

# NEWS REEL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

## IN THE BACKLOTS OF HOLLYWOOD THE SUN IS RISING AGAIN

Executive Board Votes  
"No Confidence" in  
President Merrick, pg. 6

IATSE Local 44 Newsreel  
January/February 2021  
Volume 32 Issue 1



Tobey Bays, Business Agent  
Anthony Pawluc, Secretary-Treasurer  
Dutch Merrick, President



# YOUR LOCAL 44 OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Working Hard for You and the Union

## OFFICERS

### **Business Agent**

Tobey Bays  
818-769-8733  
tbays@local44.org

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Anthony Pawluc  
818-769-2500

### **President**

Dutch Merrick  
Dutch@LAPropMaster.com

### **Vice-President**

Erin Hennessey  
310-500-7457

### **Sergeant-At-Arms**

Wild Bill Elliott

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

## REPRESENTATIVES

### **Property**

Eric Hulett  
Ray Schrefel, Jr.  
Mike Loomer

### **Propmaker**

Michael Cappello  
818-691-6300  
Armando Gonzalez  
818-506-7897  
Tony Chavez

### **Property Master**

Emily Ferry  
323-462-4468  
Charli Jayson

### **Set Decorator**

Andrea Joel  
Chilly Nathan

### **Coordinator**

Andrew Moore  
cattleco.44@verizon.net  
Karen Higgins

### **Special Effects**

J.D. Streett  
jds@jdsfx.com  
Timothy Graham  
timothybg@hotmail.com

## REPRESENTATIVE

### ALTERNATES

**Property**  
Natasha Pirouzian

**Propmaker**  
Tom Bowen

**Property Master**  
Chuck McSorley

**Coordinator**  
John Richardson

**Set Decorator**  
Lisa Clark

**Special Effects**  
Zak Knight

### DELEGATES

**Property**  
Ray Schrefel, Jr.

**Propmaker**  
Michael Cappello

**Property Master**  
Emily Ferry

**Coordinator**  
David Elliott

**Set Decorator**  
Dea Jensen

**Special Effects**  
J.D. Streett

## DELEGATE ALTERNATES

**Property**  
Natasha Pirouzian

**Propmaker**  
Vincent Hammond

**Property Master**  
Charli Jayson

**Special Effects**  
Timothy Graham

### TRUSTEES

Robert Carlyle  
Lesli Lytle  
Adam Zerkel

## ASSISTANT BUSINESS AGENTS

Rick McGee

Victor Reyes

David Elliott

Angela Whiting

Krystal Donyes

### STEWARDS

**Television City**

Andrea Joel

**Fox Studios**

Saul Hernandez

**HPR Custom**

Michael Torvinen

### ISS

Julie Gause

**Lennie Marvin**

Anthony Bell

**Paramount Pictures**

Bret Buchanan

### SAT

Roberto Castillo

**Sony Motion Picture Studios**

John "JT" Timm

**Spellman Desk**

Alex Hernandez

**Universal Studios**

Michael Cappello

Ray Schrefel, Jr.

**Warner Bros.**

John Barton Jr., Hand Prop Room

Tony Loffredo

## FIELD STEWARDS

Rocco Buffolino

Tony Chavez

Colin Dennis

"Grande" Gonzalez

Ryan Gullixson

Alexander Hill

Marc Meisels

Ross Parker

Anthony Syracuse

## **NEWS REEL**

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### **Editor-in-Chief**

Anthony Pawluc

### **Copy Editor**

Rich Kennedy

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Local 44 Newsreel accepts submissions in person, by mail, or by email (preferred). All submissions are subject to review and approval.

Written submissions should be checked for accuracy and spelling by the author. Local 44 Newsreel takes no responsibility for errors in member submitted content.

Please include names of all persons pictured in submitted digital and print pictures to be eligible for publication.

Submissions are subject to revision and editing when necessary.

Local 44 Newsreel offers no guarantee that any submission will make it to print.

## **NEXT DEADLINE: MAR 26**

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c/o IATSE Local 44

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North Hollywood, CA 91607

Questions? Comments?

Call 818-769-2500

Register with Local 44's Website, [www.Local44.org](http://www.Local44.org), for access to these great features:

- Manage your Contact Information
- Update Your Work History
- Download the Current & Future Show Lists
- Pay Your Dues Electronically
- Stay Current with Local 44 Events & Deadlines
- Post Ads in the Online Toolcrib
- List Your Work Resume for FREE!
- Browse the Photo Gallery
- Download Retiree & Beneficiary Forms
- Read past editions of the Local 44 Newsreel



# From the Desk of BUSINESS AGENT TOBEY BAYS

**T**he year 2020 can be summed up in a single word. Unprecedented. We have witnessed and experienced the grim circumstances of a plague ravishing the world, taking loved ones, friends, and acquaintances before their time. We have seen great injustices and senseless violence captured and shared on media outlets in brutal detail, and degrees of civil unrest not seen in decades. It is without an ounce of regret that I say goodbye to the grimness of 2020 and look with glimmers of hope to the greater part of 2021. Through adversity, we can become stronger. Through tumult and loss, we can realize our gratitude and fortune. And through derision and division, we can resolve to greater compassion for others within our community and the communities of those whom we may disagree with in their politics or religion or culture and to creating more resilient communities of inclusion and belonging.

