons, Camilo Figueroa, Jessie L. Gregson, Greg Hecq, Anthony Jefferson, Wisnick Luberice, James Mastrangelo, Ryan McCoy, Isaac McKee, Ryan Meyer, Lance Oyabu, Ari Schwartzman, Robert Shoemaker, Kenny Solomon, Edward Tucker, Joseph Vineyard, David Wilson and Jerald L. Wilson, Jr.

### The following members were sworn into Local 728 on March 13, 2006:

Stefan Lundgren and Andrew Meyers. The following members were sworn into Local 728 on March 20, 2006: Tyler Anderson, Bill Carlson and Patrick P. George.

# — Even the Best Must End — On the set of *Will & Grace*

In September of 1998, the bold breakout television comedy *Will & Grace* premiered on NBC. The premise – a homosexual man living with his straight girlfriend, flanked by a flamboyantly gay best friend and a wacky, pill-popping, boozing female sidekick – had critics ready to write the show off and censors standing by to pull the plug.



CLT John Greene

Nine seasons later, the multiple award-winning smash hit is saying goodbye to primetime television. Constantly in the top ratings, *Will & Grace* proved a winner for the network and the tens of millions of viewers who would tune in not only to see the madcap adventures of the foursome, but also its many guest stars.

No recent situation comedy has come close to the number of screen, television and music icons who have made guest appearances on *Will & Grace*. The list is long and some notables include: Elton John, Madonna, Sharon Stone, Matt Damon, Jennifer Lopez, Cher, and Janet Jackson, with Alex Baldwin,

Harry Connick, Jr., Blythe Danner and Debbie Reynolds all having recurring roles. Even Britney Spears landed a spot on one of the last episodes.

While audiences were entertained with a fresh and funny show about people who cared about each other, behind the camera was really no different; *Will & Grace* was produced by a dynamic team of passionate professionals who simply loved working on the sitcom.

“Every day working on this show you’d go in there with a big smile on your face. There was never any tension or egos,” noted CLT John Greene, a 30-year Local 728 member.

Greene has worked on *Will & Grace* since the pilot, and he has a straightforward philosophy: “It’s Zen lighting – ‘keep it simple and keep it clean’ – that’s our motto.” Greene’s Zen crew masters include

ACLT Bill Webb, Dimmer Board Operator Paul Jacobsen, and Lighting

Technicians Todd Sater, Chris Greene and Gary

## ON THE COVER

*Local 728 members on the set of “Will & Grace” (from left to right) are: Paul Jacobsen, Chris Greene, Todd Sater, Gary Schweiger, Dave Love, ACLT Bill Webb and CLT John Greene.*

*Continued on the next page*



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Schweiger.

"The fellows that work for me are very conscientious and very aware of what's going. They are really terrific, and I'm only as good as my crew," Greene said.

Although they worked like a well-oiled machine, challenges did occur. "The biggest ones were having so many guest stars, particularly when Jennifer Lopez was on. We were doing a dance episode that was also going to showcase her clothing line. She hated the stage and it had to be rebuilt overnight," he explained. "She told me she was going to wear a white dress and she wanted dance lighting so I did lavender lights. Then she came out in front of a live audience in a lavender dress. We had to change the lighting

within minutes."

And the bigger the star, the bigger their entourage - which sometimes included lighting professionals. "When Cher came on she brought her own lighting guy. We were shooting a dream sequence and we had the whole thing lit with Keno flows and spotlights following her around. Here's this guy getting paid more than me to just stand there and tell Cher that she looks good. It was pretty funny," Greene recalled.

The show also seemed to have a lot of scenes in the doorway of Will's apartment. "We had to be able to get light on the actors' faces. So I cut out a little four-by-two inch square in the door frame about eye level. I used a grid cloth and put a 100-watt pepper behind it. We call it doorway lighting," Greene chuckled.

