

The New Pitch

Volume 19 Issue 4

AFM Local 21

December 2010

**The Official Bulletin of the
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
MUSICIANS, Local 21, Inc.**
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MEMBERSHIP DUES GENERAL INFORMATION

Regular Members - \$36.25/qtr
(\$140.00/yr.)

Life Members - \$18.50/qtr
(\$69.00/yr.)

Inactive Life Members - \$17.00/qtr
(\$63.00/yr.)

*Life members who wish to become inactive life members may do so by notifying the local in writing. Inactive Life Members shall have all the rights and privileges of active members except that they shall not perform any professional engagements, vote or hold office.

President's Message

I hope everyone had a very good Thanksgiving and did not eat too much because we have a lot more celebrating to do between now and the beginning of 2011. I hope that along with the personal celebrating there will be time [and opportunity] for making some music [and money]. I also hope that we will all think of those around us who would benefit from our generosity to our favorite charity at this time of the year. While we are enjoying this thankful time of the year with our families and friends, and maybe trying to make someone else's holiday brighter, we need to also look at our own lives. We are trying to "go forward" and it seems like we are always working harder just to "stand still"

Sitting here in the office reading Newsletters, articles and Blogs from around the country: Fort Worth Symphony and the Richardson (TX) Symphony declare war on the livelihoods of professional musicians of Local 72-147; The Harris Theater (Chicago) to perform the full length Prokofiev "Romeo and Juliet" including a newly discovered twenty minutes of music, with an unpaid orchestra from Roosevelt University (we had an apple out of that barrel last year with Nutcracker). Both of these ideas were dropped, but then, the theater's last, best and final offer was for 29 professionals to be hired to play along side of 28 Roosevelt U. students who would not be paid for their preparation, rehearsal and performance. The Chicago Local had to fight with "bare knuckles" to avert this ----THE PROGRAM WAS CHANGED. Similar stories keep coming from L.A, Detroit, Trenton, N.J. No one is exempt from the managerial response to the economic conditions: "Water down the product...the paying public won't know the difference". And on other pages and blogs I'm reading about recording studios and sound stages closing because the new generation of pop/rock musicians is recording in their "garages". WHY, because they can and because we have not paid attention to them and the world they live in---and by the way, we are living in that same world.

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Local 21, Inc.
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**Late Payment
and Suspension Policy**

Quarterly dues payments are due during the first month of each quarter (January, April, July and October).

Members failing to pay dues by the end of a quarter shall be suspended and reinstatement fees will be imposed (consult Article 6 Section 2 of the bylaws). Reinstatement currently calls for payment of two quarters of back dues, the current quarter, and the current Reinstatement Fee of \$40.00. Failure to pay dues by the end of six months will result in termination of membership.

RESIGNATION PROCEDURE

A member wishing to resign in good standing from Local 21 or any other Local of the AFM must do the following:

- Send a letter of resignation to the local
- Pay all financial obligations to that local, including the current quarter's dues.

Failure to follow this procedure will result in the member being dropped for non-payment of dues. This will jeopardize membership in all other locals of the AFM.

You could advertise in the "Pitch", and be seen by musicians in DE, NJ, PA, MD, and further!

Call or e-mail us here at the office for more information.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Hello from the Local office.

As we head into 2011, I want to start off with some good news, which hopefully most of you have been waiting for:

Local 21 will NOT raise its membership dues for 2011.

This has not been an easy trick to pull off. As you all know, the cost of everything has gone up over the last year, and income has not kept pace. However, I have done everything conceivable here at the office to keep costs down while providing excellent service. Also, your Local Board has pitched in to help make some difficult but essential decisions and those decisions have helped us keep fiscally solvent. Every year is different and requires its own analysis as to whether there needs to be a dues increase, but Local 21 has not raised dues since 2006.

But one of the important factors in this yearly analysis is our projection of income from membership dues and how it relates to our expenses. Our membership count has remained more or less steady over the last 4 years (the time I've been keeping records since I have been in office), and while it's nice to not have to report a significant drop in membership, I also can't report a significant increase in membership, either.

In 2011, I hope that we can work together to communicate the value and benefits of being an AFM member to our musician colleagues who aren't AFM members. Perhaps you know of some musicians who play causal gigs, or teach privately, or wonder how they can make the break into one of our Local orchestras (like DSO or Kennett). It will be very helpful to the Local if you could have a conversation with them about the benefits of AFM membership. Although it may not necessarily mean an automatic transition into a principal symphony position, there are other things about membership that they might find useful or helpful. The "International Musician" is full of useful articles about music trends, and is the only source of audition ads for all professional orchestras in the country. The Union Plus program offers financial assistance, insurance options, and retail discount programs for AFM members. The Local web site lists all of our members and the instruments they play in case any contractor or web browser is looking for local professional musicians.

