

THE SCORE

American Federation of Musicians
Florida Gulf Coast Local 427-721

Vol. 18, No. 2

Official Bi-Monthly Publication

March/April, 2008

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OFFICE HOURS
10AM TO 3PM
MONDAY – THURSDAY

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P.O. Box 12333
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Suite A Clearwater, FL 33760

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Officers

President Charles Rice
Vice President Karl Bawel
Secretary-Treasurer Richard Sparrow

Board of Directors

Adam DeSorgo
Alison Heydt
Vance Jennings
Lydia Van Dreel
Harold VanSchaik
James Wilson

Contracts Required

Article XV Section 18: All contracts must be in writing, and must be executed on the Official Contract blank and on all engagements, the leader or contractor shall file with the Secretary-Treasurer within 24 hours following the beginning of the engagement a copy of his contract, setting forth in detail all conditions pertaining to the said engagement such as date, time, duration, number of performances, price, etc.



Local 427-721 General Meeting

Sunday March 16, 2008 • 10:30 AM • Central Music
• 5175 Ulmerton Rd Clearwater, FL •

Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer

In December of 2007, we learned that Saint Petersburg had cut funding for the Sunshine City Band concerts that had been happening for more than one hundred years in Williams Park. Subsequent media stories helped find an anonymous donor who contributed enough funds to co-sponsor four or five concerts. We have been working to help the contractor identify musicians to perform for these concerts which are scheduled on four Sundays in March at 2 PM. Beginning on March 9 and continuing through March 30. As a result of our continuing efforts, at least five musicians have joined or rejoined the AFM and our Local.

Included in this newsletter is an unaudited report of the income and expenses from 2007. Please take a look at the figures and if you have questions or comments, feel free to call or email the local office, or come to the local meeting and we will address questions at that time.

HEALTHCARE AND UNIONS

Unfortunately, it is too often accepted by younger workers that there is no job security and that there is little or no health coverage provided by the employer, much less a retirement plan. It appears that most workers consider themselves lucky to have any kind of a health plan that is partially paid for by the employer and doubly lucky if they have a 401K or 403B annuity that the employer supports. Employees are considered blessed if the employer offers full health benefits or offers a program that includes a pension plan or matches some of the employee contribution to the annuity. Take a look at where the new hires in the automotive industry are starting compared to their older UAW members and it will give an idea of how far backward wages and benefits can move, even in a union job.

We have to face the fact that we are living in a global economy and it has effected workers income, benefits, and what we can afford to provide for our families or ourselves as individuals. The idea that business can chase the cheapest labor around the globe seems wrong on so many levels, but if all your corporation cares about is making money and you are in manufacturing, chasing cheap labor is the best way to make profits... i.e..Keep Labor expenses down.

You might ask why musicians should care about these things and ask the question, how does it affect us? Well, it has a dramatic impact on our lifestyle by being a great part of daily expenses that we must keep under control, so we need to learn more about how things work to make wise choices. Financial planning and issues are important to each of us, but that is a different subject. *(Continued on p. 2)*

January 20, 2008 11:30 AM

2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGULAR.....\$121.00 annually
\$60.50...bi-annually
LIFE.....\$77.00annually
38.50...bi-annual
INACTIVE LIFE...\$71.00 annually
35.50...bi-annual
YOUTH.....\$121.00 annually
60.50...bi-annual

Regular members, Life members, and Inactive members' Bi-annual Dues are payable
January 1

*Dues must be received by **January 31** to avoid \$5.00 late fee and by **March 31** to avoid suspension. Dues and reinstatement fees must be received by **June 30** to avoid expulsion.*

\$5.00 late fee & \$10.00 reinstatement fee

Important Contact Numbers:

Headquarters NY..... (212) 869-1330
West Coast Office..... (323) 461-3441
Canadian Office.....(416) 391-5161
On the web.....afm.org

AFM-EP

(Pension Fund)..... (800) 833-8065
Theatrical & TV Motion Picture
Special Payments Fund/Phono Record
Manufacturers Special Payments
Funds..... (212) 310-9400

Musical Equipment Insurance,
Musicians' Liability Plan

Wohlers/Seabury & Smith
.....(800) 503-9230

Union Plus Program

Credit Card:

Apply in English (800) 522-4000
Apply in Spanish..... (800) 651-5108
Customer Service.. ... (800) 622-2580
Mortgage & Real Estate Program.....
.....(800) 848-6466
Real Estate Agent Referrals
.....(800) 372-2414
Loan Program(800) 343-7097
On the web.....unionplus.org

Local Insurance Broker

Website services

Janet White..... (813) 949-4500
janet@jlwamerica.com

Students and parents looking for
scholarships on the web

.....unionscholarships.com.....
....unionplus.org/scholarships....

