BULLETIN

CHARTERED MAY 15, 1939 LOCAL 728 STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS THE ONLY SET LIGHTING IATSE LOCAL IN THE WORLD

THE -

HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA Vol. 17; No. 4

2007

Think Globally, Act Locally



728 Members Hope to Generate a Greener Hollywood

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Standard Bio Diesel Founder Voya Mikulic and Chief Marketing Officer Giovani Lampassi

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Support is Simple; Buy **Union Made**

by Dennis K. Grow, President

job action against them and picket the show regularly. There is also a

"Do Patronize"

list. It is at www.unionlabel.org. Additionally, www.shopunionmade.org lists Union made products. Some companies of possible interest to you are:

> Klein Tools Red Wing Shoes Channelock Porter-Cable Ray-O-Vac Mac Tools Milwaukee Tool Snap-On Tools Stanley Tools Carhartt

The list is extensive and is categorized. Use it to help find Union made products and services.

By subscribing to the Working Families e-Activist Network newsletter at www.unionvoice.org, you will be kept informed of which companies employ unfair labor practices. You will also learn of legislation that directly affects labor.

While visiting this web site, sign the petition urging the Senate to pass the Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 1696 and S. 842). It has already passed the House of Representatives but President Bush has promised to veto it if it passes the Senate. Now that is reason enough to sign it! This measure would ensure that when a majority of employees in a workplace decide to form a union, they can do so without the debilitating obstacles employers now use to block their free choice. You will find more information on the bill at this web site.

Continued on Page 6

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

PRESIDENT DENNIS K. GROW VICE PRESIDENT **RAYMOND POBLICK** BUSINESS REP-SECRETARY PATRIC J. ABARAVICH TREASURER-CALL STEWARD R. BRUCE PROCHAL

> EXECUTIVE BOARD BRANCH BRUNSON MICHAEL EVERETT MICHAEL GIPS GREG A. LANGHAM ROGER L. LATTIN STEVEN R. MATHIS DICK MCCONIHAY SHONA CRICKET PETERS JERRY POSNER TONY LEE TROY DAVID WATSON KAREN WEILACHER

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS LARRY K. FREEMAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ALAN M. ROWE **RAYMOND POBLICK** SAFETY & TRAINING ALAN M. ROWE, DIRECTOR

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> **CLC DELEGATES** PATRIC J. ABARAVICH MIKE EVERETT DENNIS K. GROW IAIN O'HIGGINS

OFFICE STAFF SANDRA O'CONNOR SEAN HARKESS JULIANNA BESSEY

THE BULLETIN PUBLISHER MARGIE STITES PACIFIC MEDIA GROUP EDITOR DENNIS K. GROW

It is the policy of Local 728 to buy Union-made merchandise and to use

Union labor whenever possible. It is never a choice of which is cheaper, we will always go with Union made.

All the merchandise we sell to our members is Union made. So are any promotional items we may give away at conventions or trade shows. We use a Union printer and a Union mailing house. Any work needed at the office, is Union labor. Even the guy who works on our is computers a member of Communications Workers of America. Unfortunately, there are many locals that are not as dedicated to supporting Union labor as much as your Local is.

I feel that it is important to support companies that care enough about their employees that they have a collective bargaining agreement with those who work for them. These companies have an agreement that guarantees wages and working conditions with benefits to ensure that they and their families have better lives.

Many companies don't care about their employees. Wal-Mart, the largest retailer in the United States, is the worst. Not only are they unfair to their employees, but do you know where the merchandise they sell comes from and who made it? I remember when Wal-Mart said that they only sold goods made in America. I'm sure that is no longer true. Actually, I wouldn't know because I don't shop there.

On www.calaborfed.org, there is a "Do Not Patronize" list. The list shows companies that are unfair employers, and urges you to stay away from these companies. Wal-Mart and Sam's Club (owned by Wal-Mart) are, of course, on the list. So is Kmart. The producers of "Blue Man Group" in Las Vegas refuse to sign a contract, even after their stagehands voted unanimously to be represented by the IA. The IATSE has a

- UNION -SPOTLIGHT

DECEASED

BROTHER WILLIAM C. LINDNER, 68 YEARS OLD, PASSED AWAY MARCH 8, 2007. HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL SINCE JAN. 13, 1968.

BROTHER ROBERT J. SMITH, 71 YEARS OLD, PASSED AWAY APRIL 20, 2007. HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL SINCE SEPT. 12, 1960.

