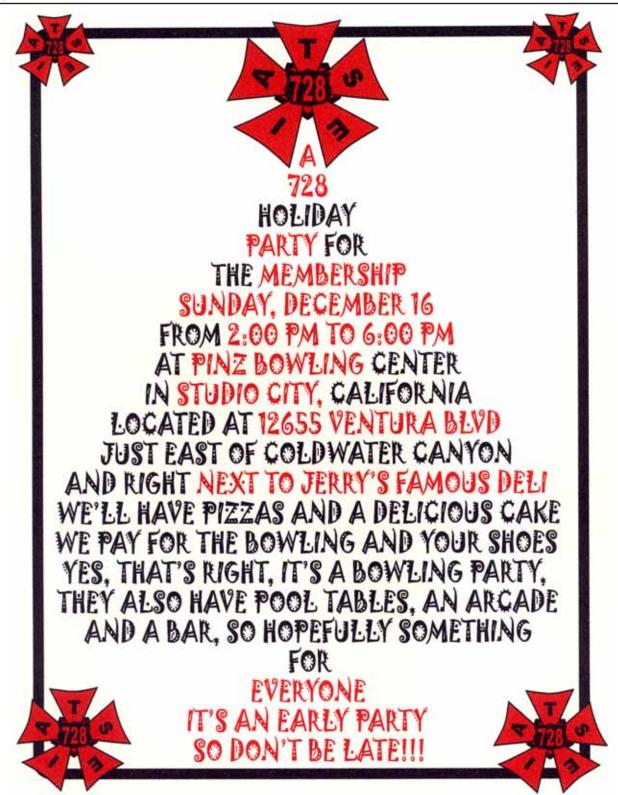


BULLETIN

HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA

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

Vol. 17; No. 11 2007



Busy Year End

bvDennis K. Grow. President

s I write this, I am in Orlando, FL \bigcap with our delegation at LDI 2007. Again, this was a big success for our Local. In our next Bulletin, Alan Rowe will report on how important it is that we are involved with this event.

Executive Board Member Steve Mathis has spent a lot of time researching our retirement plans. I'm sure it is not something most of you worry about right now, but trust me, it will be one of the most important things you need to plan for. His article contains important information that will help you understand all of the options.

This year Local 728 will be hosting our first Local 728 Holiday Party for its members. It will be on Sunday, Dec. 16, at Pinz Bowling Center in Studio City from 2 to 6 p.m. The bowling is free. The pizzas are free. I hope you will find the time to stop by and meet other members for some holiday fun. Thanks to Renee Kayon for spearheading this project which we hope will turn into an annual event.

We have entered into a purchase agreement to buy a building in Burbank. It is the old Red Cross building at 1001



W. Magnolia, just west of Victory. We are in a contingency period right now (structural

inspections and such). If all goes well, we could possibly move the Local's office there in 6 months.

We have also entered into an agreement to sell our building in Panorama City. It will become a funeral home. We are hoping that the escrows go smoothly and that their timing will work out as well. Details of the sales are in the minutes on our Web site.

At the last Membership meeting, Art Frantz was there to receive his 35 Year Pin. Art spoke eloquently of how important the union has been in his life.

Grainger is offering a discount (varies with the items purchased) to Local 728 members. Grainger representatives were at our annual picnic handing out discount cards. To place an order with Grainger, call 818-253-7972 and use Account No. 866420086.

Fraternally,

2007 ELECTION OF OFFICERS RESULTS

The counting of the ballots took place at the office of the American Arbitration Association located at 725 South Figueroa Street, #2400, Los Angeles, California on Tuesday, October 30, 2007.