"John Greene is the best light man in the business and the best gaffer I've ever worked for," ACLT Bill Webb pointed out. "With Jennifer Lopez we did a lot of moving lights and disco lighting. It was more like lighting a Broadway show than a sitcom. I've done some tough lighting things in the past, but this show was a lot more fun.

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***Dimmer Board Operator Paul Jacobsen***



***ACLT Bill Webb***

## ***Delinquent List First Quarter 2006\****

ABBOTT, MARK  
ALLISON, THOMAS M.  
BARRERA, REYNALDO  
BENSRHIR, SALIM B.  
BERARDI, PHILIP N.  
BOSWORTH, MARTIN J.  
CICCONE, HENRY  
CORTINA, HUGO P.  
COX, THOMAS P.  
DALEY, PAUL  
DE PERNA, ROBERT J.  
DEALBA-YOUNT, AUGUST  
FITZGERALD, JEFFREY D.  
FORTUNE, JAY  
FRANCHETT, TOM  
FRANCK, JR., PAUL A.  
FROHNA, JAMES  
GALLART, MICHAEL  
GOLDEN, JACK EDWARD  
GONZALEZ, LUIS  
GRADZHYAN, HARRY H.  
GRAHAM, BEN O.  
HALL, THADDEUS GERALD  
HATHAWAY, NATHAN G.  
HILL, BLAKE  
HINKLE, BRADLEY  
HOLT, KENNETH J.  
ISWARIENKO, KURT A.  
KALLEN, JASON A.  
KARASICK, MICHAEL I.  
KRATTIGER, WILLIAM E.  
LANGER, DARREN  
LEONETTI, JOHN THOMAS  
LEONETTI, JOSEPH D.  
MC EWEN, JAMES MARK  
MC GRATH, THOMAS  
MOODY, SCOTT  
MORTON, TIMOTHY LEE  
MYGATT, JEFFREY C.  
NAUFEL, ALEXANDRE E.  
ORSA, JEFFREY E.  
PENTEK, JEFFREY D.  
POTTER, DAVID K.  
REDDISH, PATRICK M.  
REGAN, ROBERT A.  
REYES, MANUEL R.  
ROBERTSON, CHRISTOPHER J.  
ROFFREDO, JOSEPH F.  
SELICEO, ERNEST A.  
SIMS, SHARON  
SINGER, RANDY GUY  
SMITH, ROBERT J.  
STROMP, MICHAEL G.  
TAKAMURA, SATOSHI

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## **Delinquent List First Quarter 2006\***

*Continued from Page 5*

TOSCANO, DANIEL  
TREMBATH, MARK E.  
UPDEGRAFF, WILLIAM D.  
WEIL, JENNIFER  
WILLIAMS, KEITH  
ZAMOSCIANYK, CHRIS

### **Suspended**

BREEDLOVE, SHAUN  
CHRISTMAN, PATRICK E.  
COHLMIA, CHAD M.  
DEMAS, DEAN  
FINO, CRUZ S.  
GALINDO, RENAN  
HARRIS, ELISHA  
HARRIS, WENDELL  
HOOD, ALBERT A.  
KINNISON, TY J.  
ROY, ROBERT W.  
SPRAWLS, DALE S.  
SWEEZEY, BRYAN L.  
TOBEE, AKIN  
VALENTI, JORDAN

### **Dropped**

AHRENS, ROBERT  
AMINI, CYRUS  
BAIN, DAMON  
BISHOP, SOFIA  
DALY, JUSTIN  
HUBER, DUSTIN A.  
NAKAHARA, MARK  
TOWNSEND, FREDRICK A.