<u>First Notice:</u> Darren Barrows

SECOND NOTICE RYAN MARCH, JUDSON MCKELVEY, OMAR NEVAREZ AND CHRIS TONKOVICH.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2007

AT IATSE LOCAL 44, 12021 RIVERSIDE DR., NORTH HOLLYWOOD, 9:00 A.M. (SHARP). ALL MEMBERS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE BRING YOUR UNION CARD.



NEED GEAR? WE GOT IT. SHOW YOUR UNION PRIDE BY PROUDLY WEARING LOCAL 728 POLOS AND T'S.

CONTACT NUMBERS 818-891-0728 1-800-551-2158 FAX: 818-891-5288

WWW.IATSE728.ORG



The Home Plan by Patric J. Abaravich,

Business Representative - Secretary

I f you are planning your next report-to job in New Mexico, Louisiana or anywhere outside

the 13 western states, and you're telling them that you would be willing to work as a local, think twice.

Knowing that we have members – who originally established their careers in Southern California – now living in virtually every corner of the United States, it's not hard to find qualified 728 members living in other areas who can be hired as locals when a Hollywoodbased show comes to their town.

If you are available and live in a city where a Hollywood-based show is being shot, when the CLT or ACLT contacts you for the job, do your paperwork *and* ask for the Home Plan form. What this form does is channel your benefit hours back to your MPI plan of the Southern California locals. Fill out the form and hand it in with your paperwork and the production should take care of the rest of it.

What seems to be happening most recently is a few active members follow a show to another distant location. They then claim that their girlfriend/cousin/ brother or parents live in that area and they use their home address. They get hired as a local, fill out the paperwork – including the Home Plan form – and start work on the show. The Home Plan is no way to be used in this manner.

The Local is getting letters of verification of addresses by any and all members claiming the Home Plan. If you are caught claiming that you are a Local 728 member, and indeed not a member of that area's local union, they will call your business representative and ask you to leave their jurisdiction or - as what has been happening in some cases - that you must now join that area's local. That means you will pay their initiation

fees, and up to 4 percent of your paycheck as their dues.

That's just for starters. Once MPI/ PHP discovers that you are still a member of this Local with your home address still here in Southern California, they will deny all claims of hours and if monies are paid in, ask for that money back.

The problem is this: When people follow shows to other areas and get hired as locals in that city (claiming residency by using a friend or family members' address in that area) monies go to National Annuity Plan and not the MPI plan.

Before this situation gets out of hand, MPI/PHP is preparing to bring all fraudulent Home Plan cases up on charges. This is a serious breach of contract and is set up for people who not only do not live in the Southern California area, but don't work here as well.

Imagine this tragic scenario: You move out of Southern California, your eligibility is ready to lapse so you take a show that's come to town. You think your benefit hours are where they needed to be. A few months later, one of your dependents gets ill and dies. Later, all the medical benefits you thought you had coming from the Motion Picture Plan are denied because you lived outside of Southern California. Sadly, this happened to a member.

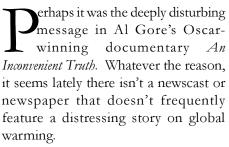
To prevent this kind of tragedy from happening to other members, the Home Plan was developed as a way for members who no longer live in Los Angeles to still be able to collect MPI/ PHP benefit hours.

Any questions about your eligibility regarding the Home Plan or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me.

And finally, after my long-awaited promise, the first quarterly retiree gettogether has been planned. Look inside this issue of The Bulletin for more details.



Think Globally, Act Locally 728 Members Hope to Generate a Greener Hollywood



While the majority of Americans agree we must end our dependency on foreign oil, and most finally seem to be accepting the fact that our lifestyles are having a devastating affect on the environment, Local 728 member Voya Mikulic is one who is actually trying to make a difference.

"I've been concerned and talking about the environment for years," the Yugoslavian native pointed out. "Enough talk ... I knew I wanted to make a difference."

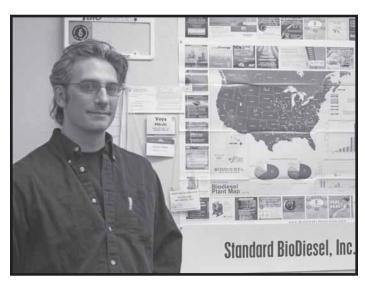
True to his word and now living his mantra, "Think Globally, Act Locally," Voya and his wife Trice have founded Standard Bio Diesel, Inc., a company that distributes B99.9 and B20 biodiesel to the entertainment industry.

Hearing about their novel endeavor in the early stages, Local 728 member Giovani Lampassi contacted the pair. "We met and I said to them, 'I have to get involved.""