In some ways the road to a healthier and happier nation is quite simple. Be grateful and be kind. We can be grateful if we are not sick. We can be grateful if we have a job or financial stability. We can be grateful if our loved ones are safe from violence, poverty or oppression. We can be grateful if we have been free to disagree, to voice our convictions, to vote for our beliefs. And in the words of Fred Rodgers, "There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." Conservative or liberal, rich or poor, dark or light, religious, spiritual, or atheist, native or immigrant, friend or foe, we can speak and act with kindness and we can begin to heal and work towards a "more perfect union". I am grateful for all those who contributed their time and energy to support and protect our labor and our union in 2020, and I am optimistic that more hard work, collaboration, creativity, innovation, and...kindness will help us see greater prosperity and progress for all.

In Solidarity,  
Tobey Bays  
Business Agent

# ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

We recognize and congratulate the following individuals for their years of membership with Local 44.

## JANUARY 2021

### OVER 50 YEARS

Michael Ross - Property Master (65)  
Richard Greene - Greens (62)  
Eugene Anderson - Property Master (60)  
Linda Barber - Draper (55)  
Walter Binkley - Property Master (55)  
Audrey Blasdel-Goddard - Set Decorator (55)  
Rick Gentz - Set Decorator (55)  
Roger Montesano - Property Master (55)  
Bruce Rubins - Propmaker (55)  
John Rutchland Jr. - Coordinator (55)  
John Treman III - Property (55)  
James F. Walker - Propmaker (55)  
Frank Brown - Property (54)  
Philip Calhoun - Property Master (54)  
David Goldman - Property Master (54)  
Robert Gould - Set Decorator (54)  
Gary Kieldrup - Property Master (54)  
Frank Toro - Special Effects (54)

### 50 YEARS

Miguel Garcia - Property

### 35 YEARS

Randall Bostic - Property  
Lisa Fischer - Set Decorator  
Wilson Hardy - Property  
Ronald MacInnes - Propmaker

### 25 YEARS

Lisa Alkofer - Set Decorator  
Michael Aronson - Coordinator  
John Bakken - Propmaker  
Beth Emerson-Levine - Property  
James Gmuer - Property  
Gary Hardy Jr. - Propmaker  
Jesse Harris - Property  
Alex Hernandez - Property  
James Higginson - Property Master  
Denny Hoofman - Propmaker  
Juan Jara - Propmaker  
Craig Johnston - Property  
Daniel Kuzmick - Property  
Robert Lampkin - Property  
Kim Larsen-Santini - Property  
David Lombard - Property  
Kim McDonald - Coordinator  
John Nary - Propmaker  
Chris Nelson - Special Effects  
Angela O'Neill - Property Master  
Maureen Osborne - Set Decorator  
Steven Radin - Propmaker  
Scott Richards - Property  
Amy Rost - Property  
Jorge Soto - Greens  
Frank Uchalik - Property Master  
Frank Uchalik Jr. - Property

David Watkins - Propmaker  
Randy Yamamoto - Property  
Thomas Zell - Propmaker

### 10 YEARS

Scott Acito - Property  
Andrew Alexander - Property  
Steven Auernhammer - TCR Property Master  
Timothy Bedwell - Property  
Alexis Campanella - Property  
Justin Corrigan - Property  
Steven Davis - Propmaker  
Cynthia Epping - Set Decorator  
Sean Eyre - Property  
Scott Gallagher - TCR Property Master  
Michelle Goode - TCR Set Decorator  
Michael Kassak - Property  
David Koenig - TCR Property Master  
Ryan Martin - Property  
Axel Moeller - Property  
Nigel Mogg - Property  
Jeffrey Myron - TCR Property Master  
Sean Nafziger - TCR Property Master  
Jami Pillow - TCR Set Decorator  
William Sales - Property  
Salvador Sanchez - Property  
Roberto Zamudio - Property  
Thomas Zawacki - Property

## FEBRUARY 2021

### OVER 50 YEARS

Clifford Bernay - Property Master (61)  
Raymond Boyle - Propmaker (59)  
Alfred Broussard - Special Effects (58)  
Lawrence Ferritto - Propmaker (57)  
Michael Gannon - Property Master (57)  
Robert King - Special Effects (55)  
John Lawless - Coordinator (55)  
William McLaughlin - Set Decorator (55)  
David Moll - Property Master (55)  
Lambert Powell - Special Effects (55)  
William Reinert - Set Decorator (55)  
John Rozman - Property (55)  
Arthur Shippee Jr. - Property Master (55)  
Gerald Tirado - Property (55)  
Albert Delgado - Special Effects (54)

