

# LOCAL 44 NEWSREEL



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

IATSE LOCAL 44

FEBRUARY, 2005

RONNIE CUNNINGHAM  
BUSINESS AGENT

ELLIOT JENNINGS  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

JACK THOMAS  
PRESIDENT

## **KEEP OUR MEMBERS WORKING! PATRONIZE UNION SHOPS!**

**TO THE BEST OF LOCAL 44'S KNOWLEDGE,  
THESE ARE *NON-SIGNATORY* SHOPS:**

**Applied Effects**

**Bellfx Design and Fabrication**

**Culver City Custom Props**

**Flix Fx Inc.**

**The Hand Prop Room**

**KNB**

**Set Masters**

**Any Key Personnel using these non-signatory shops in connection with Local 44 Jurisdiction work will be the subject of appropriate grievances and further appropriate disciplinary action.**

**A list of Signatory Shops can be found on pages 8-9.**

***Signatory Shop Listing... Pg. 8-9***  
***Letters... Pg. 10***  
***Marlis Hornung Retires... Pg. 11***

*“An onion can make people cry, but there has never been a vegetable invented to make them laugh” - Will Rogers*

## LOCAL 44 SHOP STEWARDS

### CBS Studio Center

Tibor "Ted" Barti  
Arthur Eishtadt

### Universal Studios

Michael Cappello  
Robert "Inky" Intlekofer  
(Property)

### Sony Studios

Chic Chaldu

### Paramount Pictures

Tony Chavez

### Warner Bros.

Dennis Christensen  
John DeGiulio  
Rick Manson (Property)  
Gene Owens Jr.  
John Petros

### "JAG"

Andrew DeMuri

### Field Stewards

Ralph Fierro  
"Grande" Gonzalez  
Jay Hirsch  
Charlotte Laughon  
Art Piatt  
Joe Recchia  
David Roesch  
Richard Ross  
Tomas Sallvin  
Randy Severino  
Anthony Syracuse  
Dennis Ullman  
Ken Wilson

### ISS

Leonard Hancock Jr.

### Alpha Medical

Alex Hernandez

### CBS Television City

Andrea Joel

### Disney Studios

Kenneth Knight

### Fox Studios

James "Jimmy" Meyer  
Bryce Vardanian

### Las Vegas, NV

Bobby Zeletes

Contact numbers for Shop  
Stewards will be listed in  
the next issue.

### NEWSREEL SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the  
next issue is:

*February 11, 2005*

**Please be sure your contact  
information is clearly marked.**

**E-mail: [newsreel@local44.org](mailto:newsreel@local44.org),  
[cpleasants@local44.org](mailto:cpleasants@local44.org)**

**Fax: 818-769-1739**

**Mail: Local 44 Attn: Newsreel  
12021 Riverside Drive**

**North Hollywood, CA 91607  
Questions? Call 818-769-2500  
X120**

### LOCAL 44 WEBSITE:

**[www.local44.org](http://www.local44.org)**

**LOG ON AND STAY  
CONNECTED!**

**Correction from last month's  
issue of the Newsreel:**

**The website for the band  
"Forced Call" is:**

**<http://homepage.mac.com/forcedcall>**

## LOCAL 44 OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

### Officers:

Ronnie Cunningham, Business Agent  
Elliot Jennings, Secretary-Treasurer  
Jack Thomas, President  
Stacey McIntosh, Vice President

### Executive Board:

Erin Hennessey, Propmaker Representative  
Gene Owens, Propmaker Representative  
Armando "Grande" Gonzalez, Propmaker Representative  
Peter Angles, Property Representative  
Gary Oseransky, Property Representative  
Joseph Recchia, Property Representative  
Emily Ferry, Property Master Representative  
Craig Raiche, Property Master Representative  
J.D. Streett, Special Effects Representative  
Jeff "JC" Machit, Special Effects Representative  
Brenda Meyers-Ballard, Set Decorator Representative  
Robinson Royce, Set Decorator Representative  
John Matheson, Coordinator Representative  
John Samson, Coordinator Representative  
Mary Gullickson, Sergeant-At-Arms

### Delegates:

Erin Hennessey, Propmaker Delegate  
Gary Oseransky, Property Delegate  
Craig Raiche, Property Master Delegate  
George Paine, Special Effects Delegate  
Brenda Meyers-Ballard, Set Decorator Delegate  
Barry Kingston, Coordinator Delegate

### Trustees:

Bob Carlyle, Trustee  
Otto Lungren, Trustee  
Jeannie Gunn, Trustee

Executive Board members can be reached by e-mail at  
[eboard@local44.org](mailto:eboard@local44.org)

*“About the time we think we can make ends meet, somebody moves the ends.”*  
-Herbert Hoover

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# BUSINESS AGENT’S COLUMN

By **Ronnie Cunningham**

Welcome to 2005! I hope all of our members enjoyed a wonderful holiday season!

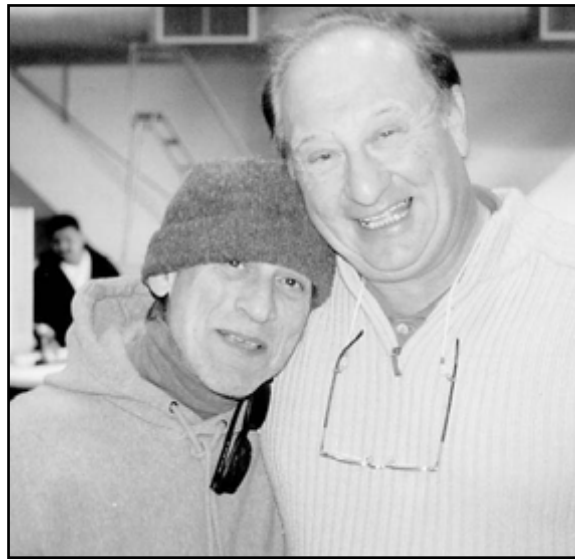
As we say farewell to 2004 and look forward to the business of the New Year, one of the issues that is a top priority once again, is runaway production. Recently, the American Jobs Creation Act, which is primarily a corporate tax break, was signed into law as part of President Bush’s \$145 Billion tax bill. This piece of legislation also gives tax advantages to television and movie producers, allowing producers to write off the cost of a production immediately. The write-off is the same, but more expedient access to these funds will significantly lower the cost of production. The intent of this legislation is to neutralize the lower costs and government subsidies that have caused productions to move to Canada and overseas.

This is excellent news for the film industry in the United States, but California is still struggling to keep filming in-state. With its oppressive budget deficit, California is hard-pressed to keep up with incentives and rebates being increasingly offered in New York, Louisiana, New Mexico and other states.

The California Film Commission has been scaled-down dramatically since 2003, and the state-funded Film California First program is currently on the backburner owing to the shortage of funding. However, Governor

Schwarzenegger has appointed Amy Lemisch, a former in-house producer and executive for Penny Marshall’s Parkway Productions as director of the Commission.