EB MINUTES

Local 427-721 Office: The General Meeting scheduled for 10:30 AM did not achieve a quorum. Present; President Charles Rice, Vice President Karl Bawel, Secretary Treasurer Richard Sparrow, Carmen Bannon, Alison Heydt, Joel Kaye, Bill Larsen and Harold Van Schaik. Adam DeSorgo excused for out of town engagement.

Secretary Sparrow provided an update on the financial status of the local. The 2007 year ended with a small surplus and the 2008 budget is expected to be balanced. Known expenses will increase by (\$6k) six thousand dollars per year for 2008 and 2009, so the challenge of continuing to balance the budget through 2009 is made of all the leadership in Local 427-721. Lengthy discussion of options to increase income took place.

Secretary Sparrow shared preliminary language of a Collective Bargaining Agreement that is being worked out with (PTG) Live Nation for the Broadway series in Saint Petersburg. Discussion took place over length of contract and financial package. Noting that the series is not expected to hire any local musicians until fall of 2008, the board provided input on how to proceed with negotiations.

Update was provided in regard to the Sunshine City Band. Secretary Sparrow reported that through discussions with Chris Styles, he had been informed that the usual funding of five thousand dollars (\$5K) from the city of Saint Petersburg had been cut out completely. The board directed Secretary Sparrow to follow up with the city employee that has been the contact for the last several years and find out if it is possible to do two of the scheduled concerts. Make a request that if the city will pick up the normal expense of setting up prior to and cleaning up afterward, that we would make a request on our end to use the funding that has already been set aside from the annual MPTF budget for two of the concerts. (Media contact is possible)

(Cont'd Notes from pg 1)

Healthcare will be a major part of our lives and we need to get more information and learn what options are going to be available in the near future. The upcoming presidential election contains candidates that are introducing ideas and plans to make changes that they say will improve options for the average citizen. I am always a bit cynical, but there does appear to be some acceptance that change is going to happen. I read an article by Joseph Farah on the Worldnetdaily web site and he says even John McCain probably would support some sort of 'socializing' of medical care in America. Even more interesting is that this came from a 'conservative' website and one of its editors. The author further states that there is no free lunch and there is no such thing as free medical care. "If America is not careful, it could soon see one-seventh of its gross domestic product nationalized – the biggest step toward socialism this country has ever taken". It remains to be seen if this approach is good, bad, great, horrible, or all just hype.

I did a little research and came up with the following figures. In 2004 the US spent \$6500 annually in health care cost for every citizen. The AFL CIO figures for families with health insurance report out of pocket expenses increasing dramatically, with costs doubling approximately every ten years. In America it is accepted that millions of children and adults are not covered by health insurance. In Florida, 3 million of our fellow citizens are reported to be without health insurance. Almost 2 million of us are working and still have no coverage.

(More **Notes** from pg 2)

Where should our tax dollars go? Should we support giving away millions as incentives for companies to build new stores when the company pays employees so poorly that they and their families are eligible for Medicaid? Just so you don't think I am parroting some labor viewpoint, the following information comes from the Florida Department of Children and Families. They reported in 2005 that Wal-Mart employees ranked first among state workers who were eligible for Medicaid (12,500 workers and dependents or families). Company profits in 2005 were \$11.2 billion. I am a pretty reasonable person and have support for our form of capitalism, but this approach doesn't seem to be the smartest way to direct our tax dollars. Spending for Medicaid is reported to be 25% of our state budget and is supported by our tax dollars. I will continue to hope that our leaders are smart enough to direct money to people who are in dire need of help! Meanwhile, let's share more information about healthcare.

FYI in Florida, 5 percent of the labor force is unionized. Hawaii was tops with almost 24.7 percent and NC the lowest with 3.3 percent of the labor force being Unionized. The National Average is 12 percent. Several studies have agreed that Unions help to raise the level of wages for members. According to a report by the Research Institute on Social and Economic policy 22.6 percent of nonunion workers have no health coverage and only 8.1 percent of union workers lack health coverage in Florida.

SUPPORT TEMPO

Help Musicians Achieve Our Legislative Goals

What is Tempo?

TEMPO is a club supported by voluntary contributions from members of the American Federation of Musicians and its friends who understand the need for political action to achieve their legislative goals.

Why do we need TEMPO?

We need the voluntary contributions to TEMPO because, by law, unions cannot use their general funds to assist political candidates; yet such political activity is absolutely necessary for the election of men and women who represent the interests of our members.

Does TEMPO support a particular political party? No. TEMPO supports deserving candidates running for President of the United States, the United States Senate or the United States House of Representatives, regardless of a candidate's party affiliation.

Does TEMPO tell me how to vote? No. You vote the way you want. TEMPO simply helps the candidates who have done, or pledge to do, the most for you and other members.

Contributions to TEMPO are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes.

Why Should I Join TEMPO?

Joining Tempo makes your individual contribution count for more, because it is combined with contributions from thousands of other AFM members.

Please Make checks payable to TEMPO (PC) and send to:
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS
FLORIDA GULF COAST LOCAL 427-721
P.O. BOX 12333
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33733