Alexander Smutko - Coordinator (54)  
Daniel Bentley - Property Master (52)  
Gregg Bilson - Property Master (52)  
Nick Caprarelli - Property Master (52)  
Richard Goddard - Set Decorator (52)  
Marvin March - Set Decorator (52)  
Larry McGuire - Property Master (52)  
John Verna - Draper (52)  
Bruce Walters - Property (52)  
Milton Wilson Jr. - Property (52)  
John Barton - Property Master (52)  
Charles Stewart - Coordinator (52)  
Ira Anderson Jr. - Special Effects (52)  
Frank Cappiello - Greens (52)  
Raymond Petersen - Property (52)

### 50 YEARS

no members

### 35 YEARS

Dale Anderson - Property  
Larry Clause - Propmaker  
Douglas Gagan - Propmaker  
William Gilpin - Coordinator  
James Guarrera - Special Effects  
Gary Isbell - Property Master  
Anthony Jimenez - Property  
Kevin McCoy - Floorcover  
Laura Rizzi - Sewing Person  
Michael Sexton - Property Master  
Mark Yuricich - Special Effects

**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)**

### OPT-OUT NOTICE

To prevent your name from appearing in future anniversary milestone rolls, please email your request with your full name and Union card number to [newsreel@local44.org](mailto:newsreel@local44.org)



# From the Desk of SECRETARY-TREASURER ANTHONY PAWLUC

**T**he sun is rising again in Hollywood. We have all endured the long storm that has been COVID-19. As Members and Industry Professionals, we weathered a long and difficult drought in 2020 doing everything we could to stay safe and healthy while protecting ourselves, family and friends.

When the Unions, Guilds and Studios finally agreed upon safety protocols last summer to get us back to work, our Industry, like no other, accepted the challenges and we succeeded under the rigorous provisions that are now a part of our regular work days.

September 2020 was fast paced getting members back to work with direct hires and work calls flying through the Callboard up until late December.

As anticipated, it was a slow January with many productions holding back their return because of the anticipated COVID-19 spikes after the Holidays forcing a second statewide lockdown.

Again, our membership overcame the slow start and the statewide shut down and went back to business as an essential work force.

Along with the rest of the country, COVID-19 cases are beginning to fall and vaccinations are being

distributed. This has provided a much-needed light guiding us all in a positive direction. “Good Feelings” are beginning to resurface and the Hollywood pulse is beginning to beat once again.

In early February, the Callboard phones began to light up with work calls flowing and Department Heads requesting member availability lists in order to begin crewing up.

When it is safe and appropriate, we are hoping to begin scheduling member meetings and events again to get us back together and move us all forward as a collective Union.

During this whole pandemic, our Membership, Executive Board, Officers and Staff have displayed a personal and professional resilience, have continued to overcome all the challenges and have persevered as we continue forward together.

All of us in the Secretary-Treasurer Departments will continue to support and serve our Membership as our Membership continues to make Hollywood Magic.

Best,

Anthony Pawluc

Secretary-Treasurer





# Affiliated Property Craftspersons Local 44

OF THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES AND MOVING PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

## Executive Board Unanimously Votes “No Confidence” in President Dutch Merrick’s Conduct and Leadership

Dear Members:

As your elected Executive Board Representatives, we are notifying the membership of a vote of no confidence that the Executive Board took based on the ongoing actions of President Merrick. Like many of you, the Executive Board was excited with President Merrick’s energy when he was elected. Despite our concerted efforts to work with President Merrick, he has lost our confidence in his actions and judgment as President. Please treat this information as for Local 44 members only and avoid publishing it in any way that makes it available to anyone who is not a Local 44 member.

At a special Board meeting on December 30, 2020, the Executive Board voted unanimously that it has no confidence in President Merrick. To explain our actions, we have provided here the motion of No Confidence, statements endorsed by the Executive Board explaining President Merrick’s behavior and a timeline of pertinent events:

### “NO CONFIDENCE” MOTION:

Motion brought by Brother Loomer:

“I move that the Executive Board conducts a Vote of No Confidence in President Dutch Merrick’s leadership and actions. Accompanying this vote should be a statement in the record that “This Vote of No Confidence is caused by President Merrick’s delay tactics and deception with the Local 44 Executive Board concerning his use of Local 44’s identity for unapproved purposes, repeated refusal to comply with directives from the Executive Board to provide various intellectual property to Local 44, as well as dishonest and dilatory tactics in dealing with the Board. Furthermore, this vote of no confidence is caused by President Merrick’s use of social media to publicize a dishonest and self-serving account of his actions. Therefore, the Executive Board of Local 44 has lost confidence in his ability to honestly, transparently and reasonably conduct himself as President. For these reasons, we take this action and speak in a single voice.”