Additionally, actor-producers Bill Duke, Clint Eastwood, Danny



*Ronnie Cunningham with Propmaker Billy Spire at the Fox mill*

DeVito, producer-director Lili Fini Zanuck, and independent television producer Tom Werner have also been appointed to the Film Commission board in the hopes of finding creative ways to keep production in California until the situation in Sacramento improves. Lemisch is personally heading efforts to make it easier to obtain permits and locations, while reaching out to the independent film community, since 68 percent of the features shot outside of California are independents. And Governor Schwarzenegger lately issued an executive order requiring state

agencies and departments to cooperate with the Commission.

Another bright-spot on the runaway production front are the efforts of entertainment attorney Jody Simon and sound editor Eileen Horta. The pair was asked to co-chair the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences committee to encourage domestic production. They will serve to monitor state and federal legislation, attend film commission meetings, and participate in an ad-hoc alliance of guilds, trade associations, film commissions and the Independent Film and Television Alliance. Simon and Horta will also spur the Academy membership to action through letter-writing and phone banks during critical periods in the legislative process. The two are passionate about leveling the playing field to keep production at home.

**In the coming year, Local 44 will continue in the effort to address the issue of runaway production. Our members possess a knowledge base and skill level that is unmatched anywhere in the world. We will do everything in our power to keep production in California, and keep the talented men and women of our local working.**

*For additional information about runaway production, check out Special Issue No. 6, 2004 of “Emmy” Magazine or log on to [www.emmys.tv](http://www.emmys.tv).*

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# CALL US!

"I haven't had a call from the Hall in years." You've heard the lament before. Once we're established, most of us don't receive many jobs through the Call Board, especially since the elimination of the 1-2-3 system.

The problem with this attitude, even if it is justified, is that you are legally bound by the Bylaws (Article 4, Sections 20 and 21), to notify the office when you are no longer working **and** when you accept work!

Failure to put yourself on the books or to remove yourself if you receive a call is supposed to result in a fine! We are not yet prepared to fine people for what is, in most cases, an oversight. There are however, reasons to encourage everyone to maintain their status, and there are some penalties we will assess. Let's first show why.

Just before Christmas we had an emergency call for half a dozen Property people, immediately. It took over seventy phone calls to people listed as "out of work" to fill that one call.

Three times in the last month, the



Call Board has had to go through over a hundred members to fill a Propmaker request; the Monday after New Year's, it took seven hours to find eight people for a late-night call. The Call Board had to work until nine at night to fill it!

More supervisors are using the Hall to fill their calls, and to screen their crews for Suspended and Dropped members; we thank those individuals again for their efforts. As a result, many members who before, worked without paying their dues, are not able to work, freeing up positions for paid-up members.

Go on Will Call. If you need some time off (to do a side job or take a vacation), place your name on Will Call; the Call Board will skip your name when filling a call, but you won't lose your place on the call list. Once on Will Call, it is your responsibility to put yourself back active again when you're ready to take a call.

Call back! We often get answering machines. Whether you take the call or not, you must call back. You will be dropped to the bottom of the list after three unreturned messages. We will warn you on the third call that

no response will drop you to the bottom of the list.

Get current! Twice last week, we could not give out information for a request call because the member owed the Union money; *one was a Producer looking for a supervisory position.* We will not give out member information for those looking to hire you, and you cannot get information on another member if you are not a member-in-good standing.

Register your specialties. We had three calls last month that required special skills and we couldn't fill them completely; Greens, Floor-covering, and Welders. If you have multiple classifications, even if it is not your main craft, please register it with the Call Board. We have the ability to sort members by skills. We would rather fill calls with out-of-work brother/sister members (if the supervisor is willing), than turn the call over to a permit hiring.

Place your name on the Call List, we have gone deep into our numbers to fill requests. Remember to remove your name if you get work independent of the Hall, it helps everyone.

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## Support L.A. Hotel Workers

Nearly 3,000 Los Angeles hotel workers are fighting to win a new union contract from nine luxury L.A. hotels that have formed the Hotel Employers Council. These workers have been working without a contract since April 2004.

The Hotel Employers Council has used a variety of intimidation tactics to attempt to force the workers to back down from their demands for humane workloads, paid sick days, employer-paid health insurance, livable wages and a contract expiration aligned with other major cities.

In order to support Los Angeles hotel workers and to help them protect their rights and their voice on the job, the Local 44 Executive Board voted on December 15, 2004 to stop doing business with the following hotels:

**Century Plaza**

**St. Regis**

**Wilshire Grand**

**Bonaventure**

**Sheraton Universal**

**Regent Beverly Wilshire**

**Hyatt West Hollywood**

**Hyatt Regency**

**Millennium Biltmore**

Until a fair and just contract as been signed, we will encourage our members to honor this boycott and refrain from staying, meeting or dining at any of these hotels. Additionally, we encourage everyone to hold wedding receptions, high-school reunions, and other functions at union hotels not on the boycott list.

Local 44 supports entertainment organizations that have pulled their Oscar-season awards shows from boycotted hotels. For respecting the boycott, we applaud the Producers Guild, the Directors Guild, the Writers Guild, the American Society of Cinematographers, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Science and Technical Awards show).

For more information go to:  
[www.SupportLAHotelWorkers.com](http://www.SupportLAHotelWorkers.com) or  
[www.herelocal11.org](http://www.herelocal11.org)

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# MOVING FORWARD

By Elliot Jennings

## The First 100 Days

Before this term began, I had identified 30 things I wished to institute or initiate in the first 100 days: 14 are complete and 11 are started. Those that are left, and others we looked to advance, have been bogged down repairing a system that guided this office which, many people have remarked, was based on a frat house mentality.

This was intended to be an upbeat column chronicling the accomplishments, reporting the progress of things begun, and touting the desired projects of the future, after our first 100 days in office. In a way it still is. But it is much more.

Because of the limitations of space, I have chosen to use the tried and true “good news – bad news” format to cover as much material as possible.

The payroll of the office has been reduced by over \$150,000 annualized from what it was when we took office, and that doesn’t include fringe.

The good news is \$280,000 in back payments have been collected in our first three months; the bad news is that we are spending a substantial amount of resources tracking down offenders.

The good news is we now have a communication network with payroll companies, the Secretary’s office and the Call Board where we are able to identify and screen new hires to prevent members “in arrears” from working. We have supervisors on shows, Shop Stewards and Officers, and a cooperative system between the Secretary’s staff and the Business Agents that has removed from the workforce, or collected from, over 100 members who were dropped and managing to work. The bad news...see the last paragraph.

The number of jobs for work placed from the Call Board continues

to increase; the current work climate is strong. The bad news, too many people do not return calls, or don’t take their names off the roster after receiving work. This causes extreme delays in filling calls and may prevent members from getting work; it may even force us to turn over calls and open the books for more permits.

This is our third Newsreel issue in four months. We are trying to make it less of a political soapbox and more of a useful tool. We need more participation from our membership.

Our website appearance is improving, with more information being added weekly ([www.local44.org](http://www.local44.org)). The bad? The number of visitors to our site unfortunately remains paltry.

Here’s a small improvement: Your new membership card is down to the size of a credit card, finally able to fit in a wallet, however the stamps and cards arrived just before the end of the year. You will have a stamped card quickly, but we’re backlogged.