*\* List current as of March 17, 2006*

## **ARRI BRINGS NAB TO HOLLYWOOD**

Local 728 members are invited to preview new ARRI equipment, including the Arrimax 18/12

**Wednesday, April 19, 2006  
7:00 p.m. Equipment Preview  
Buffet Dinner to Follow**

The Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City  
Ballroom A  
555 Universal Hollywood Dr., Universal City  
(Valet provided at Ballroom Circle Entrance)

**SEATING IS LIMITED**  
R.S.V.P. to 818-841-7070 or  
by emailing [rsvp\\_bbk@arri.com](mailto:rsvp_bbk@arri.com)

*We're responsible to make sure safety equipment is available;  
check out the new and exciting scheduled courses*

# **A Few Reminders**

**By Alan M. Rowe, Master Instructor**

**T**he employer is responsible to provide a safe and healthy work environment. However, we are responsible to conduct ourselves in a safe manner, use all necessary and available safety equipment, and to notify the employer when such equipment is needed.

We recently had an incident where one of our members tripped on the side steps of a 40-footer and went head first into another truck. The member was lucky; they suffered only minor injuries and missed just a few days of work. The main problem was that the truck steps were missing their handrails. Had the handrails been in place, the member would have maintained their balance and the accident would never have happened. Another member recently expressed a concern about working near the edge of a tall building without Fall Protection.

When scouting locations and before working in any hazardous situation, make sure all necessary safety equipment is available. Since many UPMs and Producers do not fully understand our jobs, they are often not able to anticipate or understand our needs. It is up to us to make sure that the necessary equipment is available and it is up to us to use it. If you encounter any resistance or difficulties in getting the necessary safety equipment, call the Local and we will help. No shot and no job is worth your personal safety.

There is some confusion about the weight restrictions with condors. The Safety Pass B2 Course (Aerial Lift Rigging for Set Lighting Technicians) is an OSHA required class solely administered by Contract Services and is separate from our Training Program. We have requested that Contract Services investigate and resolve the confusion that is showing up on set. Until and unless you are officially notified otherwise, refer to the materials and training that you were given when you took the class.

We have a lot of new and exciting classes coming up in all areas of our jurisdiction. We have several courses this year including: DMX/Dimming, Lighting Console Programming, Rigging (Basic, Advanced, Water-related), Visualization & Archival Techniques, Vectorworks and Underwater Lighting.

In order to sign up for these classes you must meet the following requirements: your dues must be paid before applying or taking any class; you must have completed ALL of your Safety Pass classes; and your I-9 must be up to date with Contract Services. You can check your Safety Pass and I-9 status with Contract Services at their website ([www.csatf.org](http://www.csatf.org)). Any one of these three items will keep you from being placed in a class or even on the waiting list for that class.

## **Business Representative's Report**

*Continued from Page 2*

for their officers. Viewed as the experts in the field, they have again asked Local 728 to host approximately five seminars for the motion picture/entertainment unit of the state fire marshals.

And lastly, if and when you see me on your sets, chances are nothing is wrong,

I'm just there to see the members. If on an occasion you see me walking on your stage or set, the likelihood is that everything is moving smoothly and safely. Don't jump to the conclusion that I'm only there because there is an issue.



# *In Memory*

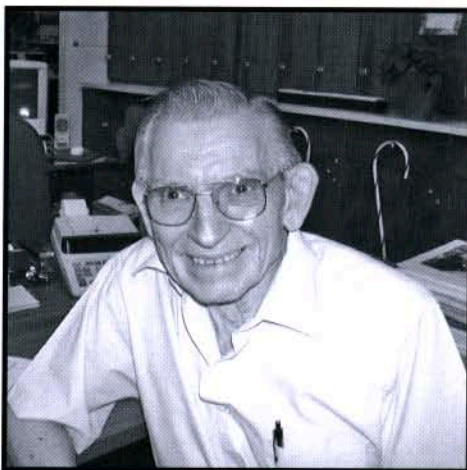
## Local 728 Staff Member Ken Lewellin

**L**ongtime Local 728 accountant and bookkeeper Ken Lewellin passed away February 15<sup>th</sup> from lung cancer.

Although Ken was not officially a member of the Local, he was a Brother who had devoted the past 13 years of his career to the union.