Seconded by the Following Executive Board Members:

Charli Jayson, Chuck McSorley, Andrea Joel, Tony Chavez and Zak Knight

This Motion was unanimously adopted by the entire Executive Board.

### SUMMARY:

- President Merrick purchased and refused to relinquish a series of IATSE Local 44 URLs dating back January 2019 (before he was President of Local 44). For over a year period, but after much delay, dissembling, and a unanimous Executive Board Motion, has finally relinquished most of the URLs.
- President Merrick has improperly used non-Local 44 approved email addresses to appear as if he is authorized to conduct certain business for Local 44 that he is not ([click here for actual Local 44 President’s Duties](#)). By President Merrick’s admission to the Executive Board, the purpose of him retaining control over the [iatselocal44.com](#) URL was to allow him to create an email address that appeared as if it was an official Local 44 address. Despite explicit instructions from the Executive Board, President Merrick continued to fabricate Local 44’s identity in his digital communications.
- The longstanding policy of Local 44 is to only provide an official email address to the Business Agent, Secretary-Treasurer, and individuals who are employed within the Local 44 office. No one else within Local 44 is eligible for an email address for the purpose of conducting any business. No president or officer other than those mentioned before have an email address from Local 44. President Merrick has been repeatedly told he cannot use any identity of Local 44 to make it appear that he has or has been granted the ability to conduct official Local 44 business.
- President Merrick created and destroyed various Local 44 social media identities that **(continued on page 7)**

**(continued from page 6)** were allegedly for the use of Local 44, but to date refuses to disclose what they are or were, what the names are or were, or provide proof that he did, in fact, destroy these identities.

- President Merrick specifically created a new URL to falsify a Local 44 identity that he alone would control, despite his knowledge that this is an unauthorized use of Local 44's identity and intellectual property, as well as in specific violation of the Executive Board's directive to him.
- Over the past six months, several Executive Board Members reached out directly to President Merrick to try to discuss and reason with him to return Local 44's intellectual property, but to no avail.
- Despite being informed that he is exceeding his duties as Local 44's President, Merrick has regularly infringed on other offices and official responsibilities within Local 44.
- President Merrick on multiple occasions was directed to cease such activities by the Executive Board, and continued to either refuse to comply, partially comply or pretend that his actions were an accident. While the Local 44 Executive Board was previously willing to believe that President Merrick was acting innocently, within the last 3 months the Executive Board has lost all confidence in his accounts of his actions and are no longer considered credible.
- On December 24, 2020, President Merrick crossed the line with the entire Executive Board: He publicly took to Facebook to publish the fraternal problems the Executive Board had with his conduct, and in his account seriously misrepresented his actions since September 2019.

Sincerely,

I.A.T.S.E. Local 44 Executive Board

### **TIMELINE OF EVENTS FROM JANUARY 2019 TO PRESENT:**

- January 26, 2019 - While sitting on the Executive Board for the past eight years as a Property Master Executive Board Representative, Brother Merrick creates a Private "Local 44 Leadership (Facebook) Group" that does not include the actual elected leadership of Local 44. – This page is not under the Direction or Security of Local 44.
- February 2019 - Brother Merrick purchases the URL iatselocal44.com and at some point thereafter uses the URL to create a counterfeit Local 44 email address for unauthorized purposes.
- June 5, 2019 – Brother Merrick sworn in as President.
- July 2019 – Brother Merrick Purchases a second URL iatselocal44.org.
- At an unknown date believed to be between January 2019 and September 2019– Brother Merrick creates unauthorized "Local 44 Website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account[s]" – Despite these accounts bearing Local 44's identity, none are under Local 44's direction and are unsecured. Not one of these identities have been turned over to Local 44 to the present day.
- September 2019 – February 2020 – The Executive Board meets and invites Website/Social Networking Professionals to discuss new Local 44 Web/Social Networking platform.
- September 11, 2019 - After several Executive Board meetings discussing the impropriety of an officer having personal control of Local 44 intellectual property and a series of URL/Social Media inquiries, President Merrick promises the Executive Board that he will be making a "contribution" to Local 44 of the URLs', website and social media accounts.
- Throughout 2019 and most of 2020, President Merrick fails and refuses to fulfill his promise to provide Local 44's intellectual property yet continues to use an unauthorized and fabricated Local 44 email address throughout this period.
- August 19, 2020 – Executive Board enquires into the status of President Merrick's transfer of URL's/Social Media to Local 44. Brother Merrick continues to delay the transfer.
- September 9, 2020 – Executive Board discusses the status of URL/Social Media transfers. Brother Merrick continues to delay the transfer. Vice President Hennessey, on behalf of the Board, officially contacted President Merrick about the transfer status.
- September 10, 2020 – Vice President Hennessey contacts President Merrick to discuss why the URL/social media transfer is still not complete. President Merrick states to VP Hennessey he is busy at work and will need to call back. To date, President Merrick has not returned Vice President **(continued on page 8)**