The good news, your Executive Board is one of the most independent thinking group of individuals you could have chosen, there is no “guaranteed voting block”. Add to that the fact that most on the Board are more intent on doing what’s right than doing what works politically, and you have a diligent group. The bad news, there are many progress-slowng “past practices” that need to be corrected; as one Board member summed it up, “I can’t believe we have to continually make motions to follow what’s in the Constitution.”

The bad news, by following the CBLs, everyone received a quarterly payment increase. If it helps, for the first time that any Board Member can remember, all Officers, Trustees, Delegates, and Shop Stewards will not get a free ride, but will pay the per capita due the International. The



Executive Board voted down giving itself a Holiday party at member expense. Vice President McIntosh voluntarily requested he not be paid the traditional allowance for his position. All salaried representatives gave up their meeting stipend.

The most telling and significant I leave to last. There has never been a budget to run this office, which operates on over \$3 million a year. Last December I requested, and the Executive Board agreed, to give up a Saturday (Jan. 15th) to hash out a budget for 2005.

Why? For years our investments have been making money, but for years, we have less in our investment accounts. The Local has been spending more than it takes in!

I have a catch phrase, “I would have settled for my worst nightmares.” I’ve thought of making it into a plaque. It’s not that the task of running the office is so daunting, it isn’t; it’s the degree to which the office had been so carelessly managed.

It isn’t as gloomy as it may appear. We’ve not reached desperation time, but it is time to get serious. With the openness and determination of this Executive Board, who are committed to setting things right, I am convinced we will. By the time of the General Membership Meeting in the Spring, we will have in place the first annual budget, and we hope for your participation and questions.

The good news is we are faithfully repairing a broken system; the bad news is that we had to repair it at all.

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# PROPERTY MASTERS' CORNER

By Craig Raiche

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We each share at least one commonality... we're all trade unionists. We share membership in this labor organization with a stated purpose of "...INSURING THE EMPLOYMENT OF ONLY THOSE PERSONS RIGHTFULLY ENTITLED TO THE SAME IN OUR MOTION PICTURE STUDIOS, AFFILIATED INDUSTRIES, SHOPS, AND LOCATIONS..." As Local 44 "trade unionists" it is everyone's duty to achieve this purpose.

With specific regard to the manufacturing of props, we usually aren't allowed to employ the services of any non-IA member. Our current executive board has decid-

ed to actively enforce the provisions of our Constitution and By-Laws. Property Masters (as well as all Set Decorators, Special Effects Persons and Construction Coordinators) who choose to ignore provisions relative to this matter will, firstly, be warned. Thereafter, scofflaws will be subject to grievances and/or further disciplinary action as may be appropriate.

We MUST support our brother and sister trade unionists. Take careful note of our listing of IA signator shops and, please, "re-familiarize" yourself with the rules in our C&BL's. If you commonly do business with any non-IA shops, I strongly suggest that you cease such activity. You might also urge such businesses to consider signing an IA agreement with Local 44. Please, direct any related questions or comments to our Business Agent.

I hope you've noticed both the functional as well as the cosmetic changes to our Local 44 website.

Our site will always be a work-in-progress so, please continue to offer your comments and suggestions. I believe our L.44 newsletter will soon be posted there as well.

In mid-January, our executive board met to determine a Local 44 Annual Budget. This exercise in number crunching will provide a clearer picture of how we might better ensure our current and future financial stability.

I want to thank the many members who have recently contacted me via phone and e-mail. I appreciate your input and, especially, your interest in Local 44 affairs. Admittedly, my responses are not always satisfactory, but, I assure you, they're always heartfelt. Soon I hope to offer a report on our "Set Dressers Assigned to the Set." If any Prop Masters, On-Set Dressers or Set Decorators would like to weigh-in on the subject, please e-mail [crayboo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crayboo@sbcglobal.net).

Stay Tuned & Stay Interested,  
Craig Raiche

## APRIL 1, 2005

IS THE NEXT DUE DATE FOR PAYING YOUR LOCAL 44 DUES. DUES ARE PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF EACH QUARTER.

### DUES DATES:

JANUARY 1, APRIL 1,  
JULY 1, OCTOBER 1

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## Meet Ed Brown

### New Assistant Business Representative

Business Agent Ronnie Cunningham has appointed Ed Brown as Assistant Business Representative. Local 44's Executive Board has approved this appointment.

Ed brings to this position twenty-eight years of experience as a member in good standing of Local 44. He has worked for the past twenty-two years as a Leadman with many of our Local's highly regarded Set Decorators. Ed's credits span many feature films, episodic television and situation comedies; as well as various special programs, including work with The White House on presidential events. His knowledge of all areas of property is extensive.

Regarding his position as Assistant Business Representative, Brown said, "I believe that with this appointment, I will be able to address the concerns of all persons working in the Property field, as well as our other diverse membership. I look forward to this challenge and opportunity to represent our membership's best interests."



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jack Thomas

Brothers and Sisters,

Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all of you and your families. I hope the holidays gave you a chance to get together with your loved ones and enjoy some of the benefits your hard work brings you.

Our local requires seven figures to operate every year, but it has never had an annual budget. You members have clearly indicated that you want your local to be run in a financially responsible manner and we are doing our best to do that. At the direction of the Executive Board, Elliot Jennings has been looking at all the areas cuts can be made in the operation of the office. Some have already been put into effect and our office payroll has been significantly reduced already. The Executive Board has also had me form a committee to evaluate and recommend changes to the compensation we pay the Business Agent and the Secretary-Treasurer. Other cuts have been made as well to bring us more into line with living within our means. The Executive Board met in January to create an annual budget for the first time in the local's history to help manage the local's finances and there will be more to come after that.

I have to move on and say something about another matter that hits us

all very hard. Our on-lot departments continue to be closed down by management. Within the past couple of years, Fox closed its Special Effects and Frame shops and now Paramount is closing its Costume Department. Only Fox, Paramount and Disney are still making molding. Universal and Warner Brothers closed their molding shops some time ago. I won't even go into the disappearance of scene docks and prop rooms on the major studio lots, but they are getting hard to find as well. People, these places used to employ our members or members of sister unions on a full-time basis and those jobs are now gone.

I have just finished doing twelve episodes of a half-hour single camera sitcom at Paramount. Every time I needed metal fabrication done, Tom Mertz's (323-956-5140) crew at the Paramount Special Effects shop did a great job for me. I got a quick response to the typically tight half-hour schedule without getting hammered on the cost. Their guys did quality work that looked and worked great on camera. Bruce Lauer's (310-369-2616) floor covering crew at Fox Drapery did their usual fine job for the show with the same results - reasonable price and high quality work done in a timely fashion. My show's



needs were met because these departments were up and running and there to call. We as members need to book the services of these departments on a regular basis if we want to preserve this resource and keep these good union people employed.

I campaigned as a non-political candidate. Throughout my career I had never given much thought to the arena and I didn't have the best opinion of those who did get involved with union politics. However, I have to say that after my first three months as your president, I am happily surprised at the ethics and practices of your officers and craft representatives. Every one of them has the best interests of the local at heart. They all continue to vote their consciences on the issues and continue to keep in mind the opinions expressed by the members they represent. I'm proud to be working with them.