Secrecy of the ballot was maintained at all times. The undersigned certifies the results of the voting to be as follows:

 2311 Ballots mailed 729 Received from the Post Office 25 Ruled ineligible by the Local 2 Had no Identification 702 Total Ballots Counted 		EXECUTIVE BOARD Karen KW Weilacher Gary M. Andersen Larry K. Freeman	(3) 341 277 274
		<u>Alternates:</u>	
		Branch Marie Brunson	246
TREASURER/CALLSTEWARD (1)		Robert A. Wood, Jr.	209
R. Bruce Prochal	599	Iain O'Higgins	205
Left Blank	103	Joseph Capshaw	169
		Bill Mamches	140
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	(1)	Mark D. Brinegar	81
Greg Langham	391		
Ray Poblick	248	Left Blank	161
Left Blank	63	Ineligible voted for 4	1

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

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

KAREN WEILACHER

SHOP STEWARDS CBS - JOHN L. MURRAY FOX - PASCAL M. GUILLEMARD PARAMOUNT - FRANK VALDEZ SONY - JOHN JACOBS UNIVERSAL - JOHN TRUJILLO WARNER BROS. -GARY M. ANDERSEN

> **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

— UNION -SPOTLIGHT

DECEASED:

BROTHER IRWIN EDWARD LEVINE, 77 YEARS OLD, PASSED AWAY NOVEMBER 11, 2007. HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL SINCE NOVEMBER 24, 1965.

FIRST NOTICE:

LAUREN FITTON, EDUARDO F. GIRALDO, JARED HOY, JAMES LYONS, JUAN MENDOZA, WILLIAM MESSINA, JOHN MURRAY, WILLIAM PERSUAD, CRAIG A. POULSEN, JOSUE RODRIGUEZ, DAIMON K. SHIPPEN AND JEROME WARD.

SECOND NOTICE

JOEY ABBENE, UKWUOMA AMAECHI, DESSIE COALE, WILLIAM D. HART, JERROD L. HETTLER, STEPHEN D. IRVINE, DAVID KANE, JAMES PLAXTON, MITCHELL URSETTA AND VINCENT YOUNG.

NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOW-ING NEW MEMBERS WHO WERE SWORN IN ON OCT. 11: BENJAMIN MARTINES, DAVID MARTINEZ AND JUSTIN MCADAMS; ON NOV. 10: ANDREW ANDERSON, JAMES CAFFERTY, III, CHRIS CONATY, NATHAN FETZER, JAMES GEMBALA, CAMERON GORDON, LUKE KALTEUX, MICHAEL LEMMON, JONNY MADISON, DUSTIN P. PENROD, JASON SACHSE AND DANIEL TKACZYK; ON NOV. 14: JASON GOODELL; ON Nov. 26: ALBERT STEVE WINBUSH, III, HECTOR ENRIQUE CASTILLO AND ROBERTO SIFUENTES; ON NOV. 27: MICHAEL FOODMAN; AND ON Nov. 29: DANIEL COTRONEO.



CONTACT NUMBERS 818-891-0728 1-800-551-2158 FAX: 818-891-5288 WWW.IATSE728.ORG



Oops, we ran out of space

by Patric J. Abaravich, Business Representative - Secretary

I was going to write about the current WGA strike, but anything I could share with you is all rumors. I could tell you what you shouldn't do, and how to behave at work ... but what's truly important

right now is the holiday season and spending as much quality time with your family as possible. However, I can't end without saying, *Happy Holidays* to you and yours.

RETIREE GET TOGETHER

Sportsmen's Lodge 12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 19th Bring your old stories and an empty stomach

DONATION REQUEST

Herb Hughes is teaching at USC and is requesting donations of gels and expendables (any and everything that could be used in lighting production by student filmmakers, i.e, lighting equipment and any items that would be thrown away). A tax-deferment letter will be provided. Please contact Herb at (818) 606-4854 or by email, hhughes@usc.edu.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

THE NEXT

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETING

WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M.

(SHARP) ON

SATURDAY,

JANUARY 12, 2008

AT IATSE LOCAL 44,

12021 RIVERSIDE DR.,

NORTH HOLLYWOOD

PLEASE BRING YOUR

UNION CARD.