**(continued from page 7)** Hennessey's telephone call.

- October 14, 2020 – Executive Board passes a unanimous motion for President Merrick to transfer the intellectual property to Local 44 within in thirty days and be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses for securing URLs. President Merrick again agrees to abide by the Executive Board's Motion.
- November 11, 2020 – The Board inquires again if the URL transfer is complete. Brother Merrick continues to block the URL transfer.
- November 11, 2020 – The Board unanimously passes a motion to send a letter to President Merrick demanding the status of URL and Social Media Transfer.
- December 4, 2020 – The Executive Board sends electronic correspondence regarding status of URL's (iateselocal44.com and .org) and Social Media Transfer which was (confirmed) received/ opened by President Merrick.
- December 5, 2020 – President Merrick creates a third unauthorized URL (iatselocal44.net). The third domain name was created for specific purpose of continuing to engage in unauthorized activities in contravention of the Executive Board's directive to cease such activity and relinquish all Local 44 intellectual property.
- December 7, 2020 – President Merrick attempts to transfer iatselocal44.org and .net to Local 44 while continuing to withhold iatselocal44.com.
- December 8, 2020 – Local 44 contacts President Merrick notifying him the transfer did not go through and further explains that Local 44 has not received the URLs nor the Social Media pages he has created.
- December 8, 2020 – Local 44 is able to partially extract two domain names in the transfer but learns a third unauthorized domain was created (iatselocal44.net) by President Merrick.
- December 8, 2020 – Local 44 asks President Merrick for an explanation why he bought a third domain name in violation of Local 44's directives, to provide the Local 44 social media account identities/information and why iatselocal44.com has not been transferred per the Executive Board Motion. President Merrick fails to respond.
- December 8, 2020 – Local 44 learns that Brother Merrick is no longer forwarding iatselocal44.com (stating "this website is under development.") to Local 44's official website, Local44.org.
- December 16, 2020 – The Executive Board sends electronic correspondence which is opened by President Merrick detailing the official events that have taken place to date and provides a final deadline to transfer all Local 44 intellectual property before December 21, 2020 at 3PM. If all intellectual property is not transferred to Local 44, the Executive Board warns a public letter of censure will be published to Local 44 members describing President Merrick's actions to date.
- December 21, 2020 – Local 44 is informed that the domain iatselocal44.com has not been transferred in whole to Local 44. Local 44 is provided a limited power to use the URL as a "IT technician."
- December 22, 2020 – While sorting out the complete transfer of iatselocal44.com, Local 44 learns President Merrick has a fourth 44 URL that was undisclosed and created February 2019.
- December 22, 2020 – Local 44 officially secures iatselocal44.com but does not possess the Local 44 website nor social media pages Merrick had created (as required by the Executive Board action). President Merrick has never complied with the Executive Board's directive to return the website and identify social media properties.
- December 23, 2020 – Local 44's Executive Board writes the final electronic correspondence to President Merrick (reception/opening confirmed) titled "Continuing Issues with Local 44's Intellectual Property and Identity" outlining the findings of a fourth URL created by Merrick explaining the confusion and frustration his Board colleagues are having with this entire matter offering up a last deadline of December 29, 2020 at 5PM to disclose and/or transfer any and all Local 44 intellectual property.
- December 24, 2020 – President Merrick publishes a dishonest account of his actions on social media and further politicizes his conduct. President Merrick continues his refusal to comply with the Executive Board motions, despite that he had repeatedly and long promised to do so.
- December 29, 2020 – President Merrick provides no further transfer of Local 44 intellectual property to the Executive Board.
- December 30, 2020 – A Special Executive Board Meeting is held and a Vote of No Confidence regarding Local 44's President Dutch Merrick is unanimously approved due to his actions contradicting the oath of his office, disregard of Local 44's Constitution and By-Laws, and loss of confidence in his leadership and honesty by all of his colleagues on the Executive Board.