Although biodiesel has been around for sometime, the industry is considered to be in its infancy, distributors are scarce and the fuel is not easily attainable. That didn't deter the trio who spent nearly two years researching the greener alternative, meeting with scientists, manufacturers and distributors here and overseas.

They've also jumped over countless, time-consuming and costly hurdles with city, county, state and federal authorities dealing with everything from

obtaining multiple licenses to meeting



H A Z M A T regulations to garnering a Weights and Measures permit and insurance.

Armed with the research, knowledge and c a p a bilities, Standard Bio Diesel is logically marketing the safer alternative in Hollywood. Mikulic and



Standard Bio Diesel Founder Voya Mikulic

Lampassi have over 35 years of combined experience in the film industry, and the pair understands the specific fuel needs and demands the studios face whether on set or location.

"We know the industry and how it works," Lampassi noted. "More importantly, we know that switching to biodiesel can have a tremendous impact not only for the health of the cast and crew, but for the environment as well."

There's no doubt the entertainment industry generates billions of dollars for Southern California, but according to a November 2006 *Los Angeles Times* article, it is also a major generator of pollution.

Giovani Lampassi

Continued from previous page

The newspaper featured an article on a UCLA report that found that the film and television industry emits 140,000 tons a year of ozone and diesel particulate pollutant emissions from trucks, generators, special effects scenes and other sources. This tops hotels, aerospace, apparel and semiconductor manufacturing in traditional air pollutant emission in Southern California. The report noted that the film industry is likely only second to petroleum refineries, and ranks third in greenhouse gas emissions.

Although the industry is already heavily regulated in their use of diesel engines and fuels, economists oppose further regulations fearing it could drive film and television productions elsewhere.

Hollywood is concerned. A spokesperson for the Motion Picture Industry of America said many of the studios have programs in place aimed at recycling, preventing air pollution and conserving natural resources.

But they could do much better. Standard Bio Diesel offers the studios a cost-effective and efficient way to take a significant step by providing full-service fueling for all of their diesel engines.

Biodiesel is an alternative fuel produced from renewable resources such as soybean oil, rapeseed (canola oil) or animal fats. It can be used in any diesel engine without any modifications.

There are two common blends of biodiesel fuel: B100 (100% biodiesel), which can be used alone or blended with petroleum diesel in the tank. The other



is B20, a common blend made up of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel.

In addition to greatly reducing cancer-causing emissions, Biodiesel uses less fossil fuel energy to produce, and one gallon of biodiesel has the potential to displace four gallons of imported petroleum. It's also extremely safe. B100 is as biodegradable as sugar and less toxic than table salt. It will biodegrade up to four times faster than petroleum diesel, with up to 98% biodegrading in three weeks.

And thanks to their commitment and investment, the fuel alternative is readily available to the studios. The 'green team' (who all naturally drive biodiesel and hybrid cars) have the fuel, transfer tanks and drums ready to service the many needs of the film, television and commercial production industry.

For more information, visit www.standard-biodiesel.com or contact Standard Bio Diesel at 818-719-9967.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the benefits for fleet managers using bio-diesel in their generators and trucks when filming versus petroleum diesel?

A: Biodiesel is a safe, clean superior fuel for diesel engines. The outstanding aspects of biodiesel: high lubricity, high cetane index and flash point, and enhanced performance of diesel engines. It helps create cleaner and safer working conditions for cast, crew, neighborhoods and our planet. Standard Bio Diesel will deliver it either at the lot on or location. It can be used on its own (B100) or as a blend.

Q: Is there is price difference versus petroleum?

A: The price of B20 and B99.9 is competitive with petroleum diesel.

There is also the added benefit of having it delivered wherever and whenever it is needed.

Q: What is the process of ordering biodiesel and how long does it take? A: Standard Bio Diesel works with each client individually and will deliver biodiesel wherever and whenever it is needed.

Q: What are the quantities sold? A: Standard Bio Diesel will make deliveries of 200 gallons or more.

Q: Are there any problems or side effects with biodiesel?

A: Biodiesel handles like petroleum diesel and uses the same infrastructure for transport, storage and use. At higher blend levels biodiesel may deteriorate natural rubber or polyurethane foam materials. Viton hoses and gaskets are a good replacement. Biodiesel is also a highly effective solvent and may even remove paint. For this reason, older engines using higher blends should change fuel filters until all deposits of petroleum diesel have been removed.

Q: Can current generators use biodiesel now or do they need to be converted? A: No conversion is necessary in any diesel engine. Rubber hoses and rubber gaskets do not have to be changed when using B20 blends. If the generators or trucks have Viton hoses and gaskets then no conversion is necessary when using B99.9



Pilot Season 2007 ... It's Over! by R. Bruce

Greetings everybody! Well, at this Gwriting (in the middle of April), the "Pilot Season" seems to be over. Of course, pilots will continue to be made throughout the year, but the annual "March Madness" has ended.