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## LOCAL 44 SUPPORTS THE UFW



In early December 2004, at the direction of the Executive Board, Assistant Secretary- Treasurer Paul Ahrens presented a check for \$1,000.00 to Arturo Rodriguez, President of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. The UFW is the most influential farm-labor union in the United States. They have battled for 40 years to organize farm workers and win new collective bargaining and legal protections.

The UFW has consistently supported Hollywood IATSE Locals during contract battles with the studios, and they have had a marked presence on the picket lines on our behalf. This gesture of solidarity represents the Local 44 Executive Board's wish to support the UFW's continuing effort to gain fair and just working conditions for its members.

For more information about the contractual issues currently facing the UFW in their battle with Gallo of Sonoma winery, log on to [www.ufw.org](http://www.ufw.org).

*left: Paul Ahrens presents UFW President Arturo Rodriguez with a \$1,000 check*

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# SIGNATORY COMPANY LISTING

*“The purposes of this Local Union are and shall be to unite the Affiliated Property Craftsperson’s of the Motion Picture, Television Studios and Similar Affiliated Industries, Shops, and Locations, for the better protection of our welfare...”*

The above passage comes from our Constitution and By-Laws under Article Two, “Purposes.” Since the inception of our CBLs, the security of our business has been diminished by studio downsizing, budget crunching, outsourcing, runaway production, and a number of additional factors. It is the sole purpose of Local 44 to protect the interests and benefits of its membership.

Supporting signatory companies keeps members working under a union contract. Using non-union shops might seem like an immediate “cheap fix,” but the long term effects can be damaging and far-reaching for all Local 44 Brothers and Sisters.

In order for the talented membership of Local 44 to remain gainfully employed, it is imperative that all union members follow guidelines set out in the negotiated agreements that contractually bind us. It is vital that union signatory facilities are utilized at all times. With this purpose in mind, the officers of Local 44 are making an aggressive effort to provide you with the necessary tools and information to keep pace with these objectives.

Below is a list of union shops and their contact numbers. If you do not see a popular company on the signator list, please contact Ronnie Cunningham as soon as possible so he can put forth an organizing effort.

**Patronize signatory companies – keep our members working!**

## **A.N.A. SPECIAL EFFECTS**

818-909-6999 Fax 818-782-0635

7021 Hayvenhurst Ave.

Van Nuys, CA. 91406

**CONTACT:** Ron Nary

Rental/Purchase – effects machines,

Custom breakaways.

## **ALPHA COMPANIES**

818-504-9090 Fax 818-504-9389

7990 San Fernando Road

Sun Valley, CA. 91352

**CONTACT:** Maria

Medical Equipment Rentals

www.alphamedprops.com

## **ARTCRAFT CONSTRUCTION**

818-845-9292 Fax 818-845-6517

76 E. Santa Anita Ave.

Burbank. CA. 91502

**CONTACT:** Jim Barker/Dan Griffin

Metals or non-metallic props, electro-  
forming

www.artcraftplating.com

## **CBS STUDIO CENTER**

818-655-5000

GRIP: 818-655-5711

PAINT: 818-655-5858

LABOR: 818-655-5660

SOUND: 818-655-6311

ELECTRIC: 818-655-5370

SIGN SHOP: 818-655-5395

STAFF SHOP: 818-655-5667

SET LIGHTING: 818-655-5199

LUMBER YARD: 818-655-5669

CRAFT SERVICE: 818-655-5666

CONSTRUCTION: 818-655-5858

SPECIAL EFFECTS: 818-655-5671

4024 Radford Ave.

Studio City, CA. 91604

www.cbssc.com/facilities/index.html

## **CONTEMPO**

**ELECTRONICS/WOODY’S PROPS**

818-503-1940 or 818-503-9097

fax: 818-503-9098

7255 Clybourn Ave.

Sun Valley, CA. 91352

**CONTACT:** Woody

Period to futuristic; design/build panels

## **FXPERTS, INC.**

818-767-0883 Fax 818-767-1293

11352 Goss St.

Sun Valley, CA. 91352

**CONTACT:** John Frazier

Special Visual Effects

## **MARTY GIBBONS ENTERPRISES, INC.**

818-339-2855

397 E. Surfside Dr.

Port Hueneme, CA. 93041

**CONTACT:** Marty Gibbons

Steel Fabrication & Rentals

MGibbons234@MSN.com

## **GIBBONS LTD ENTERTAINMENT ARMORY**

818-566-4253 Fax 818-566-1235

2911 Winona Ave.

Burbank, CA. 91504

**CONTACT:** Mike Gibbons

Weapons: replicas, functional, military

Gibbonsltd@AOL.com

## **GRANT McCUNE DESIGN**

818-779-1920 Fax 818-781-9108

6836 Valjean Ave.

Van Nuys, CA. 91406

**CONTACT:** Michael Yost

Miniature Models/Visual Effects

Mike@GMDFX.com

## **GREEN SET INC.**

818-764-1231 Fax 818-764-1423

11617 Dehougne St.

North Hollywood, CA. 91605

**CONTACT:** Debbie Johnson

Motion Picture Plant Rentals; live and  
artificial

www.greenset.com

## **KEVIN HANNIGAN SPECIAL EFFECTS, INC.**

323-666-8887 Fax 323-665-8887

3452 Larissa Dr.

Los Angeles, CA. 90026

**CONTACT:** Kevin Hannigan

Special Effects; Prop manufacturing

KHFX@Prodigy.net

## **INDEPENDENT STUDIO SERVICES**

818-951-5600 Fax 818-951-2850

9545 Wentworth St.

Sunland, CA. 91040

**CONTACT:** Greg Bilson, Jr.

Prop house – rentals

www.issprops.com



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**JACKSON SHRUB SUPPLY**  
818-982-0100 Fax 818-982-1310  
11505 Vanowen St.  
North Hollywood, CA. 91605  
**CONTACT:** Gary Jackson  
Live and silk plant rentals  
www.Jacksonshrub.com

**MIDWEST PROPS & FX**  
818-519-8095 Fax 310-455-1091  
22331 Swenson Drive  
Topanga, CA. 90290  
**CONTACT:** Ron Bolanowski  
Prop house rentals, construction, special effects  
MidwestProps&fx@Earthlink.net

**MOTION PICTURE SET INTERIORS, INC.**  
818-760-1817 Fax 818-760-1894  
11500 Burbank Blvd.  
North Hollywood, CA. 91601  
**CONTACT:** Ken, Barbara or Carolyn  
Drapery Shop  
mopsi@SBCGlobal.net

**OFF & ON PRODUCTIONS**  
818-364-2815 Fax: 818-833-0625  
15140 Cobalt St.  
Sylmar, CA. 91342  
**CONTACT:** Mark Bodine  
Build Scenery

**PARAMOUNT STUDIOS**  
323-956-5000  
MILL, LUMBER, MOULDING,  
HARDWARE, PAINT SHOP, STAFF &  
PLASTER,  
SIGN SHOP/GRAPHICS, SPECIAL  
EFFECTS/PROP SHOP,  
CARPET/DRAPERY/UPHOLSTERY:  
323-956-4488  
5451 Marathon St.  
Hollywood, CA. 90038  
www.paramount.com/studiogroup/

