

American Federation of Musicians

Florida Gulf Coast Local 427-721

Vol. 17, No. 1

Official Bi-Monthly Publication

January/February/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 General Meeting

Sunday January 21, 2007 • 10:30 AM • Central Music
5175 Ulmerton Rd Clearwater, Fl • Be there!

Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer Happy New Year

It is the time of year that I often pause and reflect upon 2006. Although I am certain that each of you could make your own long list of things that you are thankful for, I feel compelled to share some of mine with you.

At our Local office, Diana Drew and I are thankful for the generosity and support from the Officers and Board Members, plus the patience that all of you have shown while we attempt to properly administer the duties of our Local. Our financial picture has stabilized somewhat and we will end 2006 with another small surplus. This gives us two consecutive years without deficits, and a small cushion in the bank! Please remember that it is the work dues income from the members of the Florida Orchestra, the Florida West Coast Symphony and the Broadway shows that make up 64% of our entire income at Local 427-721. I can't emphasize the importance of the Orchestra's steward's Warren Powell and Greg Knudsen in communicating with the local as well as joining new and transferred members into our Local.

The Florida West Coast Symphony (FWCS) has agreed to a three year contract that increases the benefits and pay scale substantially. This contract brings FWCS up to a competitive level with the rest of the state, plus provides the musicians a 4% payment into the AFM Pension (AFM-EP) in 2008-09. We have won an election to represent the musicians of the Southwest Florida Symphony in Fort Myers and there should be an agreement available for AFM members to ratify shortly. The AFM has allowed us to use one of our best assets in this process, our lead negotiator Janice Galassi. The Musicians Negotiating Committee is on the ball and has been flawless in their preparation, negotiation and communication with the Musicians and the Local.

The single word that comes to mind when thinking about 2006 is change. There was change in so many areas of our Local 427-721 life as well as in the state of Florida and the USA, not to mention the entire world. I am optimistic about many of these changes.

Our Broadway scene is changing here in West Florida and the Executive board has begun discussing a strategy that is being implemented as you read these notes. Stay tuned for updates.

We changed our local's name and it was approved by the International Executive Board. Updated bylaws and wage scales were adopted by the members. No major Hurricanes hit our state! We made a fine showing with our Labor Day performance at the Fairgrounds in Tampa and got a nice write up in the newspaper. Congratulations to all. We have made great progress at Local 427-721, with all of your help!

2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES due JANUARY 1

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

**\$5.00 late fee added if not received by
January 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

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

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 September 1, 2006 Board Meeting 10:00 AM

Pres. C Rice, V.P. K Bawel, Sec/Treas R. Sparrow. EB members; A. Heydt, A. De Sorigo, H. Van Schaik, By Phone: L. Van Dreel, J. Wilson Absent: V. Jennings Called to order at 10:25 AM

1. Sec/Treas report

Financial Report is offered Including comparison of previous years.

Correspondence is read from AFM and others, including FSMTA request for advertising in upcoming conference booklet.

Board directs Sec Sparrow to look for **opportunities to advertise locally, especially in Education publications. Info to be included about Youth Membership, Website address, Jurisdiction, and CBA service.**

Name change is approved, negotiations reports from Sarasota and Fort Myers were offered.

MSC for Secretary Sparrow to "Resubmit request for third party card count to Management of South West Florida Symphony in Fort Myers because the cost of the AAA election has increased 'considerably'."

Budget comparisons are presented and the Board directs Secretary Sparrow to refigure the budget for remainder of 2006 and figure increases for D Drew and R Sparrow. A mileage reimbursement for Board members and other officers for attending meetings will be included in this process. VP Bawel had to leave because of emergency, Liability Insurance tabled until the next meeting.

AD HOC Freelance Player Committee to be identified and invited to meeting with Pres Rice/Sec Treas Sparrow along with any board members that wish to take part. This committee will be invited to take part in identify ways to improve involvement of freelance players with our Union and increase membership.