## Members Questions About the Executive Board’s “Vote of No Confidence” of Dutch Merrick

Question:	Is the office of President a paid position?
Answer:	No. The President is not paid or salaried, nor has it ever been. Certain approved expenses are reimbursed.
Question:	What are the main responsibilities of the position of President of Local 44?
Answer:	The title "President" itself has led to some real confusion among our members and requires clarification. The role of the president is defined in Local 44's Constitution and By-Laws. The President is the chair of the Executive Board and conducts those meetings. Virtually every significant presidential duty is confined to chairing Executive Board or membership meetings, signing checks for the Local, and appointing committees with Executive board approval. The lion's share of the President's duties are found in the Constitution and By-Laws at Article VIII, Sec. 1 President, Paragraph L Chair Responsibilities, ( <a href="#">Link to Local 44 Constitution &amp; By-Laws</a> ).
Question:	So, the President doesn't conduct business for Local 44?
Answer:	No.
Question:	The President doesn't represent member's issues for Local 44?
Answer:	No. Please contact the Business Agent's office about contract violations or representational issues.
Question:	Is the Local 44 President a policy making position?
Answer:	No. The President is not permitted to take any position during debates and meetings. If the President decides to take a position during debate or discussion in any such meeting, the President must relinquish the gavel and cease to function as President during debate over that question. This is in keeping with the requirement that the President rise above the fray, govern meetings with a neutral deportment, and not engage in debate. When the President engages in debate, he ceases being President until that question is resolved – Another officer fulfills that role either temporarily or for the rest of the meeting.
Question:	Why doesn't the Local 44 President have an email address?
Answer:	The President does not do business on behalf of Local 44, so there is no reason for it. To be clear, no President has ever had an email address or Local 44 cell phone. Only employees on payroll who work at Local 44 have a Local 44 email address.
Question:	Why do we call the position President?
Answer:	This terminology can be counter intuitive outside of the craft union setting or for those who are unfamiliar with the Constitution and By-Laws. What is usually titled President is fulfilled within the Local 44 context as Business-Agent, and in certain obligations of Secretary-Treasurer. The Business-Agent and Secretary-Treasurer positions divide the chief executive officer and chief financial officer functions. The Business-Agent has most (but not all) of the tasks of a CEO and the Secretary-Treasurer has most (but not all) of the tasks of a CFO.
Question:	What exactly does "no confidence" mean?
Answer:	The first thing is to refer to the motion of no confidence and supporting documents that are posted here. But, in summary, President Merrick has lost support of the entirety of the Executive Board. The vote of no confidence is a statement that the Executive Board has lost so much confidence in his conduct as President that it would be better if he resigned or otherwise left office. His performance has been persistently unacceptable. Therefore, the Executive Board has no confidence in Dutch Merrick as President.



*IATSE Local 44 invites and encourages all members in good standing to take interest in their Union's business. One of the best ways to do so is by reviewing your Local's Executive Board Meeting minutes. All you need to do is follow Article VIII, Powers and Duties Section 4 Secretary/Treasurer paragraph K (I) Minutes and Log of Motions of Local 44's Constitution and By-Laws. The article states: "Any member in good standing who submits a written request to schedule an appointment to review a copy of the minutes or the log of motions may do so." This allows members to draw their own conclusion on the entire meeting, not just highlights that someone else considered important to print. Contact the Secretary Treasurer to schedule an appointment so we can accommodate your request. The following are motions/actions of past Executive Board Meetings.*

## **SUMMARY OF MOTIONS: 12-09-2020**

*Anthony: "I motion to elect Brother Eric Hulett as Second Chair of this evening's Executive Board meeting."*  
Michael Cappello seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.  
*Michael Cappello: "I would like to make a motion to accept the November 11, 2020 regular Executive Board minutes as amended/corrected."*  
Tony seconded the motion. The motion was carried by majority vote with one member in abstention (JD Streett).  
*Tobey: "I would like to make a motion the I.A.T.S.E. Help for the Holidays Toy Drive to support live entertainment IA workers and their families in the amount of \$15k."*  
Michael Cappello seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.  
*JD Streett: "Motion to accept the Business Agent Report as presented."*

Tony seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.  
*Andrea: "I motion that the Executive Board move forward with a Pay Equity Study, and direct Local 44 Officers to take this study to the International I.A. so that they will conduct a Pay Equity Study to determine compliance with the law. Compliance is based on the California Commission Fair Pay Act – I so move."*

Michael Cappello seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Eric: "Motion to accept the Set Decorators report as presented."*

JD Streett seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Michael Loomer: "I would like to make a motion to create a Local 44 Property Steering Committee consisting of nine (9) members, plus two (2) Alternates, representing a cross-section of the Property Affiliated Craft Members."*

Andrea seconded the motion. The motion was carried by majority vote with one member in abstention (JD Streett).

*Andrea: "Motion to accept the Property craft report as presented."*

Tony seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Tony: "Motion to accept the Proper-maker craft's report as presented."*

Tom Bowen seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Tony: "Motion to accept the Special Effects craft report as presented."*

Tom Bowen seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Emily: "In reality, this motion is out of order but I would like to make a motion that we refer their request to the Constitution Committee, which will then report back to the Executive Board."*

JD Streett seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposi-

tion.

