

THE SCORE

American Federation of Musicians
Florida Gulf Coast Local 427-721

Vol. 17, No. 5

Official Bi-Monthly Publication

September/October, 2007

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

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 Nomination Meeting

Sunday September 16, 2007 • 10:30 AM • Central Music
• 5175 Ulmerton Rd Clearwater, FL •

September 16, 2007 is a Nomination Meeting for all Offices and Executive Board
! See inside for Satellite Locations !

Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer

When writing something about why I believe that we need unions, I know I am preaching to the choir, but I must share some thoughts with you. If you think about how expensive it has gotten to live in Florida over the last five years, you have to hope that there is some group of people out there who wants to see us as a middle class continue to grow, instead of shrink. Only our organized unions are speaking up and fighting for the average person. Politicians are representing the corporations and big money business people because it takes their money to run a campaign and get elected. People in business don't necessarily want to see wages rise because it increases payroll and that cuts into profits! What I can't understand is why the average non-union worker can think that he/she can financially stay ahead of the game the way things have gone here in the U.S. and especially in Florida. According to the Consumer Price Indicator, if you made \$25K in 2002, you need to make \$8,946 more in 2007 just to keep up with inflation. If you made \$25 k just last year, inflation rates require you to make \$830 more dollars this year just to keep up. Since 2005, the same worker needs to make \$1664 more dollars just to keep up! Florida Insurance rates for most homeowners have gone up that much or even more. The 3.9% unemployment rate is an extremely low number and is great for business, but too many jobs are being created that are service sector jobs with low wages and little or no benefits. Jobs with higher wages and benefits are what will make any area a much more attractive place to live, so that is what we should be pushing for in our community and we should keep this in mind as the 'political' season begins to heat up.

The Broadway series that moved to Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg and The Florida Orchestra are in the middle of negotiations right now with Local 427-721. We have many issues to deal with in both negotiations, so keep your eyes and ears open for announcements and news stories about these important bargaining sessions.

2007 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 July 1

*Dues must be received by **Sept 30** to avoid suspension. Dues and reinstatement fees must be received by **December 31** to avoid expulsion.*

\$5.00 late fee & \$10.00 reinstatement fee added if not received by September 30, 2007

Important Contact Numbers:

Headquarters NY..... (212) 869-1330
West Coast Office..... (323) 461-3441
Canadian Office.....(416) 391-5161

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

Local Insurance Broker *Website services*

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

NOMINATION MEETING

The Nomination Meeting is on September 16, 2007 at 10:30 AM;
President.....Vice President.....Secretary/Treasurer.
And Six (6) Executive Board Positions
 will be open for nominations at this meeting.

There will be Satellite locations in Sarasota and Fort Myers. Please RSVP by phone or email; To Adam DeSorgo in Sarasota. Adam's address is; 229 South Osprey Apartment # 207. Phone 941 928-8530. Email: desorgo@gmail.com

To Bill Larsen in Fort Myers. Bills Address is; 8144 Pennsylvania Blvd. Phone 239 482-1980. Email: ramflute@embarqmail.com

Local bylaws: ARTICLE X NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Nominations of candidates for office shall be made biennially at the September meeting. The Nomination for Local Officers and for Delegate and Alternate Delegates to the Convention of the American Federation of Musicians will be open only to those present at the Nominations Meeting, and for any Member delivering a notarized letter of acceptance prior to the close of the Nomination Meeting.

Candidates for office shall provide to the Secretary/Treasurer a 100-word (or less) biography listing their qualifications for the office they seek. This biography is to be mailed to the Membership at the same time as the ballots.

LABOR DAY 2007

The second annual WCFFL Labor Day event took place Monday September 3, 2007 at the Florida State Fairgrounds. There was a big turnout and we were fortunate to have AFL-CIO Sec/Treas. Richard Trumka as the keynote speaker. Part of his talk focused on Health Care and the need for all Americans to be covered in some way. He reminded us of gains in wages, pensions, vacations and medical benefits that have taken place for American workers were the direct result of the Union movement. "We" helped build the middle class and we need to begin organizing workers because the middle class is shrinking, rapidly! He also talked positively about the need for workers to be able to organize freely and to support the Employee Free Choice Act. We must not forget the anti- labor legislation that has been passed by the U.S. congress since the 1940's in America and hold our elected officials accountable for their actions! Our Local was represented by Jerry Sanders and Jim Glover who both performed during the afternoon. Special thanks to these gentlemen for putting on excellent performances and shining a positive light on our Union. What they offered was continuing evidence of what a difference live music makes at any event. I have gotten at least one referral for live music at a future Holiday Celebration of another Union.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Member Bill Larsen's editorial response to an anti-union article published in the News-Press in Fort Myers.

Unionism brought a whole new level of professionalism to our organization. A contract set up rules, policies and expectations to be followed by both sides of the equation.

I have yet to encounter a "thug" from our union, the American Federation of Musicians, although that might be inherent in the nature of our membership. Far from being "thugs", our union local and national officials have been kind, thoughtful and intelligent presences in our meetings and negotiations. They have offered guidance, never demanded, and have suggested many compromises. No one from our union, management or employees ever suggested shutting down the business. Communications was and is the key to good relations.

Managements (but certainly not ours) have their own propensity to being "thugs". That is why Unfair Labor Practices have been clearly spelled out in legislation called the National Labor Relations Act. Both parties have constraints to their actions in the effort to make a level field of compromise and communication.

Our organization did go through a secret ballot election. The process took several months to set up, cost at least \$1000 and yielded similar results to the signature card process. Signers of these cards authorized the union to negotiate on their behalf. They were fully informed as to the meaning of the cards, and could request their card back at any moment. Additionally, Florida is a right to work state, which means non-union members are not required to pay work dues to the local union providing contract protection to them. Our local allowed every employee to vote on the contract regardless of membership.

There are problems of social responsibility at the corporate level . If one compared the lobbying monies and efforts at the business level to those of our unions, I believe that we would come to the conclusion that unions are far outspent and out bought.

Unions spend lobby money out of necessity for:

1. Keeping workers safe in the workplace.
2. Keeping workers secure in our positions.
3. Helping workers to earn a fair living.
4. Giving workers a method of resolving issues.

There is no doubt that unions have had notorious moments in history, but I believe that one can also look to the current corporate world and find the same, if not more infamous moments. The latter effect our society at a much deeper, longer lasting level. The times dictate the need for unionism.

--

William Larsen
Principal Flute, Southwest Florida Symphony
Adjunct Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University

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

TAMPA BAY LOCAL 427-721

P.O. BOX 12333

ST PETERSBURG, FL 33733