Born in Minnesota, Ken enlisted in the Marines and served between 1950 and 1953. "Back then, there were no specialties, you had to know everything," he told us in a January interview. While in the Armed Forces, he was in combat for an entire year fighting in Korea with the C Company First Tank Marine Division based out of the now-closed El Toro Marine Air Base.

He settled in the Los Angeles area after meeting and marrying his wife, Margaret. He found work in the aircraft industry with several different companies while he worked his way through college. He graduated from Woodbury College in Burbank with



a Major in Accounting and a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

Before he came to work for Local 728, Ken was the Vice President and Regional Operations Manager at Marina Federal Savings. (The bank has since changed hands.) He was also a former member of a variety of civic organizations including the Kiwanis and Optimists clubs.

Although the stamp aficionado and avid reader was never much into movies or television, he enjoyed his job servicing the Local. He handled all the daily bookkeeping operations including the general ledger, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, federal and state payroll taxes, and quarterly financial statements.

"I consider this an easy job in many ways compared to some of the other jobs I've had because I've been able to streamline the position," he said. "The computer has made it easier. I used to do this kind of work with pencil and paper."

He also recalled the first computer he ever worked on. "I had to be in a separate

room that was temperature and humidity controlled. It was a huge machine that took up the entire room, and I used punch cards and punch tape. Now, all the data that was once stored on thousands of cards is on a little disk."

But it was the job itself, and the members of the Local, that made the job rewarding. "I consider the people here my friends, and I love working with figures and the problems that come up that have to be resolved. It's always a challenge ... that's the joy I get out of it."

Ken is survived by his wife of 52 years, Margaret, one daughter, a son, and three grandchildren. Graveside services were held February 21<sup>st</sup> at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills.

As a tribute to the former serviceman and union Brother, Local 728 officials arranged for a military honor guard and bugle player to be at the service.





# Even the Best Must End — On the set of *Will & Grace*

*Continued from Page 5*

We worked hard, but it was never any kind of burden.”

A three-year member of the crew, Webb says their job was made easier by Director Jim Burrows. “He’s the quickest director I’ve ever worked for and he knows everything – camera, sound, and lighting.”

Dimmer Board Operator Paul Jacobsen (who learned the skill on *Will & Grace*) said the show pushed the envelope in the early years. “I worked on *Charlie’s Angels* in the seventies, and this show was like that. But we shot in front of a live audience and in the beginning there was a large turnout of gay people who were just screaming in the audience. I had to wear large, heavy duty headphones just to hear the gaffer.”

While he’s sad to see the run end, and he’ll likely follow Burrows onto new projects, Jacobsen is having difficulty saying goodbye to one particular person. “The thing I’m going to miss most is Craft Service. It’s the best I’ve had in the business in 30 years,” he said with all sincerity. “There are many great people who work on this show but I believe Sandy Flowers in Craft Service is the best. I hope she follows Burrows to the next project.”

“I feel very honored to be a part of *Will & Grace* and I’m very proud of what we’ve done. The ending is pretty bittersweet. I’m going with some great memories, I just wish I had some more years to talk about,” Webb noted.

Everyone in the business understands that a show’s ending – no matter how popular – is the nature of the beast in Hollywood. And while each will move on and find other rewarding work, the family atmosphere and the pro-crew approach from the production and cast will be missed.

“When we did the second live show, I thought, ‘Wow. I’m really going to miss this,’” Greene added.

Both the cast and producers – KoMut Entertainment, Three Sisters Entertainment and NBC Studios – are known for giving large and expensive thank you gifts to the crew. Although they have yet to announce plans for a series-ending party, there is no doubt the parting gift and the event will be memorable.

## Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians



Local 728, I.A.T.S.E.  
14629 Nordhoff Street  
Panorama City, CA 91402  
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