

The New Pitch

Volume 18 Issue 1

AFM Local 21

February 09

**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 Feel Good"-----

We had an important, productive, and well attended meeting on February 8th. The Board helped to formulate and approve plans to move us through some important and critical issues that we will deal with in the coming months, including the DSO negotiations.

With Valentines Day still a warm memory, we need to take heart and be very aware of what is going on around us both politically and economically. Our Federation is constantly stressing a donation of one or two dollars a month, quarter, or year included in our dues payment. Those donations are forwarded (in total) to the Federation office in New York, to be used for political action. Not to get too political, but we (Union members) helped to elect the new administration, so it is our DUTY to see that the interests of all of us are kept at the forefront of the agenda.

We all know that the economy is in terrible shape right now, and it would be easy to throw up our hands and just hope for the best, but that is not good enough. We have elected our representatives to Washington and it is up to us to keep their feet to the fire.

We all have our own "little worlds" that need constant attention, but we must take time to stay on backs of the people who are affecting our very existence as we know it. So remember the Tempo contributions and personal letters and e-mails to our Elected Employees in Congress.

These are critical times----We MUST treat them accordingly

Please become more active in YOUR UNION

William C. Berger, President

Am Fed. of Musicians
Local 21, Inc.
2316 Baynard Blvd.
Wilmington, DE 19802

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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). A \$1.00 fine will be imposed if dues are paid in the second month of the quarter. A \$2.00 fine will be imposed if dues are paid in the third month of the quarter

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). 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!

In the midst of all the bleak financial news, there is a small bit of good news here at the Local: we ended 2008 in the black with a small but respectable credit balance. Your Local officers and Board remain committed to maintaining the best service possible while keeping our costs low, and it definitely paid off in 2008: we were able to resist raising our annual dues.

2009 will definitely be challenging; we will have to especially mindful and resourceful, as we are renegotiating the Delaware Symphony Contract this year. I have been in regular contact with the Federation in NY, speaking to lead negotiators, so that we can put our best strategies to use. This will be an especially hard time for all arts groups, so while we do anticipate belt tightening, we are optimistic that we can get the best deal possible.

Speaking of finances, costs, and the Local's efforts to be fiscally conscious, **see page 4 for an important announcement** about a new Local Member Communication policy. In a nutshell, the Local will be discontinuing as much outgoing U.S. mail as possible, and will be using all our e-mail and internet resources instead. This will save the Local several hundred dollars a year. Please read the announcement at the end of this "Pitch" for all the specific details.

Also, this year the Board will be revising several aspects of the Local bylaws, including many procedural and financial policies (for example, late fees and reinstatement fees). The bylaws have not been updated since 2002, and the IRS is implementing stricter reporting requirements for non-profit groups, so this will keep us ahead of that. As a member of this Local, your input is valuable, so please check page 3 for the Meeting dates for 2009. Mark them on your calendar and plan to attend, so we can make these changes with the full involvement of our members.

In the meantime, please have a happy, safe, and prosperous 2009. There's no better time to get acquainted with the Union Plus program, which provides Union members discounts on everything from insurance plans to rental cars to movie tickets. Visit them here: <http://www.unionplus.org/#>.

And don't hesitate to get in touch with the office for any questions or suggestions you have.

Glenn

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Resignations in Good Standing:

Grossman, Christine
Murray, Max
Fike, Danielle
Kravis, Marcia
Schweingruber, Eric
Petrasek, Joseph
Sperati, Carleton
Cilento, Joseph

New members:

Elena Yakovleva: 606 St. Paul St.,
Campus Box 687, Baltimore, MD,
21202; (724) 630-5874;
kzyza@gmx.de;
FLUTE/PICCOLO/PIANO

Angie Cheng: 43-27 149th St.,
Flushing, NY, 11355; (646) 233-6126;
angcheng@hotmail.com; VIOLIN

James Rester: 1733 Carriage Cir.,
Severn, MD, 21144; (410) 917-1989;
jwrester@gmail.com; FRENCH HORN

Mathew Becker: 2409 Holly Lane,
Hatfield, PA, 19440; (215) 822-8833;
beckerweckerly@netzero.net;
PERCUSSION/TIMPANI/MALLETS/KEYB
OARD/DRUM SET

Address Changes:

Dobrzelewski, Jan: 602 Shropshire Dr.,
West Chester, PA., 19382

Beauchamp, Ross: (new e-mail):
beauchip@verizon.net

Local 21 Announces Meeting Dates for 2009:

The Local has set three general membership meeting dates for this year. We hope that you will all put these dates on your calendars and plan to attend. During 2009, the Local will be updating our Local Bylaws, which have not been changed since 2002. This will be just one of many interesting and challenging topics for which your input is both needed and appreciated! Please mark these dates and make your voice heard by attending a Local meeting... or two... or three...

The meetings are held at the Local office: 2316 Baynard Blvd., Wilm., DE, 19802.

2009 Meeting Dates:

Sunday, May 3, 7 PM

Sunday, August 2, 7 PM

Sunday, October 18, 7 PM

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS TO YOU FROM LOCAL 21

The Local is changing its method of communicating with its members! In order to take the best advantage of our internet and web site, to save expenses on paper, postage, and printing, as well as to be environmentally conscious, the Local will be replacing most U.S. mail communication with e-mail and internet postings. *Effective immediately*, as a result of the February 8 Executive Board meeting, the decision to implement an official electronic communication policy was adopted.

Why are we doing this? We are doing this to conserve Local resources and finances. The less we have to mail, the fewer envelopes we need to buy. The fewer stamps we need to buy. The fewer copies we need to make. The Local is committed to keeping our members' dues as low as possible, so we are always looking for ways to cut expenses while maintaining or even improving service. E-mail is more immediate than U.S. mail and can be more easily tracked.

What will the Local do? The Local will now send all membership dues bills, work dues bills, and announcements to the e-mail address we have on record for each member. We will also post the "Pitch" on our web site. An e-mail address will notify members that the new "Pitch" is available, and provide a link to it. In order to keep the "Pitch" from being available to casual web surfers, only the link provided in the official Local e-mail will access the newsletter online. All official e-mails will contain "AFM Local 21" in the subject line, so you know that it is from us.

What do members need to do? Members should make sure that the Local has your current e-mail address. If you have a specific e-mail address that you wish to be used for Local communications, please provide it to Glenn at the office. Also, because some of the e-mails will be going to a large number of recipients, you will need to make sure that any SPAM filter you have will accept these e-mails. Please be sure that glenn@afm21.org , displaying the name "Glenn Finnan" as the sender, is an e-mail that will pass through your SPAM filter.

What about privacy and confidentiality? The Local will put all member e-mail addresses in the "Bcc:" addressee line, so that no-one will see anyone else's e-mail address or know who else has been sent the e-mail (other than the Local Board, who will be copied on all of these e-mails). The e-mails will also not address anyone by name in the e-mail body. Addressee(s) will be referred to as "Local 21 Member(s)".

Will anything still be sent via U.S. mail? Yes. All expulsion warnings will continue to be sent by U.S. mail, certified, return receipt requested. Membership cards will also be sent through U.S. mail.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the office...or better yet, e-mail us.

Want to see how a "Pitch" will look online? This issue is already there! You can see it by using this "member-only link": <http://www.afm21.org/newsletters/Feb2009.pdf>