

The New Pitch

Volume 18 Issue 2

AFM Local 21

May 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

WE ARE REALLY LUCKY! ----- WE DON'T HAVE TO WORK ! -----WE PLAY !

I am convinced that too many people believe that a musician, no matter how well trained, skilled, or educated we may be, when we sit down to play our instruments, we are just playing. (not working)

Education has nothing to do with this perception. It makes no difference whether the person is a CEO, a rocket scientist, a bricklayer or a plumber. Unless a person becomes knowledgeable and appreciative of music, we are seen as less productive and less skilled than they are---and we are treated as dispensable people who only play for fun. The fact that many of us have made music our life's endeavor, and feed our families with our skills, is not even considered.

With so many people living in this "non-musical dream world", we all need to personally stress your musicianship and worth to the community and our UNITY. Yes we need to do a better job of "man to man" training. We need to try to weave our professionalism and unionism (united strength) into every conversation that we have with strangers or co-workers, church members or other professionals.

In other words, spread the word around as to what it takes to produce fine music.

Everybody knows somebody that plays happy Birthday on the Piano or Guitar and they are also called musicians and the more the merrier but we do have to educate our friends and acquaintances that we are professional working musicians. We need to tell everyone we meet that when we are on stage we are not "just another pretty face", we are UNITED in mind and skill to produce some of the finest music that has ever been written and has been heard around the world. WE ARE WORTH IT!

(continued on page 4)

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.

This has been a very busy winter/spring here. The Local has been working on several items on behalf of our members.

In April, we successfully negotiated a settlement with the Delaware Symphony regarding a performance of theirs from 2006 that had ended up on DVD for sale. I would like to point out that the Symphony acted swiftly in concert with the Local to address and correct the problem. The Local took a very comprehensive approach to the settlement, ensuring that all musicians who had played the concert received the settlement, even if they were no longer with the Symphony.

Speaking of the Delaware Symphony, as I write this, we are in the last days of preparation for the Symphony's first series of recording sessions, with the LA Guitar Quartet, for the Telarc label. The Local and the Symphony have been poring over *every detail* of the various AFM Recording Agreements so that we know that the musicians are getting all the payments and proper conditions to which they are entitled.

After increasing our Local wage scale at the end of 2008, the Local is also moving forward updating our bylaws. The new bylaws will take effect January 1, 2010. We hope to bring some of our practices and fee structures more in line with other Locals, and make sure we are in compliance with Federation bylaws. Hopefully, in the end, the new bylaws will be a clearer, more informative document. I will send out a special notice for all members with the items that have been changed, and the new document will be posted on our site.

As always, we are on the hunt for ways to keep costs down. Since we adopted our new e-mail/Internet policy, we have been using a noticeably smaller amount of office supplies (paper, envelopes, stamps, etc.), which saves \$\$\$\$. It probably (hopefully) occurs to you to include the Local office when you change your address or phone number, and now be extra careful to include us if you change your *e-mail address*! We actually *want* to communicate with you, so help us keep you informed.

Glenn

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

Elissa Wagman: 1202 Pritchard Pl., Newtown Sq., PA, 19073; (609) 731-3352; elissa_wagman@yahoo.com; VIOLIN, BAROQUE VIOLIN

Julie Bougher: 760 Line St., Easton, PA, 18042; (610) 442-8446; jbougher@aol.com; VIOLIN, VOICE

Lauren Robinson: 678 N. 15th St., #3, Phila., PA, 19130; (267) 980-0278; lrrhorn@gmail.com; FRENCH HORN

Angela Walker: 308 W 26th St., Wilm., DE, 19802; home phone (302) 764-6385, cell: (302) 740-8077; angelwlkr242@aol.com; VOCALIST/VIOLIN

Michelle Bishop: 3315 Cresson St., Phila., PA, 19129; cell: (305) 720-5574; e-mail: michellebishop44@yahoo.com; VIOLIN

Address Changes:

Stornant, Rachel: 15114 St. Paul St., Grosse Pointe Park, MI, 48230; (248-227-1189)

Petrescu, Serban: 411 Albany Court, Wallingford, PA, 19086

O'Banion, Phillip: 2049 Fawn Lane, Coatesville, PA, 19320; home phone: (610) 466-7169, cell: (215) 983-6462

Rester, James: 5550 Vantage Point Rd., Columbia, MD, 21044; (410) 917-1989

Sorrentino, Ralph: 7 N Valley Stream Circle, Newark, DE, 19702

Wozniak, Bill: 908 E Haverford Rd., Bryn Mawr, PA, 19010, (610) 525-3632, cell: (215) 764-9554

Resignations:

Desrosiers, Patrick
Stornant, Rachel
Delmar, J Kenneth

In Memoriam:

Fusco, Anthony

Suspended 3/31:

Arbogast, Paul
Clark, Victoria
Kee, David
Soukup, Catherine

Expelled 3/31:

Lakatos, Csilla

Reminder of Local meetings for 2009:

We have two more membership meetings this year:

*** Sunday, August 2, 2009 at 7 PM

*** Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 7 PM

Please come and make your thoughts known. The Local is only as good as the effort put into it by its members! See you then!

President's Message continued

Article 2 – Section 1, of the AFM By-laws (entitled: Mission) states that as members of the AFM Local 21, we are united so that:

- We can live and work in dignity;
- Our work will be fulfilling and compensated fairly;
- We will have a meaningful voice in decisions that effect us;
- We can oppose the forces of exploitation – through our union solidarity

There are many more mission points in Sec. 1, Article 2 of this document, but the main thrust is in the words, work; dignity; united and a collective voice through UNION SOLIDARITY.

We often see breaches of ethics or rules that affect us or our fellow members. Your officers need to know when these problems occur. We, as a labor local pay per-capita dues to the AFL-CIO to attain even more power (through solidarity) with the other union members. We may think that we are a small local, hence rather weak, but in unity we can move larger obstacles

Now we are back to the original thought. We as individuals and professionals have to spread our message to all who will listen, even members of other unions. To some other unions, we do not work—we play. I am convinced that many- many people sit in the concert halls (and other venues) and have no idea that the musicians they are listening to are any other than a like minded group of people who like to make beautiful music. We need to “blow our own horns” and make sure in any way possible that we do not take for granted that everyone knows who we are and what our profession is. We can not afford to take this for granted.

We also need to look inward. I just read the April-June issue of the Nashville (Local 257) newspaper and President Dave Pomeroy was lamenting that their general membership meeting of March 18th garnered a total of 33 members present. He mentioned that those 33 members constituted 2% of the membership. If we had 2% of our membership at our meetings, we would need (6) chairs set up—aside from the board. If you do not remember seeing 6 people at our meetings, you may be part of the problem.

Please make it a point to support yourselves by supporting your local. Believe it or not, we work hard for you.

The next meeting will be August 2nd at 7 PM. We NEED You. It should not be too hard to get even 5%of any organization (much less 2%) to attend a general meeting In order for the organization to work for you --- you have to work for the organization. YOUR THOUGHTS SUGGESTIONS AND VOICES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOUR ORGANIZATION,

We as musicians don't play games we play music and we need each other to make sure that we are adequetley protected..

I don't what else to say except Y'ALL PLEASE COME.

Do you have a business... or ensemble... or web site... that you would like fellow musicians to see? You can advertise in the “**Pitch**” and be seen by over 250 musicians in the DE, PA, MD, NJ area. Call the office (302-777-7780) for info.