

The New Pitch

Volume 19 Issue 2

AFM Local 21

July 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 have submitted my official report of the convention but I will give you the highlights here. The RMA, a players' conference of the AFM consisting of recording musicians, is now in complete control of the AFM. This means that things will be different around The Federation. They have said they could correct all of the problems within the AFM, so we will have to wait to see exactly what will be coming "down the pike"

I hope you will all be having a good summer playing and listening to many concerts in various venues, as well as getting away for a while just to "chill"--- if you should be heading to Alaska.

If you should have any questions about the convention, please feel free to come out to the next meeting. We will be happy to answer any questions-- about any part of the trip to "Vegas" as well as what happened on the convention floor (nothing happened that has to stay there).

On another note, I will lift a line out of the Local 802 "Allegro". "...for a professional performance to become amateur is the worst kind of backsliding." In the labor movement, we talk about respect, because it is fundamental to our training and beliefs. We used to have respect because we expected it and demanded it when we had to. In the not too distant past, we had, on the AFM rolls, 300,000 members which has dwindled to around 90,000. Can we wonder why we have identity problems? At every turn in the road, (when a club closed or a theater closed, etc.) we have lost members "because the Union can't do anything for ME anymore".

My friends and colleagues, it is once again time to individually and collectively work on retaining what we have and regaining what we had. We have lost a lot of our army over the years and now it is US. We need your support----We need solidarity--- We need YOU at YOUR meetings. There has not been a true "General" Meeting in so long that we go right into our Board meeting without so much as a peep from our general membership. "As brilliant as we are" I cannot believe that some of you might have a good idea once in awhile.

(continued on page 3)

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).

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!

Things have settled back into more of a routine now that the DSO negotiations are over. We continue to monitor our Local's fiscal health, and at our last Board meeting, I proposed disconnecting our fax line as a way to reduce expenses and increase efficiency. We have not really needed the fax line for a long time for anything important (now we use e-mail and scan documents when need be). The fax line costs us \$25.00/month, plus paper, ink, and electricity for all the junk faxes we get. The Board approved disconnecting the fax line, and we should save about \$300.00 a year from that.

Don't forget about this year's Local elections! Our nominations meeting is scheduled for **Sunday September 12 at 6 PM**. Although we may be a small Local, we have a lot going on, and input from everyone is very important. We have three officer positions (President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer), and seven Executive Board positions. As of today, we will definitely need a Vice-President candidate and at least 2 Exec. Board candidates. This is a heavily orchestral Local, and we deal a lot with our three orchestral groups (Delaware Symphony, Kennett Symphony, and OperaDelaware), so members with orchestral background and interest are needed and encouraged to run. Don't make me call you!

Did you miss the very small notice in the last International Musician that the AFM is starting a web site for members to sell their music, like on sites such as I-Tunes or Amazon.com? The premise is very similar: AFM members upload their music and info, set their own prices, and then receive the proceeds from sales (less a small administrative fee). This service is FREE to AFM members. So, do you have an album you'd like to sell to the worldwide public? Go here to get started: <http://www.goprotunes.com/>

Lastly, and seriously, are you in trouble at one of your performing groups? Are you in a probationary review period, or under threat of discipline? It is completely understandable that, because that can be embarrassing, you would want to keep that completely to yourself. But don't! Please come to us at the Local. We are here to help you and protect you as much as possible. We have resources to make sure that you are not taken advantage of, or do not inadvertently make the situation worse. Here are a few things to remember if you find yourself in trouble:

- 1) Contact the Local as soon as possible. Don't wait until it's too late.
- 2) Do not get into any arguments with Management. Let us mediate.
- 3) Do not make any admissions or commit to any course of action unless you have discussed it with us first.
- 4) NEVER meet with Management without Union representation!
- 5) Avoid in-person/phone interaction as much as possible. Try to do as much in writing as you can. This will be invaluable later if records are needed, whereas "in-person" will be impossible to substantiate.

The Local is active, discreet, and we are here to help. But we need to know you need help, first, for us to be able to do our best work.

Glenn

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

Harding, Adrienne: 4310 Christiana Meadows, Bear, DE, 190701; home/cell: (302) 388-9318; e-mail: harding@udel.edu; FLUTE/PICCOLO/ALTO FLUTE/BASS FLUTE

Gythfeldt, Marianne: 936 Alexandria Dr., Newark, DE, 19711; home/cell: (917) 414-2966; e-mail: mgyth@udel.edu; CLARINET/BASS CLARINET/Eb CLARINET

Members rejoining Local 21:

Richan, Amie: 224 Park Ave., #3, Swarthmore, PA, 19081; home: (610) 604-9569; e-mail: amierichan@verizon.net; VIOLIN/PIANO/VOICE

Address Changes:

Lustig, Andrea: 449 Morgan Ave., Drexel Hill, PA, 19026

Wilson, Stephanie: 307 S Cleveland Ave., Wilm., DE, 19805; home phone: (302) 652-4310; cell: (215) 668-3150

Wong, Lyle: 3640 Tarpis Ave. #14, Cincinnati, OH, 45208

McCommon, Barry: 19 West Upsal St., Phila., Pa, 19119 (same e-mail and phone)

Resignations:

Staherski, Rick
Staherski, Cheryl
Martindale, Winifred
Bishop, Michelle

Members Reinstated:

Clark, Victoria

Members Suspended 6/30:

Marks, Florrie

Members Expelled 3/31:

Johnson, H Wade

Members Expelled 6/30:

Cheng, Angie

Meeting date reminder for 2010:

We have one more membership meeting this year (followed by an Executive Board session), which will focus on elections for Officers and Board for Local 21 for 2011-2014. Please come, make your thoughts known, and consider running for office. The Local is only as good as the effort put into it by its members! See you then!

***** Sunday, September 12, 2010 at 6 PM**

President's Message (continued from page 1)

There are some Locals that try to hide their meeting times and dates in a news article so that none will come. That is not us! We want your input. We need your input. We need your strength. We need your voice. WE NEED YOU! There are very few of us left who are not symphony players, so we HAVE to work together ---now---- or surely we will fail!!

W. C. Berger, Sr.
President AFM Local 21

Audition Announcements:

READING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Andrew Constantine,
Music Director

Auditions (September 2010, Date TBA)

**Assistant Principal Bass
Section Bass, Principal 2nd Violin
Section Violin**

(The RSO performs approx. 54 services per season.) Send 1 page resume to:

Douglas McNames, Personnel Manager, Reading Symphony
147 N. Fifth St. Ste. 4 Reading. PA 19601-3494

NO phone/email Please.

Delaware Symphony Orchestra

David Amado, Music Director

Announces auditions for the following positions:

**Principal Piano
Associate Principal Cello*
Section Violin
Section Viola**

The Delaware Symphony is a per service orchestra with approximately 55 services per season.

Auditions will be held in fall 2010.

All auditions will take place in Wilmington, DE. We reserve the right to reject last-minute applications if space is not available.

Please send resume or letter via e-mail to: stephaniew@delawaresymphony.org

Or via mail to: Stephanie Wilson, Personnel Manager
Delaware Symphony Orchestra
P O Box 1870
Wilmington, DE 19899

*If position is won by a member of the Delaware Symphony Orchestra during prior internal audition, the vacated section position will be the open position.