**SCENIC EXPRESS**  
323-254-4351 Fax 323-254-4411  
3019 Andrita St.  
Los Angeles, CA. 90065  
**CONTACT:** Kevin Gadd  
Complete construction & scenics  
www.scenicexpress.net

**SNOW BUSINESS**  
818-884-3009 Fax 818-884-3110  
21318 Hart St.  
Canoga Park, CA. 91303  
**CONTACT:** John Freed  
Special Effects  
Snowbizla@AOL.com

**SONY PICTURES STUDIOS**  
310-244-4000  
MILL: 310-244-7520  
PAINT: 310-244-5823  
DRAPERY: 310-244-5990  
PROPERTY: 310-244-5999  
HARDWARE: 310-244-7520  
STAFF SHOP: 310-244-5541  
10202 W. Washington Blvd.  
Culver City, CA. 90230  
www.sonypicturesstudios.com

**SOUTHWIND GREENS**  
661-268-1066 Fax 661-268-0148  
8344 Soledad Cyn. Road  
Acton, CA. 93510  
**CONTACT:** Denise Harris  
Landscape and greens rentals

**SPECTRUM EFFECTS**  
213-534-3853 Fax 213-534-3854  
1201 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Upper Protech  
Los Angeles, CA. 90017  
**CONTACT:** Matt Kutcher  
Mfg. of rubber props  
www.spectrumeffects.com

**STUDIO ART & TECHNOLOGY**  
818-951-5620 Fax 818-951-2882  
9545 Wentworth St.  
Sunland, CA. 91040  
**CONTACT:** Lewis Doty  
Prop Manufacturing, Special Effects &  
Graphics  
lewis@studioartandtechnology.com

**TECHNICAL PROPS**  
818-761-4993 Fax 818-761-5059  
10835 Vanowen Street, #5  
North Hollywood, CA. 91605  
**CONTACT:** Donald Kaeding  
Property Rental House

**TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX STUDIOS**  
310-369-1000  
PAINT: 310-369-2709  
SIGN SHOP: 310-369-7446  
STAFF SHOP: 310-369-2712  
MILL/METAL/PROPS: 310-369-2611  
DRAPERY/UPHOLSTERY/FLOORING:  
310-369-2616  
10201 West Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA. 90035  
www.foxstudios.com/flash/main.htm

**NBC/UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS**  
818-777-1000  
PAINT: 818-777-2351  
DRAPERY: 818-777-2761  
PROPERTY: 818-777-2784  
LOCK SHOP: 818-777-5245  
HARDWARE: 818-777-2784  
METAL SHOP: 818-777-2296  
SPECIAL EFFECTS: 818-777-2784  
FURNITURE REPAIR: 818-777-5260  
SIGN SHOP/GRAPHICS: 818-777-2350  
100 Universal City Plaza  
Universal City, CA. 91608  
www.studio.universalstudios.com/

**THE WALT DISNEY STUDIOS**  
818-560-1000  
PAINT: 818-560-5271  
PROPERTY: 818-560-7591  
STAFF SHOP: 818-560-1298  
SIGN/GRAPHICS: 818-560-5488  
MILL/MOULDING/SPECIAL  
EFFECTS: 818-560-5510  
500 S. Buena Vista St.  
Burbank, CA. 91521  
www.studioservices.go.com/

**WARNER BROS. STUDIOS**  
818-954-6000  
SIGN SHOP: 818-954-1815  
CANVAS RM: 818-954-2671  
PLUMBING: 818-954-1245  
PAINT SHOP: 818-954-1817  
METAL SHOP: 818-954-1265  
HARDWARE: 818-954-1335  
STAFF SHOP: 818-954-2269  
LUMBER YARD: 818-954-2358  
PROPERTY DEPT: 818-954-2171  
SPECIAL EFFECTS: 818-954-1365  
FLOOR COVERING: 818-977-1267  
DRAPERY/UPHOLSTERY: 818-954-1831  
FURNITURE REPAIR/REFINISHING:  
818-954-1332  
4000 Warner Blvd.  
Burbank, CA. 91522  
www.wbsf.warnerbros.com/

**WHITE RHINO PRODUCTION SERVICES**  
661-296-4667 Fax 818-760-0043  
22051 Sunrise View  
Santa Clarita, CA. 91390  
**CONTACT:** David Peterson  
Provides labor to commercial productions  
Dave@Fullscaleeffects.com

**For continuing updates to this signatory list, please check the Local 44 website: [www.local44.org](http://www.local44.org)**

## LETTERS TO THE LOCAL

*The viewpoints of the individual members expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of Local 44, its officers or staff.*

As we grow older, our vision starts to weaken, which in most cases, requires us to use some type of vision correction. I, and many others, am required by OSHA and studio safety policies to wear safety glasses while performing certain duties. Some of these duties include grinding, drilling, sawing, cutting, scoring and breaking various materials. Additionally, I am required to accurately mark and cut materials; and as a licensed Pyrotechnician I also wear safety glasses while working with pyrotechnics. Again, I'm required to use great care while performing these duties; eyesight is mandatory.

It is very difficult to wear a pair of reading glasses under a pair of safety glasses, and safety shields are not always readily available. There is also the problem of safety glasses fogging up.

An additional set of prescription safety glasses could be issued on either a case by case basis or by a vision prescription change. A good set of frames may also require only lens changes, and not a total replacement of prescription safety glasses.

I am asking you to bring this to the attention of our Vision Care insurance plan. Please get us an additional pair of annual "prescription safety glasses" included in our vision care

package. We are now required by Contract Services to take safety courses - one of the key elements of on-the-job safety and efficient job performance is proper eye protection.

We deserve prescription safety glasses. I urge the Local 44 Executive Board and all Local 44 members to show their support in this action by writing, petition or e-mailing Mr. Gregory Mason at the address listed below. Please get this message out to our members.

Thank you,  
Chuck Schulthies Jr.  
IATSE Local 44  
Special Effects

Mr. Gregory Mason  
MPIPHP Director of Provider  
Contracts  
P.O. Box 1999  
Studio City, CA 91614-0999  
(818) 769-0007 ext. 344  
e-mail address: gmason@mpiphp.org

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**Join us in person to ask the  
BURBANK CITY COUNCIL  
to support**

**American Film Workers  
Tuesday Feb. 8th at 6:00 PM  
Burbank City Hall  
275 E. Olive Ave, Burbank  
For more information log on to:**

**[www.ftac.org](http://www.ftac.org)**

In solidarity,  
Tim McHugh

*Submissions should be typed or printed neatly and should include contact information. Letters may be edited for content and length.*

## President Short on Out-of-State Workers and the Safety Pass Program

International President Tom Short has written a letter, dated November 30, 2004, to Ingrid Lohne at Contract Services' Safety Pass Program, with copies to West Coast Studio Locals. Here is the content of the letter:

Re: Industry Experience Roster

Dear Ingrid:

I am in receipt of a copy of your letter to Timothy Wade dated November 23, 2004. I am writing with specific reference to item #3 in the letter which states that "there is no exception based upon an individual's residence" with regard to completing safety training to remain active on the Roster.