Many "permit calls" are traditionally released during this time of year, so let me present a mini-retrospective of the last three years. During the period starting in the beginning of March and extending to tax time in the middle of April, in the year 2005, over 625 permit calls were released. For the same period in 2006, close to 375 permit calls were released and the total for this year is just over 300. What does this mean with regard to the size of the active membership?

To those of you who attend the Membership Meetings, over the last two years, you have witnessed the swearing in of approximately 250 new members. This influx of new members has saturated our pool of labor making it more difficult for many of our members to secure work. To compound this situation, our older members are working, and want to keep working, longer before taking retirement. The Local is adding new active members faster than having members leave active status.

Over the remainder of the year, I think the Local's intake of new members will be significantly lower than the last two years, sans a producers' panic to make product in anticipation of a writers' strike. Be aware that May and June are usually slow, but some shows may start or come back earlier than expected. If there is a work slow down or stoppage, it is predicted to occur toward the end of the year. Plan accordingly.

On a different, but related front, many, many more production companies have been calling the Local (i.e., me) to verify that a permit was an authorized (legal) hire and/or to verify

by R. Bruce Prochal, Treasurer - Call Steward

your status with the Local (meaning, are you in good standing?). In regards to the permits, some productions are now requesting written verification, on the Local's letterhead, as proof that the Local authorized the hire. This is one reason why it is important to promptly call the office and report the permit names. I am glad to report that the great majority of ACLTs and Rigging Gaffers have complied with this request, "Thank You."

As a result of this verification process, it has come to my attention that a significant number of our new members, and members in general, have yet to complete the Safety Pass Training. As a reminder, the producer has the right to exclude you from employment if you do not complete this mandated training. Their method of checking is to look at the Contract Services web site (csatf.org). Check it out for yourself. If you are not listed there, you are not on the roster. Call me at the office if you need assistance checking.

Lastly, and also related to this verification process, is the reporting of your crews to the Local office. While there has been an increase in the number of ACLTs and Rigging Gaffers calling in their crews and checking new hires, there are still a significant number of shows for which I do not have any records. Remember, this is a requirement clearly stated in the By-laws of the Local that carries a summary fine of \$100 (one hundred dollars), a possible request for an appearance before the Executive Board and, if warranted, charges could be filed if you do not comply. Do us all a favor and call the Local, it only takes a few minutes, or email the Local (loc728@iatse728.org) or fax the Local (818.891.5288) with your crew lists and new hires.

Until next time ... RBP!

- 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.

President's Column

Below are a few links that will help you to make an informed decision. Take the time to search the internet, and you will find a lot more. Your Local can't encourage you enough to support your Union brothers and sisters by buying their Union made products. Not only will you be showing them your support, but it will send a message to their employers that they are doing the right thing.

Resources:

www.calaborfed.org www.shopunionmade.org www.unionlabel.org www.unionvoice.org – Working Families e-Activist Network



Safety Concerns Often Outweigh Needs to be Unique by Alan M. Rowe,

The idea of standardization may feel a little unusual at first. Innovation is a cornerstone of our industry and I have always felt with a genuine sense of pride that one of our greatest strengths is our ability to take ideas and products that were engineered for other purposes and modify them for our usage. It is this collective genius that makes the motion picture industry thrive in Southern California. The Hollywood locals set the standards for the rest of the world when it comes to motion picture technology.

However, safety concerns often outweigh this need to be unique, and it becomes necessary for us to abide by standards when it comes to working with electricity. Try as we might, we cannot change the laws of physics and electricity can easily kill.

As the only organization that specializes in Lighting for Motion Pictures and Television, we have an obligation to abide by certain standards. These standards exist to protect everyone on set and, allows Gaffers, Best Boys and Employers alike to feel confident that any member of Local 728 is safe, efficient and a benefit to cast and crew.

