

THE SCORE

American Federation of Musicians
Florida Gulf Coast Local 427-721

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May June 2009

Phone: (727) 572-7977
Fax: (727) 571-3525

OFFICE HOURS
10AM TO 3PM
MONDAY – THURSDAY

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 12333
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Office Address:
5175 Ulmerton Rd.
Suite A Clearwater, FL 33760

Web Address:
<http://www.afm427-721.org>
Email: afm427721@ij.net

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Carmen Bannon
Adam DeSorgo
Alison Heydt
Joel Kaye
Bill Larsen
Harold VanSchaik

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 May 17, 2009 • 10:30 AM • Central Music
• 5175 Ulmerton Rd Clearwater, FL •

Satellite locations:

In Sarasota, contact Adam DeSorgo 941 928-8530
In Fort Myers, contact Bill Larsen 239 826-0817

Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer

Around the AFM, there has been some effective community action in Texas against the canned 'Cleopatra' produced by the Texas Ballet Theater. The Ballet leaders shipped \$30,000 to China to pay an orchestra to record music that would put the musicians from the pit in Dallas out of their jobs. Ray Hair and the members of Local 72-147 should be congratulated for their efforts in stirring up the community to respond to the 'slap' in the face to live music fans and union members.

More news has come in from the MPTF. Our State allocation for 2009-10 has dwindled to \$28 K. Although the fund has shrunk significantly, sponsorship is still available, so let's make sure we utilize all of the funds we can. Office manager Diana Drew can help you process the paperwork and she has experience dealing with the trust fund administrators.

PENSION FUND NOTES

For those who are having pension contributions made into the AFM-EPF, we have been notified of the following change.

1. CHANGE IN THE BENEFIT MULTIPLIER FOR ALL PENSION BENEFITS

As you know, the monthly pension benefits paid to a participant by the Fund are generally determined by multiplying every \$100 of contributions earned by a participant by a specified dollar amount, known as the "benefit multiplier".

The benefit multiplier will be reduced for all contributions earned on and after May 1, 2009. The multiplier for those contributions will be \$2.00 for those who elect to retire and draw pension at 65. (For those who begin drawing benefits earlier than 65, the multiplier number is less.) As most of you know, this change is not retroactive. Contributions made under prior terms will be honored upon retirement.

If you received this newsletter at your email address that we have on file, thank you. If you only get a regular mail copy, please call or email the local office and let us know your current email address. Don't forget to update us when you have an address or instrument(s) change.

Executive Board Minutes 3/15 /2009

BOARD MINUTES
AND
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION
REMOVED
FROM
THIS
PAGE

2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGULAR.....\$130.00 annually
if paid in January
\$135.00 if paid in February
\$140.00 if paid in March

\$65.00...bi-annually
if paid in January & July
\$70.00 if paid in February
\$75.00 if paid in March

LIFE\$78.00 annually
if paid in January & July
\$83.00 if paid in February
\$88.00 if paid in March

\$39.00 bi-annually
if paid in January & July
44.50 if paid in February
49.50 if paid in March

INACTIVE LIFE.....\$72.00 annually
if paid in January & July
\$77.00 if paid in February
\$82.00 if paid in March

\$36.00bi-annually
if paid in January & July
41.00 if paid in February
46.00 if paid in March

YOUTH.....same as**REGULAR**

Per Capita paid to A.F. of M. Annually

REGULAR, YOUTH.....\$56.00
LIFE\$40.00
INACTIVE LIFE.....\$34.00

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
Wohlens/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
On the web.....**unionplus.org**

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

Opinion by Richard Sparrow

The Employee Free Choice Act is a bill that addresses many facets of US Labor Law. Often, the media and political ideologues will try to make you think that the issue is card check, secret ballot, or some other specific area. Don't be misled because the real issue is that the total system of employee/employer relations needs to be addressed and changes need to be made. For over thirty years, Congress has been unwilling or unable to address any of these problems because every issue has been politicized and used as a wedge issue by business, unions, and politicians. Political division has tied up the Congress and blocked the necessary hearings and debate that needs to take place.

Senator Arlen Specter and Eric S. Nguyen published a policy essay in the Harvard Law Journal, Summer 2008 issue titled, REPRESENTATION WITHOUT INTIMIDATION: SECURING WORKERS' RIGHT TO CHOOSE UNDER THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT. I can't help but believe that their research and Specter's subsequent frustrations with the current law and political process played a pivotal role in his decision to switch parties and become a Democrat on April 28th.

Specter and Nguyen site numerous cases of management and union strong arm tactics, unfair labor practices, stalling techniques, and they reference several NLRB rulings that are counter productive to this process. The common goal should be to end the nasty battles that take place during recognition votes that end up subverting the ability of workers and employers to have fair elections and reach productive agreements. Some remedies are necessary and many of those remedies are addressed in the Employee Free Choice Act. Whether there is an actual card count or secret ballot election doesn't strike me as that big of an issue, but voluntary recognition should always be one of the options. The bigger problem is the way some management and union representatives act during the lead up to a vote that is so unfair. A strengthening of the penalties of violations relating to the election process is in order. Increasing the cost of bad-faith bargaining and unfair labor practices is also a reasonable expectation.

In other industrialized countries, there have been efforts to make the process work better for everybody. Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom all have debated their problems and attempted remedies through legislation. Debate is necessary here as well, but exactly how change is implemented is not up to us as citizens, it is up to our Congress through their changing of the laws.

Join us at Local 427-721 in welcoming the following new members;

David Hanson	(727) 462-2932	Saxophone, flute, synthesizer
Gil Katz	(941) 320-9083	Bass
Sujie Kim	(617) 504-0700	Bassoon
Louis Levitt	(646)675-6630	Bass
Virginia Respass	(404) 274-5102	Violin, Viola
Nadine Trudel	(954) 683-6678	Cello
Nathan Zgonc	(301) 910-8999	Trombone

Resigned: Eugene Bazhanov Hubert Barlow

Members on the web who want to read recommendations for ways to save money in these difficult times, go to: www.unionvoice.org/up/notice-description.tcl?newsletter_id=24705936

SUPPORT LAF
Help Musicians Achieve Our Legislative Goals

What is the Legislative Action Fund?

LAF 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 LAF?

We need the voluntary contributions to LAF 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 LAF support a particular political party? No. LAF 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 LAF tell me how to vote? No. You vote the way you want. LAF simply helps the candidates who have done, or pledge to do, the most for you and other members.

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

Why Should I Join LAF?

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

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