TRAINING CLASSES

Saturday, December 15th
Adv. DMX Networking &
Ethernet Protocols
Vectorworks II
Fixture Technician

Contact Alan Rowe, 818-843-0012

NOTICE TO ALL LIGHTING CONSOLE PROGRAMMERS

There has been much discussion about getting a specific classification and rate in the new contract for Lighting Console Programmers & DMX/Dimmer Techs in the next contract. This will effect everyone who works as an LCP and it is important that you participate in this discussion. We are scheduling a meeting for Thursday, January 3 to discuss this issue and how to proceed. The location is TBD based on the number of people who RSVP. More information and discussion will be found on the Lighting Console Programmer's Forum. To sign up for the forum or to RSVP, please send an email to amrowe@iatse728.org.

ACCELERATED TRAINING SCHEDULE

We will be accelerating our Training Schedule starting in December and lasting as long as the WGA strike lasts. Many of these classes and seminars will be scheduled on a short notice basis so please sign up for the Local 728 Training Notification E-Group by sending an email to: 728Training-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. For more information, please call the Training Office at 818-843-0012 or send an email to amrowe@iatse728.org.

Planning Ahead: A Guide to the Retirement Plan with Components that can help you ettle successfully

by Steve Mathis

Local 728 Executive Board Member

Retirement is not something many members think about until they hit their mid 50's or even later. Many young members probably have never given any thought at all to the intricacies of their pension plan. Older members worry whether or not the retirement age will find them with the ability to actually retire.

What follows is a brief overview of the retirement plan and an even briefer review of the main components of a successful retirement. Please use this as a starting point to become familiar with your own personal facts and figures. Stay on top of changes in the requirements. Save as much money as you can. Give yourself a retirement plan check up at least every five years. Finally, seek out help if there is anything you don't understand.

The first component of your retirement is Social Security. Except as a member of the voting society at large you have no control over this. Rumors of this plan being in trouble are true but it is not going to fail for anyone working in our industry right now. Social Security was never intended to allow you to retire in luxury, just to allow you a basic income as you age. Social Security concerns are not just for old people, either. It is important to understand the issues and vote accordingly. You can retire as early as 62 with reduced benefits and 65 with full benefits. This may change in the coming years. To find out what your expected benefit go www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement. This website has a tool called the Social Security Benefit Calculator that will give you an idea of where you stand and what you will get as a monthly payment when you retire. You can also sign up for a

yearly statement that tracks your earnings and updates your monthly benefit.

The second component is your MPIPHP pension plan. Surprised by that? It is run by the MPIPHP rather than the IATSE. For various reasons this plan is not as strong as it should be, but it has improved greatly over the last few years due to negotiating by the IATSE.

Log on to www.mpiphp.org/online_services/login.htm. There you can get a user ID and password and enter the site. Here you will find: dependent info, recent contributions, eligibility history, etc. This website also has answers to all common questions and a list of numbers to call if these answers are not enough.

Everyone should understand what "being vested" in your plan involves. The definition has changed frequently over the years. Currently (after Dec. 26, 1999) it means that any participant (almost all of us) will have a vested interest in their accrued retirement benefit when they have been credited with five (5) vested years of 400 hours or more. To be vested in your IAP means just one qualified year of 400 hours. A more thorough explanation can be found online.

Everyone should take the following steps:

1. Do not wait until you are 60 to read your pension plan guidelines. Download (or ask to receive a hard copy by mail) of the Pension and Individual Account Plans. Click on Pension & IAP on the right side of the website and you will find the download



PDF files. This book explains everything you are entitled to in great detail. Understand what your options are now and work towards maximizing your retirement.

- 2. Take advantage of the Pension Plan Seminars given by MPIPHP every few months. They cost \$15 and include breakfast. The main benefit of these seminars is that you get a printout of your hours through the end of the last month as well as a list of possible retirement ages and what your monthly benefits are at that moment. You may also add your partner to this seminar and their benefits are calculated as well. This is especially important if both of you are covered under this industry plan.
- 3. Check every earnings statement from MPIPHP for accuracy. Some members have found errors of 200 hours or more in their statements. If you discover missing hours you must follow up with the MPIPHP office (818 or 310 769.0007 is the main number) for help in restoring those hours. It is a lifetime loss of \$15 for each hour missing (\$.04 a month X 12 months X 30 years retired) and it adds up.