Also, new members bring new ideas and fresh perspective to the Local. So look around and see if a new relationship between a musician you know and Local 21 could be mutually beneficial. Local 21 must maintain healthy membership to stay strong fiscally, as well as to stay a viable and visible presence in the community.

Glenn

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**New Members:**

Gray, Naomi: 1609 S 13th St., Phila., PA, 19148; home/cell: (213) 926-5047; e-mail: nrgvc@yahoo.com; CELLO/PIANO

Quirk, Alice: 1540 Burmont Rd., Havertown, PA, 19083; home/cell: (484) 477-6996; e-mail: strollingviolins@gmail.com; VIOLA/VIOLIN/VOCALIST

Kim, Jonathan: 1215 Charter Ln., Ambler, PA, 19002; cell: (610) 908-7387; e-mail: jonathankim83@gmail.com; VIOLA

Brun, Melissa: 1034 Phoenixville Pike, West Chester PA, 19380; cell: (484) 459-8369; e-mail: cellogal514@aol.com; CELLO

Address/contact info changes:

Crystal, Zachary: 1805 N West St., Wilm., DE, 19802 (same phone and e-mail)

Members reinstated:

Kee, David
McCommon, Barry
Rester, James

President's Message (continued)

Here comes the pitch Brothers and Sisters: We Need To Act!--- Now!! We need you to take time out of your busy schedules, just 3 or 4 times a YEAR to come to your Local general meetings and listen AND talk. Tell us what you hear on the street. Ask us questions that concern you or everyone. I don't want to fill the conference room---I want to fill the entire building. We will be happy to amplify every square foot of space if we need to, and I hope we will. I have made this same pitch so many times that you must know by now that I am sincere. This not just a way of saying, "well I guess I'll talk about attendance again", THIS IS IMPORTANT BUSINESS. This is the source of much needed income for your families. This is your love. This is your passion. This should not be taken for granted. I have always hoped that with age comes some modicum of wisdom. Being "older than most" I hope this is true, and if it is I truly hope that these words touch someone out there to become a more active member. WE NEED YOU!!

Now once again I wish you the best of the Holiday Season!

In Unity,

Bill Berger,
Your President



Meet your Executive Board**This issue: ANGELA WALKER**

Angela stopped by a few weeks ago for a chat and an update on Local business. She also agreed to be my first interviewee on a series of profiles of Local 21 Board members. These are the people who volunteer their time to help steer Local 21 and offer their guidance and help on all decisions made at the Local. I thought maybe we should get to know them all better...

Glenn Finnan: Are you a Delaware native?

Angela Walker: Yes, I've lived in Wilmington, Dover, and Claymont.

GF: What instruments do you play?

AW: I play violin, flute, and organ. I'm also a singer in my church, Victory Christian Fellowship.

GF: What is your favorite musical experience?

AW: When I was a student, I played first violin in the Delaware Symphony Youth Orchestra; our concert was at the Grand Opera House. I also have been in and sung in several plays; "Bye Bye Birdie" is one of my favorite performing experiences.

GF: Tell me about playing organ.

AW: When I was younger I took organ lessons from my neighbor, who had an organ at her house. I'd play it for her and some of our neighbors.

GF: Tell us about your family.

AW: I am a mother of three. I have a 36-year old son, and two daughters, 30 and 21 years old. I'm also a grandmother.

GF: I won't ask your age! Tell us about your schooling and work.

AW: I have a BS in Human Services from Springfield College. Right now I'm a Regional Account Manager for a uniform company, where I help negotiate contracts and prices with clients. I really enjoy it because I love working with people. I think everybody needs to help make a difference. In addition to my professional work, I have volunteered tutoring women, youth, and the mentally challenged. Wanting to help make a difference is part of what led me to be involved with the AFM. Music has always been my love and passion, and here I can help make an impact.

GF: What other kinds of community work have you done?

AW: I was president of the Delaware chapter of ACORN, where we worked on voter registration, and gave voice to the community on parks, utilities and other social issues. Through that, I also got to know many of the leadership in the DE AFL-CIO, since we worked on many common issues. We also all worked hard together on recent elections, and I've come to know almost everyone in Delaware politics. I'm optimistic about the new group of officeholders; I think we have some of the best Delaware has and they will represent Delaware well.

GF: What type of music do you like to listen to, and who are some of your favorite performers?

AW: Gospel is my number one kind of music to listen to. I also listen to R&B, jazz, and some classical. My favorite performers are Yolanda Adams, CeCe Winans, Gladys Knight and Patti Labelle.

GF: What was a memorable recent musical experience?

AW: I saw "Fire on the Bayou" at the Delaware Theater Company (about New Orleans jazz and hurricane Katrina), and I loved it.

GF: What's one thing you would like to say to our members?

AW: "It's so important to be involved. I really believe in the word 'team'. Together Everyone Achieves More."