

American Federation of Musicians

Florida Gulf Coast Local 427-721

Vol. 17, No. 3

Official Bi-Monthly Publication

May/June/2007

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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 General Meeting

Sunday May 20, 2007 • 12:30 PM • Central Music
• 5175 Ulmerton Rd Clearwater, FL •

Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer

FORT MYERS RATIFICATION VOTE

The members of the Southwest Florida Symphony in Fort Myers ratified their first ever CBA at the end of March, 2007! When signed, the two year deal will include a retroactive pay scale to the beginning of the 2006-07 season. This agreement includes numerous benefits that often are not addressed in a first time agreement. Congratulations to all the musicians in the symphony and their negotiating team. Local 427-721 is proud to be the bargaining agent for these musicians and I would like to thank the AFM for agreeing to our request to assign Janice Galassi to be our lead negotiator. She was fantastic in helping everybody from early in the organizing process all the way through to the successful ratification vote. Her skills at the negotiating table are extraordinary and she was brilliant at keeping all parties working together through some very difficult issues.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE TRUST FUND

We just received the 2007-08 allotment from Music Performance Trust Fund and our budget has shrunk by \$2,200 dollars from the current year. Our budget year runs from May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008. This allotment is to be used for the benefit of the citizens of our Local area for free, live music performances. Contact Diana Drew at the Local office for more information and to request sponsorship information if you have a program or venue in mind. MPF is making a special effort to gain additional foundation funding to add education programs over and above the original allotment. If you have an education program that has been performed before and you are ready to present it to Pre K through High School audiences, please contact Diana so she can let you know if new funding comes through.

SATELLITE MEETINGS

In an effort to make it easier for each of us to be more involved with our Local, the board is working to establish two or three locations around the Local 427-721 jurisdiction that have broadband internet connections, so we can provide video and audio links for our General Meetings. We have been looking for a location in Sarasota and need your recommendations for a Fort Myers location as well. When we identify these locations, we will post them at the Local website for your convenience. Please be reminded that the May 20th meeting is at 12:30 PM.

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' Annual Dues are payable
Jan 1

*Dues must be received 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 added if not received by
March 31, 2007

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

Insurance Broker

Janet White..... (813) 949-4500

'Low Note' and 'High Note'

Health plan Web address:.....

www.MusicMedical2day.com

Important Contact Numbers:

Headquarters NY..... (212) 869-1330

West Coast Office..... (323) 461-3441

Canadian Office..... (416) 391-5161

Executive Board

MINUTES

REMOVED

FCC HEARING COMES TO TAMPA

On Monday April 30, 2007, the Federal Communications Commission held the fourth of six announced hearings in Tampa. I attended and was allowed to offer a two minute account of our Labor Day 2006 Celebration and my recollections of how we were treated by the local commercial media. President Rice also attended, but was unable to speak since the public comment part of the hearing stretched until late in the evening. He sent his comments to the FCC through email, as you can do if you like. Go to <http://www.fcc.gov> and follow the links to hearings. When filing, reference proceeding number 06-121. President Rice's written comments are available on the next page.

Secretary/Treasurer Sparrow's comments can be found in the members section of the website at www.afm427-721.org.

Below is a copy of the written statement by President Rice; submitted by email to be included as part of the record of the FCC hearing in Tampa, Florida on March 30, 2007.

My Name is Charles Rice and I am a retired school teacher and a professional musician. I want to speak against the idea of any further media consolidation. As it stands now, I am unable to find the music that I enjoy on commercial radio. The only stations in the Tampa Bay area that play any Classical or Big Band Jazz are the public radio stations.

Current levels of media consolidation have completely silenced all but the smoothest, lightest versions of Jazz. Even if you don't like to listen to Jazz, this loss is unfair to Americans since Jazz is truly an American Music and should be considered important because of its' history in America. I believe that we should insist on more diverse musical options on the airwaves and more local involvement in the whole process, not less. Otherwise, we might be hurting the future of our country by compromising the education of the next generation of our citizens.

You might say that there is not a market for Jazz or Classical music since it doesn't appear to make money, but I believe that as stewards of our public airwaves, you as commissioners should treat the public airwaves as an educator or historian would. I understand that there is a business and economic aspect to the airwaves, but music and creativity are such vital parts of a good education that everyone should have the opportunity to be exposed to many types of music.

Face it: There is not an opportunity for newer music and local alternative artists to get airplay because they don't make big profits for the stations. The Disk jockey has been removed from the whole process and 'play lists' now come from a National head quarters! We do not hear much variation of music on the FM dial and we only hear news and talk radio on the AM dial.

I would like to close by asking the commissioners, 'Is this the legacy we want to be leaving for future generations of Americans?'

Thank You for taking my comments.

NEW MEMBERS

1/15/2007
3/6/2007
3/7/2007

PAUL GAYNOR
SHAWN MARREN
SALLY FEE

4/2/2007
4/11/2007
4/25/2007

TODD CRAVEN
ANN SCHIOLA
DAVID HERTZ

RESIGNED

2/15/2007
4/26/2007
4/26/2007

JAMES BLAKEMORE
SCOTT MYERS
CHRISTIANE FRASER

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Robert Shurtleff and Walter Lockenvitz.

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