For the record, it is the position of the IATSE that this requirement is not only illogical, it is unfair and never the intent of the arrangement. California OSHA regulations are not applicable to technicians working outside of California. In addition, it is unrealistic to expect individuals to travel, house and feed themselves in order to attend the program. When individuals secure work in Los Angeles County, arrangements should be made to comply with the rules by taking the proper training courses.

I sincerely hope that no technician experiences a disruption or loss of wages based on the incorrect application of the residency issue.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Short

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

## Support Tsunami Relief Efforts

**Local 44 is encouraging members who want to support relief efforts for the victims of the late December earthquake/tsunami in south Asia to donate to the Tsunami Relief Fund established by The AFL-CIO American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center).**

**The labor community has banded together to collect funds for food, shelter, and reconstruction. Those interested in contributing to the relief fund should make out a check marked "Tsunami Relief," payable to Solidarity Center Education Fund, and send it to: Tsunami Relief Fund, Solidarity Center, 1925 K Street, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC, 20006-1105. For more information or to contribute online, log on to: [www.solidaritycenter.org](http://www.solidaritycenter.org)**

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# Marlis Hornung Retires in Style

On November 30, 2004, Property Sewing person Marlis Hornung retired after twenty-seven years at the Fox Drapery department. Local 44 Business Agent Ronnie Cunningham and Assistant Business Agent Michael Clark joined friends, department-heads, and co-workers who gathered to show their appreciation for Marlis' easy smile, her great sense of humor, and of course her many years of impeccable work.

Marlis and her husband Manfred Hornung moved to the United States from Germany in 1962, almost by accident. "After we got married, we couldn't find a flat – we wanted to move out of Berlin to West Germany, but there were no apartments available there," explains Marlis. "A friend had a brother in the states, and we kiddingly said, 'we'll come visit you.' Well we did, and we've been living in the Granada Hills area ever since."

Marlis, a tailor by trade, got a call in September of 1977 from Ron Curry, he was looking for



*Marlis Hornung (right) and Set Decorator Leslie Frankenheimer share a hug at Marlis' retirement party.*

some sewing people for *The Fury* – the rest was history. She would spend the next twenty-seven years in the Drapery department at Fox. "I think I worked a Saturday at Warner Brothers and then at Disney for a week, and that's it. It was a pretty good run."

Marlis says the thing she'll miss the most about her job is the people. "The crew in the drapery department was the best, everyone was just wonderful. And I never had a bad boss." She particularly enjoyed her work on "The X Files." "They kept us hopping, it was busy all the time, but the decorators and all of the crew were just the nicest people. It was really a pleasure working with them."

Retirement is bittersweet for Marlis, "It's kind of sad, I'm going to miss my friends, but my husband is already retired, so it's happy too." After the excitement and emotion of not having a job to report to every day wears off, Marlis plans to take some time for herself. "I don't have any definite plans yet, but I'm going to travel, find some hobbies, just enjoy," then she adds with a mischievous laugh, "maybe I'll exercise."

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## New Committee to Enhance Access to Studio Lots & ID Cards

At the December 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Board meeting, a motion was passed allowing me to put together a five-person committee to research ways to gain easier access to studio lots for members seeking work. This has been a major difficulty since the implementation of stringent security measures after 9/11. If you are interested in participating on this committee, please notify Gene Owens at 818-353-9282 or call the Local 44 Callboard at 818-769-2500.

Names will be taken and five members will be selected to participate. Ideally, I would like to have a member representing each of the crafts. This is your chance to make a difference. This committee has the full support of the Executive Board; and it is my hope that we can quickly formulate recommendations that will lead to the resolution of this issue.

In solidarity,  
Gene Owens

**LOCAL 44  
OFFICE HOURS**

**CALL BOARD:  
5:30 AM -  
8:00 PM**

**BUSINESS  
OFFICE:  
8:00 AM -  
6:00 PM**

# TAKE CONTROL

By Elliot Jennings

## **Faster Bouncing Checks**

Are you one of us who plays “the Float?” You know you’re going to get paid on Thursday so you write checks that need paying now, but you know there is a “float” between the time a company gets your payment and the time the check clears your bank, and by that time, the check will be “good”. Not anymore!

As of October 28, 2004, a new law took effect, the Check 21 Act. The banks are saving money, but you could get caught with your funds down!

For decades your checks took a ride in and out of banks and clearing-houses, over land and by air; only to end up a month or so later in the bank statement in your mailbox. Like having that check you wrote physically in your bank statement for record keeping? Won’t be seeing them much longer. Banks need only give you a photocopy or even a mere line item on your statement saying the check has been “cashed.”

Banks can now “truncate” checks without your permission. Truncating is the processing of your check electronically. This allows banks to process, and if necessary, create a photocopy of your check for processing. This means processing can occur in hours rather than days.

Watch your statements carefully; the problem with photocopied checks is the possibility of “double-debiting.” The new law requires a bank to re-credit your account within 10 days if the debit cannot be proven valid.

Be aware; stop floating!

## **That Lousy Triple X**

Not the movie, the life Insurance Act.

In 1995, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners had legislation

enacted (Triple X) which forced insurance companies to place a bigger percentage of their money in reserve accounts instead of allowing the companies to invest in areas of higher return. This would result in the loss of millions of dollars the companies were used to making. The companies intended to pass the loss onto the consumer. What happened?

First, the law allowed each State the timeframe in which to implement the new standards, but these were in force by 1999. So by the year 2000, we should have experienced significant increases in our insurance rates.

The process was delayed when American carriers were able to shift some of their reserves to foreign insurance carriers (known as reinsurers). We have had several years of steady term life rates as a result. Now, however, foreign reinsurers are raising the rates they charge American carriers, and those increases are being passed on to you.

Already Prudential, Transamerica and United of Omaha have increased rates. More will have occurred by the time this hits the press. Companies will either raise rates or tighten their underwriting standards.

Tougher underwriting standards will take into account family cancer

history, blood pressure and cholesterol, even your driving record. Before, a 6-foot man could weigh 230 pounds and receive preferred rates, now he’ll have to be 215.

I’ve said it before. Reassess your life insurance now, before your rates go up and *before your policy expires*. Figure how long you need insurance (to pay off your mortgage, debt, and get kids through college) and negotiate long term to keep your rates steady.