*Michael Cappello: "Motion to accept the Property Master craft report as presented."*

JD Streett seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Tom Bowen: "Motion to accept the Coordinator craft report as presented."*

Charli seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Karen: "I would like to make a motion to direct the office of the Secretary-Treasurer to very aggressively pursue any and all social media and URL outlets that will benefit local 44."*

Andrea seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Eric: "I would like to make a motion to adjourn."*

JD Streett seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

## **SUMMARY OF MOTIONS: 12-30-2020**

*Michael Cappello: "I motion to elect Sister Natasha Pirouzian to serve as Second Chair of this evening's Special URL Executive Board Meeting."*

Eric seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

*Michael Loomer: "I move that the Executive Board conducts a Vote of No Confidence in President Dutch Merrick's leadership and actions. Accompanying this vote should be a statement in the record that this 'Vote of No Confidence' is caused by President Merrick's delay tactics and deception with the Local 44 Executive Board concerning President Merrick's use of Local 44's identity for unapproved purposes, repeated refusal to comply with directives from the Executive Board to provide various intellectual property to Local 44, as well as President Merrick's dishonest and dilatory tactics in dealing with the Board. Furthermore, this 'Vote of No Confidence'*

*Eric seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.*

*Michael Loomer: "I move that the Executive Board conducts a Vote of No Confidence in President Dutch Merrick's leadership and actions. Accompanying this vote should be a statement in the record that this 'Vote of No Confidence' is caused by President Merrick's delay tactics and deception with the Local 44 Executive Board concerning President Merrick's use of Local 44's identity for unapproved purposes, repeated refusal to comply with directives from the Executive Board to provide various intellectual property to Local 44, as well as President Merrick's dishonest and dilatory tactics in dealing with the Board. Furthermore, this 'Vote of No Confidence'*

*Eric seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.*

*Michael Loomer: "I move that the Executive Board conducts a Vote of No Confidence in President Dutch Merrick's leadership and actions. Accompanying this vote should be a statement in the record that this 'Vote of No Confidence' is caused by President Merrick's delay tactics and deception with the Local 44 Executive Board concerning President Merrick's use of Local 44's identity for unapproved purposes, repeated refusal to comply with directives from the Executive Board to provide various intellectual property to Local 44, as well as President Merrick's dishonest and dilatory tactics in dealing with the Board. Furthermore, this 'Vote of No Confidence'*

*Eric seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.*

*Michael Loomer: "I move that the Executive Board conducts a Vote of No Confidence in President Dutch Merrick's leadership and actions. Accompanying this vote should be a statement in the record that this 'Vote of No Confidence' is caused by President Merrick's delay tactics and deception with the Local 44 Executive Board concerning President Merrick's use of Local 44's identity for unapproved purposes, repeated refusal to comply with directives from the Executive Board to provide various intellectual property to Local 44, as well as President Merrick's dishonest and dilatory tactics in dealing with the Board. Furthermore, this 'Vote of No Confidence'*

*Eric seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.*

*Michael Loomer: "I move that the Executive Board conducts a Vote of No Confidence in President Dutch Merrick's leadership and actions. Accompanying this vote should be a statement in the record that this 'Vote of No Confidence' is caused by President Merrick's delay tactics and deception with the Local 44 Executive Board concerning President Merrick's use of Local 44's identity for unapproved purposes, repeated refusal to comply with directives from the Executive Board to provide various intellectual property to Local 44, as well as President Merrick's dishonest and dilatory tactics in dealing with the Board. Furthermore, this 'Vote of No Confidence'*





is caused by President Merrick's use of social media to publicize a dishonest and self-serving account of his action. Therefore, the Executive Board of Local 44 has lost confidence in President Merrick's ability to honestly, transparently and reasonably conduct himself as President. For these reasons, we take this action and speak in a single voice."

Charli Jayson, Chuck McSorley, Andrea Joel, Tony Chavez and Zak Knight seconded the motion.

The motion unanimously carried without opposition or abstentions.

Anthony: "Motion to adjourn."

Tony seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

### **SUMMARY OF MOTIONS: 01-13-2021**

Charli: "I would like to motion to elect Sister Higgins as First Chair Pro Tem for this evening's meeting."

Andrea seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

Michael Cappello: "I would like to make a motion and elect Brother Schrefel as Second Chair Pro Tem for this evening's meeting."

Charli seconded the motion. The mo-

tion was carried without opposition. Michael Cappello: "I would like to make a motion to accept the December 09, 2020 regular

Executive Board minutes as amended / corrected."

Andrea seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

Michael Cappello: "I would like to make a motion to accept the December 30, 2020 Special URL Executive Board minutes as amended / corrected."

Andrea seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

Eric: "Motion to accept the Business Agent Report as presented."

Ray seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

Ray: "Motion to accept the Secretary-Treasurer's report."

Andrea seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

Eric: "I would like to make a motion to fund a Property Craft Negotiation Seminar to be held on February 28, 2021 not to exceed \$1k."

Karen seconded the motion. The mo-

tion was carried without opposition. Ray: "I would like to make a motion to populate the Property Craft Steering Committee with nine (9) members and two (2) Alternates from a list of candidates that was assembled by the Property Craft Representatives.

Michael Loomer seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

The members selected for the proposed Property Committee are:

Janine Cavoto, Lead Property Coordinator

Carrell Shaw, Buyer

Karen Burnett, Buyer

Keith Aleshire-Rezendez, Lead

Elizabeth Rosenbaum, Lead

Nik Loveikis, On-Set Dresser

Roger Prater, Greens

Natalie Contreras, Buyer

Erasmio Lima, Property

Michael Cappello: "The Propmakers would like to make a motion to approve Catastrophic Relief Funds to the family of (member name redacted)."