Continued on the next page

4. MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT INCUR A BREAK IN SERVICE. This is currently defined as a period of two consecutive years with less than 200 vested hours in each year. There are other rules as well, so if you plan to take off a year or more please make sure you understand the implications for your retirement BEFORE you take time off rather than after you return. The results of just a week either way could cost you a lot of money.

5. Understand just what each hour means towards your retirement. At this moment you accrue \$.0393 per hour credited towards a monthly retirement benefit. For each hour worked you make less than \$.04 a month upon retirement at full pay (more on that later). An 8-hour day means your monthly benefit increased (a bit less than) \$.32. If you work 2000 hours a year this means your benefit goes up a bit less than \$80 a month. 2000 hours per year for 30 years (60,000 hours) means a monthly benefit of \$2358 a month for life.



6. Most of us will accrue less than \$2000 a month unless the rate of contribution increases. Currently there are 12,430 retirees in the MPIPHP (from all locals). Of these, only 5 retirees make over \$5000 a month, 36 retirees make over \$4000 a month, 299 make over \$3000 a month and 1,183 retirees make over \$2000 a month. This means a bit more than 10% of our retirees make more than \$2000 per month in benefits. The remaining 10,000 plus make do on less than \$2000 a month. Over half of



all IA retirees make less than \$12,000 per year.

The amounts above are based on full retirement. There are many options and with as little as 20 qualified years and 20,000 hours you are eligible for retirement at a reduced rate. Full retirement comes (under the current plan) at age 65 with 20 qualified years but no minimum hours worked beyond the number for each qualified year (400). It is reduced by a percentage for each year prior to age 65 that you retire. You can run all the numbers once you attend a seminar or ask that MPIPHP run a benefit summary for you. The choices for retirement payouts are complex and beyond the scope of this article but basically involve gambling with how long you think you are likely to live versus how much money you get per month and how much your spouse gets upon your death. See the plan for details.

IAP: This stands for Individual Account Plan. This money accrues at a rate of 5.5% per hour (6% in August 2008) under current collective bargaining agreements. It is also funded by contributions from the Post 60's monies or residuals much like the writers are striking over right now. While not a 401K or IRA since it is funded entirely by your employer, it functions much the same. Many members have over \$100,000 in their IAP. IAP funds are invested by the plan and can suffer losses

as well as gains (average return 1996-2006 is 8.4% year). When you retire the IAP becomes an amount of money that is paid out according to whatever benefit plan you have chosen for your retirement payments. The IAP will supplement your pension and SS income.

The third component is personal savings. Anyone expecting to retire on just the IA pension and Social Security might be in for a shock upon reaching retirement age. It is imperative that all of us save money in IRAs or just in savings plans to supplement the above two plans. The retirement seminars include this as a part of their planning but the implementation is up to you.

One question everyone has concerns about is retiree health insurance. Not technically part of your Retirement, this is still the single biggest concern most members nearing retirement have. Health Care in retirement (Medicare) is already in place and is as close to 'socialized medicine" as you can get. And it works but it doesn't cover all your costs. The Retiree plan is secondary to Medicare after age 65 and picks up most of the remaining costs of treatment.

Medicare doesn't kick in until age 65. If you want to retire before age 65 how can you receive Retiree health insurance and stay covered when you need it most?

Here is how that works:

30 Qualified Years and 60,000 Hours. UNREDUCED Retirement benefits. Health benefits will commence on 60th birthday. This is the earliest version of retirement but really hard to attain for most members.

30 Qualified Years and 55,000 Hours. UNREDUCED Retirement benefits. Health benefits will commence on 61st birthday.

Continued on Page 8

Writers' Blues and Next Year's Dues

by R. Bruce Prochal, Treasurer - Call Steward

Greetings everybody! Unless you have been living in a cave or in a country without electronic communication, you all know that we are stuck in the middle of the Writers' Guild strike. How long it will last is anyone's guess.

