

American Federation of Musicians

Florida Gulf Coast Local 427-721

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Phone: (727) 572-7977

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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 March 18, 2007 • 10:30 AM • Central Music
• 5175 Ulmerton Rd Clearwater, Fl •

Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer

The Employee Free Choice Act is in front of congress, so to be better informed, I have been reading articles that describe the process and situations that workers have to deal with when they attempt to organize into a union. There is a good deal of information that is available on the web. For example, there are articles about attempts to organize workers at Smithfield and Wal-Mart, and statistical studies by Peter Hart Research that offer interesting stories about organizing in America. I recommend that you take the time to check these articles out. Go to aflcio.org and do a little reading, then go to the Cato Institute and Washington Post web sites to get some more libertarian and conservative views on issues that involve labor and business relations. You might be surprised at what you learn. Meanwhile, I am happy that the dialogue is taking place! Let me know what you think.

Locally, in organizing efforts in Fort Myers with the Southwest Florida Symphony, we were forced to have an election, even after a significant majority of the musicians signed cards requesting AFM representation. It would have been simple to get a neutral party to certify that the cards were accurate, but Management insisted that we spend time and money on an election that yielded out the same result. We won with less than a handful of no votes. If I were even more cynical than I am, I would have been convinced that this was a stalling tactic. Unfortunately, the time between the card signing and the election is often when the anti union pro union forces do battle. In our situation, both parties agreed to have no lobbying during the interim period. It worked well for us and I am glad to report that we have been successful in reaching a tentative agreement to be submitted for ratification soon!

BE ACTIVE !

Only one member has volunteered to help gather information about educational programs to forward to MPF. The possibility of extra funding through additional foundations is real and MPF has volunteered to do some of the ground work. Since we have several members who use MPF money and do educational programs, we should be active in gathering and forwarding information to MPF. We have been warned that the program is in jeopardy, so unless you make an effort to make a difference and help out, we might lose even more funding!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

James Wilson and Fiona Lofthouse are the proud parents of twin baby girls. They were born in early January and all are doing fine! Our newest youth member, Marie Bawel performed a harp concerto on March 13, 2007 with the Imperial Symphony in Lakeland.

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

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

Insurance Broker

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

'Low Note' and 'High Note'

Health plan Web address:.....

www.MusicMedical2day.com

Executive Board Minutes January 13,2007

Local 427-721 Office 10:30 AM C Rice, K. Bawel, R. Sparrow. EB members; A. De Sorgo, H.Van Schaik, L. Van Dreel Phone; J. Wilson Excused; V. Jennings, A. Heydt

Sec/Treas; **Financial Report**-2006 Local 427-721 ended 2006 with \$14K in the bank. We had an un-audited surplus of over \$9K. Board orders Sparrow and Van Schaik to research and put together recommendations for putting surplus dollars in a secure, liquid investment. The board agrees to correspond/vote by email and decide how to proceed.

4th qtr, Oct - Dec 06

AFM,15536.59. AFM-EP,846.00. Board meeting,250.00. Payroll Tax,2430.29. Bank Charges,14.89. Office Expense,526.41. Diane Nelson Tax Collector,22.39. FL Dept of Business & Professional Reg,1.00. Florida U.C. FUTA,35.39. FWCS Inc,360.60. Godels, Solomon, Barber & Co LLC,300.00.. Jacob Smith,44.85. Law Office of Leonard Leibowitz,6064.00. Payroll,\$5860.00. Postmaster,157.00. Rekord Printing,67.50. Sharon Newby,1200.00. Staples,280.84. Steward, 3,000.00. TELECOVE Operations,128.15. US Life,116.80. Verizon,237.58. WCFFL,300.00. TOTAL,37780.28

A balanced budget for 2007 has been submitted to the board. **Correspondence shared from;** WCFFL about AFL-CIO State Federation 'New Alliance'; Insurance brokers about services; John Hall at MPF. **MPF** –Board to establish MPF committee to make recommendations about projects and education programs to be forwarded to MPF program.

Board **Resolves** "that we encourage union membership of Contractors and performers at all venues in Local 427-721 jurisdiction, including jobs sponsored by MPF. The Secretary Treasurer and Officers of Local 427-721 will provide consultation to help increase union membership when requested."