M/S/C R Sparrow motion: A Heydt second; Approach L Leibowitz about extension of agreement for one year beyond current date with one additional negotiation included in the deal.

Future General Meeting Schedules to be determined by a POLL of the members through a special mailing of the next Newsletter using first class mail. Sec/Treas will prepare a poll to be mailed to members with the upcoming newsletter.

Invite members to call in, email, regular mail, and hopefully use website. Also should include email options for members, three options for meetings on Sat, Sun, Tues Wed. Available...

1.Sometimes 2.Usually 3. Almost never. Final poll will be approved by board.

Sec/ Treas is directed to contact Jacksonville Local about the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra. Adjourn.

Executive Board Minutes November 10, 2006 Board Meeting

Present: Pres. C Rice, V.P. K Bawel, Sec/Treas R. Sparrow. EB members; J. Wilson, A. Heydt, By Phone: L. Van Dreel Absent or with Previous Engagement: A. De Sorigo, H. Van Schaik, V. Jennings Called to order 10:30 AM

Sec/Treas report

Financial Report-update 2006 - M/S/C Sec Treas Moves: 1. to increase office Manager duties to four days with pay increase to \$280/week; 2. Increase weekly Steward stipend from \$75 to \$100; 3. Pay Board Members \$50 per meeting ,effective immediately. **Seconded** by A. Heydt. Discussion: Sec/Treas re-projection of income for 2006 will allow these increases, with slight surplus at the end of year. Heydt expresses concern that Local has no real cushion. **Carries Unanimously.**

Correspondence – Level 3/Telecove phone service discontinuation. New Verizon plan.

Negotiation Reports; West Coast-settlement of three year agreement, through 2008-09/**Southwest FI Symphony-** Musicians overwhelmingly voted to have AFM representation. Negotiations have begun and will continue. / **Florida Orchestra-** Negotiations will begin this fall/winter.

2007 -annual dues-budget committee-Motion by Sec Sparrow to increase the Annual Dues to \$121. Discussion; Since AFM PC is set to increase by \$2, we will pass this on to members. A. Heydt volunteers to be member of Budget Committee for 2007 planning period.

Freelance Committee has been formed. Chris Clifton, Mark Neuenschwander, Ed Kennedy have been sent information developed by the AFM with the idea of improving Local freelance services. Pres Rice and Sec/Treas Sparrow will attend meetings.

Broadway strategy- Current CBA with SFX has changed name to Live Nation, a spin-off from Clear Channel. They are leaving TBPAC and have entered into an agreement with Bayfront in St Petersburg. Sec/Treas will send letter to begin negotiations for continuing CBA for Broadway. TBPAC is going to produce their own shows. Strategy is dependent on several issues. Sec/Treas will contact members and speak with potential 'friends' to gather information for Board to continue monitoring.

Limited Pressing rates- Motion from Sec/Treas Rates expired in February, 2006. New rates incorporate local cartage rates and increase hourly rate to \$45/hour. **Carries Unanimously.**

Strike fund TFO- Sec/Treas to contact ICOSM and AFM representatives to gather information for board action.

Legal Representation extension- EB voted to extend contract for retaining Leonard Leibowitz to expire March 31, 2010. Including one additional negotiation for local 427-721. Adjourn.

MPF Funding Dwindles

John Hall, the current administrator of MPF recently sent a letter warning locals of the potential for more cuts in funding for the Music Performance Fund (MPTF). Many of you know some of the history but what follows is information that has been compiled from International Musician Archives at www.AFM.org and our records at Local 427-721.

It was on December 13, 1948 that AFM President James Petrillo and Frank White, president of Columbia Records, signed an agreement that created the Music Performance Trust Funds, to be financed by recording industry contributions based on record sales. That agreement ended a long and bitter musicians' strike against the record companies. The central issue in the strike was the devastating loss of employment caused by the widespread use of the newly invented long-playing record. Thousands of musicians had suddenly lost their jobs as radio stations substituted recorded music for live performances.