The Business Representative and I have fielded many questions as to whether or not to cross the Writers' picket lines. To paraphrase International President Short, "We have contracts with these Producers. When they offer our members work, we go to work." This means that "Yes," we do cross the Writers' picket lines.

The strike is primarily affecting prime time television, which is typically two to three scripts ahead of air dates, and late night television, which relies heavily on current events for monologues and skits. Feature films, especially tiered low budget productions, have not seemed to be affected, yet. Commercials and music videos are in another universe. (If you did not pick up on it, that is a hint of where to look for work.)

I certainly hope this strike is resolved soon and before it causes irreparable financial damage upon not only IATSE members but the thousands of support industry workers whom we never see.

Shifting gears, let's get to the other half of this month's theme, "Next Year's Dues."

You should have all received my letter announcing that the 2008 dues will remain the same as the 2007 dues. If you have questions, call the Local.

Now, I would like to express a concern that I have regarding the general membership's paying of dues, especially at the beginning of the year.

What I am concerned about this year is that too many members may take advantage of the fact that there is no fine for paying late as long as a member pays before going to work.

You might ask, "Why would he be concerned about this?"

My reason is that many of our members may be under the false impression that the Local's Life Insurance Policy covers them regardless

if they are current in their dues. This is

absolutely incorrect.

If a member of this Local is recorded as Delinquent, Suspended or Dropped, his or her beneficiaries are entitled to zero (0) Life Insurance Benefits. The current Life Insurance Benefit for active members is \$20,000.00 (twenty thousand US dollars). Retired members receive a \$10,000.00 (ten thousand US dollar) benefit.

This should be an important consideration to make when considering your expenses this holiday season, especially, if you have a family with children.

Over the last three years, quarter after quarter, I have seen many members wait until the last few days of a quarter to pay their dues. What if one such member had passed away prior to paying dues for the current quarter? No benefits would have been paid out on the member's behalf to his or her beneficiaries. Unfortunately, this has happened in the past.

I encourage all of our members to keep available to your families the Life Insurance Benefit the Local provides to our members. To do this, stay current and make timely dues payments as early in the quarter as possible, as your financial situation will allow. By paying earlier, when work does become available, you will be ready to go to work without scrambling to pay your dues in order to avoid the "working delinquent fine" of \$50.00 (fifty dollars).

In closing, many of you prolong paying your dues because you are not working and then, before you realize it, the next quarter rolls along and now you find yourself two quarters, or more, behind in dues. From what I have experienced, four hundred dollars is a lot tougher to make up than two hundred dollars, and six hundred dollars is even tougher.

Let us all hope for a quick settlement to the Writers' Guild strike.

To all IATSE Local 728 members, I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season.

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.

SUSPENDED/DROPPED MEMBERS FOURTH QUARTER 2007*

Suspended

AMATO, NICOLAS A. BANDY, JAMES E. COX, THOMAS P. **DUPLEASIS, ANTHONY** FRANCO, CHRIS GONZALEZ, LUIS HANSEN, ELDON J. HAYNES, NICK HOOD, ALBERT A. ISWARIENKO, KURT A. JANICELLI, KEVIN MORTON, TIMOTHY LEE MUSKEY, JACK G. ORSA, JEFFREY E. TAMAYO, VLADIMIR A. TILLMAN, JAMES W. WAUGH, KIERAN J.

Dropped

HINKLE, BRADLEY HUGHES, JOSEPH G JORDAN, MICHAEL R. MEILANDT, WES THOMAS, RAY

*List current as of Nov. 30, 2007

10th Annual Local 728 Scholarship Awards

Your Local 728 officers and members are pleased to offer 10 scholarship awards.

Five awards in the amount of \$4,000.00

and five awards in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the year 2008.