*“Take Control” will appear periodically as a guide to empower members through sound financial planning.*

**Mark Your Calender  
for the  
I.A.T.S.E. LOCAL 44  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

**Date: Saturday, 3/12/2005  
Time: 9:00 AM  
At: The Sportsmen’s Lodge,  
Empire Room  
12833 Ventura Blvd.,  
Studio City, Ca 91604**

## 2005 DUES SCHEDULE

CRAFT	QUARTERLY	QUARTERLY INACTIVE	ANNUALLY	ANNUALLY INACTIVE
Property / Greens	\$137.00	\$82.00	\$548.00	\$328.00
Propmakers, Drapers, Sewers, Upholsterers, Special FX	\$145.00	\$85.00	\$580.00	\$340.00
Prop Masters	\$160.00	\$93.00	\$640.00	\$372.00
Coordinators	\$174.00	\$100.00	\$696.00	\$400.00
Set Decorators	\$178.00	\$102.00	\$712.00	\$408.00
Inactive Retiree	n/a	\$20	n/a	\$80
Retired	n/a	Free	n/a	Free

# IN MEMORIAM

**ROBERT ANDERSON**  
PROPERTY MASTER  
BORN: 11/1/1924  
SWORN IN: 10/7/1959  
RETIRED: 4/1/1989  
DIED: 11/22/2004

**ELENOR BURTON**  
DRAPER  
BORN: 8/21/1942  
SWORN IN: 1/16/1978  
DIED: 12/17/2004

**MICHAEL FLAMMER**  
PROPMAKER  
BORN: 5/23/1955  
SWORN IN: 1/22/1997  
DIED: 11/27/2004

**DAVID SHEPHARD**  
PROPMAKER  
BORN: 3/26/1956  
SWORN IN: 5/29/1979  
DIED: 12/29/2004

## LA CONCHITA MUDSLIDE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Here's your chance to help the victims of the La Conchita mudslide, make a difference, and have some fun! Jimmy "Gator" Wallet (pictured right with his wife and four daughters) is a dear friend to many in the film industry, an acquaintance to others, and someone we ALL feel for. Nothing could possibly relieve the grief of losing your wife and 3 young daughters, along with your home and all your belongings, but at least we can all help in some small way. Here's how:



### WALLET CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

All proceeds go directly to Jimmy "Gator" Wallet and his daughter Jasmine.

Los Robles Green Golf Course  
299 S. Moorepark Rd, Thousand Oaks  
Sunday, March 13th

\$150 per person (Registration Deadline - March 1st)

- includes greens fee, cart, and banquet lunch

Banquet Only - \$50 per person

GREAT PRIZES!! Raffle tickets are 5 for \$20 pre-paid or \$5 each at the door.

Pre sign-up at 6am -- Shotgun Start at 7am

This tournament is open to EVERYONE, and is sure to be a great time, so please invite anyone who would like to play, and also those who would like to join for lunch.

Please contact: Eddie Esparza at 661-753-9127, Johnny Gomez at 323-697-6125, or Linda Rebman at 661-290-2434

Those of you who are unable to attend, but would like to contribute, please call Lycee Esparza at 805-339-0080.

# REMEMBERING DAVE SHEPHARD

David James Shephard passed away suddenly in Burbank California on December 29, 2004 at the age of 48. He is survived by his loving wife Pam; daughter Karen Erickson; parents Carol and Ralph Furst; brothers John and Jeff; sister Carol; and a world of friends. He was the son of Ford Shephard (deceased).



**David Shephard**  
1956-2004

Dave was a Local 44 Propmaker for 25 years and an Assistant Business Representative for three years. He was fiercely committed to this union and its members, and he worked tirelessly on their behalf. Anyone who had the good fortune to know Dave knew a wonderful man with a boundless heart and an inexhaustible spirit. A great light went out when he left us, but his memory will live with his friends and loved ones always. Dave will be dearly missed.

## HELP FOR THE FLAMMER FAMILY

Michael Flammer was short by just a few years of being vested for his pension when he passed away on November 27, 2004. He leaves behind his wife Susan and their two children Stephanie 12 and Christopher 9 (pictured above with Michael). Sadly, they will not receive any benefits through The Motion Picture Pension & Health Plan.



**Michael Anthony Flammer**  
1955 - 2004

Donations can be made to a scholarship fund for Michael's children. If you would like to contribute please make checks payable to: Local 44 Benevolent and

Retiree Fund, 12021 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, CA 91607. On the Memo line please indicate "Flammer Children Scholarship." The Local 44 Benevolent Fund will send donations on to the children's Scholarship Trust.

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# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

Many of our members have expressed an interest in the content of the monthly Executive Board meetings. Below is a summary of the most recent meetings. These are only brief highlights and do not contain great detail. They are meant to give an overview of things that were discussed, not a fully accurate account. Any member wishing to read the minutes of the Executive Board in their entirety, may do so by appointment through the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

## Wed. November 17th – Regular Meeting

### Report: Compensation Committee

LM2 information had been gathered and regular meetings would commence.

Report: Otto Lungren was sworn in to replace Mike Clark as Trustee.

*The Board entered into Executive Session*

Discussion: The Trustees request to hire an outside auditing firm to do Local 44's year-end audit for 2004. Discussion of spending limits.

***Motion: To allow the trustees to hire an outside firm to perform year-end audit; give Trustees procedures for performing all future audits for the sum of \$36,000.***

**Motion passed.**

Discussion: Additional compensation request by Speed Stearns upon the elimination of his position at the Local in a prior Executive Board session. Discussed were additional mileage, additional hours and compensation package.

***Motion: Additional compensation is denied. Severance pay would be paid according to Local 44 Producer's Agreement.***

**On a split vote, motion passed, with three abstentions.**

### UBS Financial Report

Jim Cantrell and Josh Axel gave a presentation of the Local's investment performance over the last decade and answered questions from the Board. It was noted that though there had been modest gains in our portfolio, the Union has liquidating investments at a faster pace.

Presentation: With the assistance of Toree Webb, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer Jennings discussed findings of the Local's financial situation. Among the topics of lost revenue included subsidies of per capita payments, programs, office staff and payroll.

Discussion: On 2005 dues and the pass through of per capita fees to the membership.

Discussion: On the classification of Active Retiree and how it needed to be

reclassified according to the Constitution and Bylaws.

***Motion: To set dues concurrent with the Constitution and Bylaws (which would remove all the discounts from next year's dues).***

**Motion passed.**

***Motion: To set aside the annual Picnic temporarily.***

**On a split vote, motion passed.**

## Wed., December 1st, 2004 – Regular Meeting

*The Board entered into Executive Session*

***Motion: To bring all members to full per capita payment over next two years on a gradual increase. To notify the members of the increase and at how it was arrived.***

**On a split vote, motion passed.**

Discussion: The term of office of officials elected in the previous election cycle. Attempt to harmonize the requirement of a three-year term with the CBLs date of election requirement in March of election year.

Motion: Table discussion

**Motion passed.**

### Report: Compensation Committee

Committee has been checking LM2 reports from other IA Locals, the size of their membership, compensation packages. Should have information compiled by January 5<sup>th</sup> E-Board meeting.

### Report: Special Litigation Committee

*Board went into Executive Session*

***Motion: In keeping with the contract with attorneys, a request for \$5,000 to be forwarded to retainer fund.***

**Motion passed.**

Presentation: Business Agent Report. Met regarding Prop Masters doing "incidental" Special Effects.

A list of signatory companies is being compiled.

Three training class applications are being submitted to Contract Services: Special Effects for Prop Shop members; Firearms safety for Property and Masters; and computer including Photoshop.

There is concern that only Local 80 Grips are required to take the 6-hour scaffolding class and that this could cause a jurisdictional dispute.

Presentation: Secretary-Treasurer Report. Report that the Local had a loss of revenue for November, due in part to extraordinary legal expense.

The office staff had been reduced by

one in the Business Office.

We are aggressively tracking down delinquent members who manage to gain employment.