As of April 2001, the MPTF administered approximately 15 million concerts a year. The funding for these free concerts was provided by the MPTF along with co-sponsors such as major corporations, local businesses, and organizations. These "admission-free, live instrumental performances in connection with patriotic, educational, charitable, and civic occasions" have been a way of exposing the public to all different types of music, along with giving our members an opportunity to provide a great community service. In our Local, MPTF has been responsible for providing everything from educational concerts in the public schools to free band Concerts in St Petersburg.

In 2006 and there is very little over the counter record sales taking place today because of legal downloading and other internet provided sources of sharing. Plus every time recorded music is pirated, or illegally downloaded from the Internet, the royalty payments are lost. From 1983 until 1999, record and CD sales increased annually so our local funding increased or was at least renewed at the same amount annually. Since 1999, sales have fallen and our funding has fallen as well. In 1999 Local 427-721 had \$27,779 available in funding. In 2006 our funding has fallen to \$8324.

We must identify alternate sources of funding and that is the only way MPF is going to survive. Fund administrator Hall has asked Locals to forward evidence of planned or existing education programs that our musicians present to students from pre-school through early teens to him and he will help to identify funding these programs through foundations. This way more funds will be available for the locals to distribute.

NEW MEMBERS

MARIE BAWEL

2649 PEACHTREE CIRCLE E
CLEARWATER, FL 33761
727 726-8207 HARP

MARTIN BERNSTEIN

760 MOORLAND LANE
PALM HARBOR, FL 34683
727 729-6084 CELLO BASS

KELLY MACK

15818 SCRIMSHAW DR
TAMPA, FL 33624-1571
813 968-2017
BASS, ELECTRIC

THEODORETUS BREEN

7294 CLOISTER DRIVE #22
SARASOTA, FL 34231
941 925-3738
BASS, ELECTRIC

THOMAS KRACMER

1453 TREDEGAR DR
FT MYERS, FL 33919-2223
239 267-1894 TUBA

DAN COTTO

6812 50TH AVE N
ST PETE, FL 33709
727 548-9238
PNO SAX GTR

MICHAEL MC CLELLAND

5394 BERGAMO AVE
SARASOTA, FL 34238
941 927-9203 VIOLA

JAMES FAWCETT

807 LUCILLE AVE
NOKOMIS, FL
941 488-2072 VIOLA

JAMES HELWIG

2207 WOODS AND WATER CT
SEBRING, FL 33872
863 546-4483 KEYBOARD

ERIK JACOBS

13660 ABBEY DR #E-2
FT MYERS, FL 33919
239 985-9388 TBN TUBA

CHARLES KAYAT

5725 SEA TROUT PLACE
APOLLO BEACH, FL 33572
TUBA TBN BASS EUPHONIUM

HOWARD KNAPP

7111 2ND AVE SOUTH
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33707
727 345-3782 TROMBONE
EUPHONIUM

GAIL PICHA

760 MOORLAND LANE
PALM HARBOR, FL 34683
727 729-6084 VIOLA VIOLIN

MARK ROONEY

979 HILLTOP COURT
NAPLES, FL 34103
239 262-2828 DRUMS PERC
GUITAR BASS SYNTHESIZER

LUCILLE D'ARMI

8205 46TH COURT EAST
SARASOTA, FL 34243
941 358-0959
ARRANGER VOCALIST

JEFFREY TRASTER

3615 W BARCELONA
TAMPA, FL 33629
813 805-6454 TUBA

RESIGNATIONS: NATALYA BAZHANOV, JOAN DOWLIN, CHARLES ECKERT, MARTIN HEBERT, JOHN MILLER, HUNTER SHOLAR, DAVID STEELE, BRADLEY WILLIAMS.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Demitrios Caffentzis, Roger Hufford and John Miller Sr.

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