The 10th annual awards will be granted to 10 high school students graduating in 2008.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The rules of eligibility for the 10th Annual Local 728 Scholarship Awards state that an applicant must:

- a) Be the son/daughter of a member in good standing of Local 728.
- b) Be a high school senior at the time of application.
- c) Have applied, or be about to apply for admission to an accredited college or university as a fully matriculated student.
- d) Have applied, or be about to apply for admission to a vocational school.
- e) Use the scholarship award by the first term of the same year awarded.

HOW TO APPLY?

- 1. An application is to be requested by completing the coupon below and forwarding same to Local 728 at the address below.
- 2. The application is then to be completed and returned to Local 728.
- 3. A complete sealed copy of the applicant's high school transcript is also to be submitted to Local 728.
- 4. The record of scores achieved by the applicant on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, college entrance examination, or other equivalent examination may also be submitted, either by the student or by the testing organization.
- 5. At least three (3) letters of recommendation should be submitted for inclusion in an applicant's file and will be accepted from any of the following: Teachers, Counselors, Clergy, Community Service Organizations, Employers, etc.
- 6. In addition each applicant will be required to have a personal interview with the selection committee.

DEADLINE?

The deadline for filing all of the above required materials with Local 728 is DECEMBER 31, 2007. The winners of the scholarship awards will be notified by Local 728 in May 2008, and will be announced in a future issue of the *Local 728 Bulletin*.

14629 Nordhoff Street, Panorama City, CA 91402 • (818) 891-0728

10th Annual Local 728 Scholarship Awards

Please send me an application for the $10^{\rm th}$ Annual Scholarship Awards. I understand that this request itself is not an application and that the application must be completed by me and filed with Local 728.

••	2		
Name:			
Address:			
City:			
State:		-	
Zip Code: Parent(s) Name:			
Parent(s) Name:			

Planning Ahead: A Guide to the Retirement Plan

Continued from Page 5

30 Qualified years and 50,000 hours. UNREDUCED Retirement benefits. Health benefits commence on 62nd birthday.

You can take early REDUCED retirement benefits (your monthly income is less than the full amount you earned) as soon as age 55 but no Retiree health



insurance before age 60 given the rules below:

15 Qualified Years and 20,000 Hours. The earliest your Retiree

Health benefits can commence is your 62nd birthday. This includes a REDUCED early retirement benefit from the pension plan for ages 62-64.

20 Qualified Years and 20,000 Hours. Early REDUCED Retirement between ages 55-64. The earliest your Retiree Health benefits will begin is your 62nd birthday.

Note that the EARLIEST you can ever retire (unless disabled) with health insurance is age 60 and this is only if you have worked at least 60,000 hours.

Most of us will fall in the 20 years 20,000 hour category. This means you will qualify for retiree health insurance at age 62 with REDUCED retirement from the pension plan.

This article is meant as a quick overview of your retirement options. Remember that all of us will retire someday. This is a hard job with long hours and uncertain working conditions. Each of us earns our retirement as a reward for days of hauling 4/0 and taking night calls on a Friday. As UAW, IBM and many other workers are finding out, the promises of the present (both in pension and retiree health care) are not guarantees of the future. It is just as important for us to support increases to the funding of our health plan and pension plan as to get an increase in scale. In fact I would argue much

more so. While an increase in scale is nice for day to day living, each of us eventually will benefit much more and for a longer time from a secure retirement income and retiree healthcare. The same is true of social security and personal savings rates.

Start by understanding what your goals are and plan accordingly. Do not listen to the doom and gloom reports on the death of social security and the impossibility of national health care. Listen instead to what candidates for office actually say about their plans for YOUR future. Keep an eye on your savings and make every effort to maximize them rather than buy a new car or truck every three years or get that big screen TV.

Please put as much effort into planning for your eventual retirement as possible. It only takes a few hours a year to keep up with changes and follow up on where your savings stand. While collectively we stand together in solidarity with each other, individually we stand responsible for these choices (or lack thereof).

STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS

I.A.T.S.E. Local 728 14629 Nordhoff Street PANORAMA CITY, CA 91402

Return Service Requested



PRE-SORT FIRST CLASS



From the Officers and Staff of IATSE Local 728