The Secretary-Treasurer requests an annual budget meeting.

The first life insurance quote had been received and appeared to allow coverage for \$10,000 for approximately the same price as we are paying now. Prudential wants to counter offer.

***Motion: For a special Executive Board meeting on January 15th at 9:00 a.m. for creating an annual budget.***

**Motion passed.**

***Motion: To approve \$4,000 for the purchase of t-shirts for membership.***

**Motion passed.**

***Motion: To approve a holiday party for the office staff, but that we do not have a party for the Executive Board.***

**Motion passed.**

***Motion: To have the Secretary-Treasurer come up with a history of Christmas bonuses for office staff for the December 15th meeting.***

**Motion passed.**

Presentation: Each Craft gave a presentation of their impressions of the semi-annual craft meetings. No meeting had a quorum.

Discussion: On the setting of dues, fines and assessments. It had been determined that quarterly payments would follow the Constitution and Bylaws without reduction. The discussion ensued around the remaining fees and assessments.

***Motion: To follow the Constitution and Bylaws in regard to initiation fees, fines and assessments.***

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

Discussion: On gaining access to studio lots for members to look for work.

***Motion: To place in the Newsletter an invitation for members to join a Committee to gain access to lots.***

**Motion passed.**

***Motion: To print 2,000 copies of the new contracts for members to pick up at the Hall if they wish.***

**Motion passed.**

Discussion: Business Agent Cunningham presented Edmund Brown from property as a nomination to Assistant Business Agent.

***Motion: To accept Edmund Brown as Assistant Business Agent.***

**Motion passed with one abstention.**

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Discussion: Regarding the legislative lobbying efforts to ease the weapons restrictions for motion pictures in California.

**Motion:** *To allow Mr. Bilson of ISS to give a presentation of the Armorer's Group at the December 15th meeting.*

**Motion passed.**

**Motion:** *To have a plaque made for Local 44 office to memorialize members who were killed while performing their jobs.*

**Motion passed.**

**Motion:** *To post the passing of Michael Flammer in the Newsreel asking for donations for family.*

**Motion passed.**

### **Wed., December 15, 2004 – Regular Meeting**

#### **Presentation: Greg Bilson on Firearms Legislation**

Representing the American Entertainment Armourers Association, which is comprised of West and East Coast prop houses.

They are working with legal counsel on short and long term exemptions to the 10-day waiting period (the Brady Bill). They are working toward an Entertainment Weapons Permit. Legislation is being presented in California Senate. Many "weapons free" countries like England, Canada And Europe have exemptions for motion pictures which is a key factor in losing jobs for action pictures in these countries.

This one issue cost over \$50,000 in legal expenses.

**Motion:** *To donate \$5,000 to the A.E.A.A. and table discussion of more funds until after the budget meeting in January 2005.*

**Motion passed.**

#### **Presentation: Barry Kingston on Retiree Changes**

Mr. Kingston gave a response to some of the statements in the recently received letter, "2005 Quarterly Payment Notification". Mr. Kingston stated that there is no Retiree category in our CBLs. It was pointed out that Article 5, Section 1 of the Constitution states the requirements to be Retired.

Mr. Kingston suggested that the Union follow the Pension Plan regarding retirement. A motion, made by Mr. Kingston in a previous administration (8-11-04) stated that the Union should use International parameters with respect to retirement. It was pointed out that the only International parameters were over 65 years old and 25 years in the Union.

Mr. Kingston suggested that along with the voting privilege, past administrations charged \$40 a year to Retirees for their benefits and life insurance. It was pointed out

that the life insurance policy was independent of the CBLs and that currently all Retirees are covered.

#### **Report: Compensation Committee**

The Committee requested two more meetings.

Presentation: Business Agent Report. It was reported that some armourers are not hiring Prop Masters and that we should go after them.

A report was given on grievances pertaining to each craft.

Michael Clark would begin patrolling commercials beginning in January.

There was a brief discussion on the use of non-union shops by Prop Masters.

Presentation: Secretary-Treasurer Report. There was a statement to the Union's monthly financial showing and the results of the collection effort with suspended and dropped members.

A mailing from former Secretary-Treasurer Keske, dated 1987, was displayed confirming the two categories of Retirees: Voting and "Free dues". The letter also stated that in the 1986 International convention the per capita expense was to be paid by each member.

The Secretary-Treasurer asked for the elimination of the service fee to applications.

**Motion:** *To eliminate the \$59 service fee and incorporate the \$100 International fee into the initiation fee.*

**Motion passed.**

There was a report of a disciplinary letter sent out to a "no show-no call" incident. Suggestions were that we might more aggressively reprimand individuals who disregard their obligations.

There was a brief accounting of the activities of the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, including two labor-related rallies.

Presentation: Craft Representative Reports. The Prop Masters had requested in their craft meeting that automatic medical coverage be granted anyone who had 30 years in the business. The Business Agent Cunningham said he would present it at the IA Business Agents meeting.

Discussion: To "grandfather" in current 62-65 year old Retirees as Retired as they had previously been considered such under the now voided "Active Retiree" category.

**Motion:** *To table the 62-65 Retirees until counsel is present.*

**Motion passed.**

**Motion:** *Authorizing \$750 to staff holiday party.*

**Motion passed.**

Discussion: Regarding the holiday bonuses given to the office staff.

**Motion:** *To authorize 2004 bonuses at*

*the 2003 level.*

**On a split vote, the motion failed.**

**There was one abstention.**

**Motion:** *To authorize 2004 bonuses at half the 2003 level.*

**On a split vote, the motion passed.**

**There was one abstention.**

Discussion: Following the Constitution and By-Laws where the Executive Board and Officers are pay the per capita tax of the International. The CBLs state that Officers of the Local get free dues, but must pay the per capita portion of their payments.

**Motion:** *That the Executive Board and Officers follow the Constitution and By-Laws and pay their per capita payments.*

**Motion passed.**

Discussion: What Shop Stewards are required to pay. It was pointed out that even though shop stewards have in the past paid nothing to the Union, there is no language in the CBLs stating what they should or shouldn't pay.

**Motion:** *That Shop Stewards should pay the per capita payment.*

**Motion passed.**

Discussion: The duties of a Shop Steward and their required tasks.

Discussion: Whether Business Agent, Secretary-Treasurer, or their assistants or Trustees should receive stipends for meetings attended.

**Motion:** *That no "salaried" Officer, and no Trustee, should receive a stipend for attending meetings.*

**On a split vote, motion passed. There was one abstention.**

Discussion: Vice-President McIntosh requested that the monthly stipend he is paid as Vice-President be removed as there is no clause in the CBLs except for the President.

**Motion:** *To remove the monthly compensation for the Vice-President.*

**Motion passed.**

Discussion: Life insurance quotes. The Secretary-Treasurer had received 3 quotes in the \$10,000 range and suggested raising the insurance level. Discussion was tabled until the budget meeting.

Discussion: Hotel workers support. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Ahrens gave a report on the hotel workers union boycotting nine luxury hotels in the L.A. area.

**Motion:** *That Local 44 support the Los Angeles hotel workers in their boycott of the nine L.A. hotels.*

**On a split vote, motion passed.**