Most standards that we adhere to are set by the NEC (National Electric Code); the local AHJ (Authorities Having Jurisdiction); government agencies such as CalOHSA; and industry publications such as our Safety Bulletins 23, 23A, and 23B. These are only part of the story and we must go further to protect

perform our craft. An example of this is how we identify the hot phases in our distribution systems. The NEC only specifies identification for the neutral conductor and the grounding wire. Both through manufacturing and practice, the standard phase colors for 120/208V systems are blue, black and red. Yellow is not suitable for two reasons: the first is that it appears white under certain light sources. The second is that yellow is a phase identifier in 277/480V systems. We recently had a situation where a 120/208V system rigged using yellow to indicate the black leg was used concurrently with 277/480V system that also used yellow to identify a hot phase. The yellow phases got crossed and it was only through the sharp eyes of a member who was not working but happened to be on the set that a serious accident was avoided. It is important to adhere to our own standards and to not use yellow on 120/208V systems.

ourselves, our jobs, and how we

Rigging skills are the basis for our craft. It does not matter if you are Lamp Operator, Console Programmer, CLT, or Rigger; these skills are the basis for everything that we do. It is essential that



we all have the same base level of knowledge so that we can efficiently do our jobs and we all know what is possible. Our Rigging Classes cover these essential skills and will train you to the standards that are expected of a member of our Local.

We offer three different sets of Rigging Skills: Rigging I is the first level where we cover topics including stage and location distribution systems, multicables, cable protection, voltage drop, and much more. Rigging II is for the member who wishes to work their way up and be a Rigging Gaffer. We cover topics including calculating weight load distribution on trusses and motor points; estimating equipment requirements; waterfall weight loads; managing labor and paperwork; and much more. The Rigging for Wet Locations is required for anyone wishing to go on to the Underwater Lighting class and focuses on working with electricity in

with electricity in and around water.



SUSPENDED/DROPPED MEMBERS - SECOND QUARTER 2007

SUSPENDED ADAMS, DAVID B. AHRENS, ROBERT ANDERSON, RONALD BOYD, J. CORTLAND CHIAPUZIO, CRAIG COOK, DAVID AVERY CORTINA, HUGO P. COX, THOMAS P. DE PERNA, ROBERT J. DIAL JR., HARRY E. DODDS, ADAM J. ELLISON, CASEY FITZGERALD, JASON C. FORTUNE, JAY FREEMAN, PETER

FROHNA, JAMES GLICK, ADAM SETH HALL, THADDEUS GERALD HEARD, HOLLYWOOD KEVIN A. HECK, JEFF A. HERSHKOWITZ, LEROY HOLT, KENNETH J. ISWARIENKO, KURT A. JACKSON, RENALDO JONES, MICHAEL A. KALLEN, JASON A. LEONETTI, JOSEPH D. LUCA, IAN E. MANTHEY, MARK MC DOUGALL, MIKE D. MERIANS, LAURA MELODY

MORGAN, DONALD GENE MYGATT, JEFFREY C. ORSA, JEFFREY E. POKORNY, MIRO PRESLEY, ALVIN D. REGAN, ROBERT A. RICHTER, SHANE M. ROBERTSON, CHRISTOPHER J. ROFFREDO, JOSEPH F. RUIZ, ISMAEL RUSHING, TROY G. SORENSON, CHARLES R. STERN, THOMAS EVANS STEWART, JOHN JEFFERY SZOPA, PAUL A. THIRLAWAY, SIMON

WATSON, JACQUELINE J. JONES WEINGARTNER, MARK H. WYCOFF, ERIC

DROPPED

GEARY, PHILIP HERNANDEZ, RICHARD H. JOHNSON, VAN JONES, KELLY J. NYIRENDA, NGOLI V. PONDELLA, DAVID G. VALENTI, JORDAN WILLIS, ERIC

List current as of April 19, 2007

Training Raffle

This Month's Question:

The knot shown reduces a rope's strength by approximately how much?

A. 20%

C. 60%

D. 80%

B. 40%

Congratulations to member Michael Maley who won the ProTester.

(The correct answer was: B.)

The Prize!

The Spyderco Remote Release II Knife

With a VG-10 stainless-steel blade and shackle clip, this one is made for activities where attaching a folding knife above the waist makes sense.

Other Features: The springloaded shackle



clip fastens to a carabineer, belt loop or ring and releases by pulling back on the textured release pin allowing one-hand opening without having to rotate the knife in the hand.

Fiberglass-reinforced nylon sure-grip handle with rubberized handle insets inhibit skidding in the hand

VG-10 stainless-steel blade has a thick. strong tip for any type of cutting

Lanyard hold for backup/secondary cord attachment

SPECIAL GATHERING

FOR LOCAL 728 **RETIREES**

The Local is proud to present the first **Quarterly Retirees Get-Together**

June 6, 2007 10:00 a.m. until ??? The Motion Picture Home, Woodland Hills

Food and beverages provided Come ... and tell your buddies! We can't wait to see you there!

For more information, please contact Business Representative Patric Abaravich at the Local, 818-891-0728 or 800-551-2158

STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS

I.A.T.S.E. LOCAL 728 14629 NORDHOFF STREET PANORAMA CITY, CA 91402

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