Ray seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

JD Streett: "Motion to adjourn."

Karen seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

## ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

### 25 YEARS

Ruben Abarca - Upholsterer

Joel Aiello - Coordinator

Manuel Baca - Property Master

Bret Barrett - Propmaker

Leslie Beattie - Property Master

Roger Carufel Jr. - Property

Matt Di Sarro - Propmaker

Susan Eschelbach - Set Decorator

Jon Esguerra - Property

Lorraine Genovese - Property

Andrea Guy-Cantrell - Property Master

Donald Henrichsen - Propmaker

Brian Mertens - Propmaker

Frank Nicassio - Propmaker

Carol Pike - Property Master

Jeff Plauster - Propmaker

Nicholas Rymond - Property

Teresa Visinare - Set Decorator

Ronald Woodward - Property

Michael Youngern - Property

Maralee Zediker - Set Decorator

### 10 YEARS

Alfonso Arellano - TCR Property

Dennis Baker - TCR Property Master

Tess Bunch - Property

Damon Chesse - Property

Raul Contreras - Property

Maria Diamantopoulos - Property

Hiram Fleites - Property

Tally Floyd - Set Decorator

Sonny Grand - Greens

Emily Hastings-Wieber - TCR Set Decorator

Ralph Herscu - Property Master

Justin Lieb - Set Decorator

Cameo Litz - Set Decorator

Roxy Maronyan - TCR Set Decorator

Edward McGrady - Property

Nancy McIlvaney - Set Decorator

Shauna Nevens - Property

Shane O'Muircheartaigh - Property

Shane Patterson - Property

Michelle Ponce - Set Decorator

Lance Zeck - Set Decorator

Brad Zoellick - Property



**IATSE Local 44**  
**12021 Riverside Drive**  
**North Hollywood, CA 91607**

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
VAN NUYS, CA  
PERMIT NO. 664

# IN MEMORIAM

## **Michael D. Allen**

*Propmaker*

*Born: September 17, 1950*

*Joined: August 31, 1995*

*Died: December 22, 2020*

## **John Angelo**

*Property*

*Born: June 24, 1922*

*Joined: November 21, 1977*

*Died: December 16, 2020*

## **Earl F. Betts**

*Propmaker*

*Born: July 22, 1943*

*Joined: February 14, 1977*

*Died: October 31, 2020*

## **Gerald W. Brown**

*Propmaker*

*Born: February 8, 1949*

*Joined: December 13, 1976*

*Died: October 2, 2020*

## **Robert G. Cervi**

*Property Master*

*Born: January 31, 1955*

*Joined: January 12, 1976*

*Died: December 17, 2020*

## **Al B. Denney**

*Property Master*

*Born: March 15, 1935*

*Joined: December 2, 1992*

*Died: December 16, 2020*

## **Gilbert E. Draper**

*Propmaker*

*Born: May 30, 1938*

*Joined: October 12, 1992*

*Died: November 7, 2020*

## **Daryn-Reid Goodall**

*Set Decorator*

*Born: September 19, 1959*

*Joined: February 13, 1996*

*Died: January 17, 2021*

## **William O. King**

*Propmaker*

*Born: August 15, 1926*

*Joined: April 12, 1961*

*Died: December 28, 2020*

## **Richard M. Kristy**

*Property*

*Born: August 18, 1945*

*Joined: November 21, 1977*

*Died: December 31, 2020*

## **Guy A. MacLaury**

*Propmaker*

*Born: June 11, 1949*

*Joined: April 24, 1978*

*Died: January 15, 2021*

## **Spencer A. Moore**

*Property Master*

*Born: November 1, 1938*

*Joined: October 7, 1959*

*Died: December 31, 2020*

## **Paul Mueller**

*Propmaker*

*Born: August 28, 1944*

*Joined: April 4, 1986*

*Died: January 31, 2021*

## **Donald B. Nunley**

*Property Master*

*Born: March 5, 1939*

*Joined: October 7, 1959*

*Died: February 11, 2021*

## **Richard M. Parker**

*Special Effects*

*Born: March 30, 1919*

*Joined: August 28, 1947*

*Died: December 2, 2020*

## **William F. Reinert**

*Set Decorator*

*Born: May 27, 1941*

*Joined: February 25, 1969*

*Died: February 8, 2021*

## **Lazar Samarzich**

*Greens*

*Born: August 10, 1961*

*Joined: March 18, 1981*

*Died: December 28, 2020*

## **David L. Simmons**

*Special Effects*

*Born: December 4, 1943*

*Joined: November 16, 1979*

*Died: February 2, 2021*

## **Jack H. Willingham**

*Property*

*Born: October 8, 1926*

*Joined: January 16, 1978*

*Died: October 19, 2020*