Discussion of CBA ratification for Southwest FI Symphony (Fort Myers). All members will be given the opportunity to vote to ratify the first agreement. At the ratification, the members will be notified that voting for future CBA's will be limited to AFM members in good standing. Members of the Florida Orchestra and West Coast Symphonies will be allowed to vote to ratify CBA's, but this procedure will be addressed by the board after the next round of negotiations.

Broadway strategy is discussed and EB asked President Rice to meet with TBPAC management to discuss entering into a CBA with Center. Sec/Treas will make call to Live Nation to discuss the upcoming CBA negotiations over Broadway Productions in St Petersburg and rest of the Local area.

Adam De Sorgo **Moves** "ROPA dues for the FWCS be paid by Local 427-721 in the amount of \$795." **Second** by L. Van Dreel. **Carries** Unanimously. Adjourn.

How to Build a Stronger Union

By Serena Kay Williams Secretary of AFM Local 47, Los Angeles, CA

There are many ways to build a stronger and more effective union, and they all begin with you - the members.

Listed below are several ways musicians can positively support their union

1. Attend your union meetings and exercise your voting privileges. Your opinion is important to your union. Work and speak for your union, not against it.
2. If you attend a union meeting, discuss everything presented - vote for the positive, then once you're outside of the meeting, agree to continue to support the action taken as well as the accomplishments made by the officers, union staff and business representatives.
3. Accept your member responsibilities and obligations. It is much easier to support your officers and fellow musicians than criticize them. Work under the terms and conditions of your contract.
4. Perform only with other members, and if you are leader, only hire members.
5. Stop a rumor or untruth about your union, your officers, and/or your fellow musicians.
6. Make sure your union, your officers, and other musicians are given the opportunity to speak to facts.
7. Do more to support your union, your officers, and musicians. When they roll up their sleeves to make the union progressive, ask yourself, "What will it take to get it done, and how may I help?"
8. When your union gives a function, tell every one that the money spent has accomplished something in the best interest of your union and the members.
9. Report all of your engagements to the union.
10. When asked for information by your officers and business representative about what the union can do for you to provide a better working environment and stronger union – give it. Let the officers and representatives know when something new is going on.
11. Pay your membership and work dues in a timely manner.
12. Be an anonymous donor. Pay the membership dues for a member in need.
13. Volunteer to join the many others on the list of activists who have signed the Solution Pledge; be ready to stand up for your fellow musicians and other labor unions and help when called upon.
14. Support TEMPO - Help musicians achieve our legislative goals.
15. Spread the word - if you know of musicians who are not members, tell them about the benefits the union provides and encourage them to join!

Music Performance Fund

REMINDER TO ALL APPLICANTS

The Recording Industries Music Performance Fund (RIMPF) fiscal year will be ending April 30, 2007. This is the time to remind potential co-sponsors to send in their letters requesting assistance for your group, ensemble or orchestra. The letters should include the following: the date, time, place, description of the event, name of the group they are requesting assistance for, name of the leader, and how many side musicians. To qualify for assistance, the event must be absolutely free and open to the public; no donations, no fundraising.

Local 427-721, has utilized these funds in many ways such as community events, outdoor park concerts, libraries, senior citizen centers, and museums. Local 427-721 has proudly sponsored many educational performances throughout Hillsborough County, for The Arts Council.

Our new fiscal year begins **May 1, 2007** and goes through **April 30, 2008**

SOLICITING YOUR OWN ENGAGEMENT

If you know of a shopping mall, school, senior citizens' center, library, park, hospital, etc. that wishes to co-sponsor - i.e. pay 60 percent or more of the total cost - a concert which is free and open to the public. Call the Local office, let Diana Drew, our office manager know the date, time, place, leader, number of side musicians, and type of music. Our office will inform you by phone as to whether or not the request will be approved by Music Performance Fund Trustee. Approval generally depends on the balance of funds and the availability from the Local 427-721 allocation.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Music must be the main reason for the event.
- The concert must be free and open to the public, with no condition for admittance.
 - There must be no *donations* solicited before, after, or during the performance.
 - There must be no *recording* (video or audio) of a performance.
- Music must not be used for any fundraising activity – no matter how worth while the project.
 - Music must not be part of a religious service, seminar, clinic, etc.

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