

The New Pitch

Volume 17 Issue 4

AFM Local 21

September 2008

**The Official Bulletin of the
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
MUSICIANS, Local 21, Inc.**
2316 Baynard Blvd.
Wilmington, DE 19802
(302) 777-7780
(302) 777-7757 FAX
www.AFM21.org

William, Berger, President
Bill.Berger@afm21.org

John "Bips" Egnor, Vice-President
& MPF Coordinator
(302) 368-1636

Glenn Finnan, Secretary/Treasurer
Glenn@afm21.org

Executive Board:

Ralph Buck

Ralph.Buck@afm21.org

Don Brill

Don.Brill@afm21.org

Sylvia Jackson

syljac@del.net

Carlton Cannon

Carlton.Cannon@afm21.org

Dan McDougall

Dan.McDougall@afm21.org

Joan Sparks

Joanflute@gmail.com

Howard Griffith, Delegate-at-Large
hgriffy@aol.com

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 am not sure what it will take to convince the membership that we are ALL vulnerable to our economy and the many ways it can - and does - affect your employment. For example, DJ's (non-Union-but not necessarily cheap) long ago took a lot of the wedding, etc. business away from many of us. Then the pre-recorded push came to try to take away as much good paying show work as they could, and that was followed by the attempt on Broadway to use a virtual orchestra, which involved a strike. We are now getting the word from the Dallas/Fort Worth local that the Fort Worth Ballet has told its musicians that because money is tight, they spent \$30,000 to have The National Ballet Orchestra of China record the score to "Cleopatra". While "Cleopatra" will be performed in March of 2009, the picket line is active now passing out leaflets at the Texas Ballet Theater to protest this action and to inform the public that they will not be getting what they are paying for. This recording practice used to be limited to local area SCABS, but now in the global marketplace, there are more options for producers. I only mention all of this activity to impress on you that we are all vulnerable and now more than ever we need solidarity in our ranks and we need a passion to support each other in every way we can.

WE NEED YOU!

At the General meeting on the November 9, we (Howard Griffith and I) reported on the Penn-Del-Mar-DC meeting last month, which was very informative but not as well attended as it should have been. Anyone who would like a complete report can call-or- come in M,W, F. 9:30-1:30. Also available is a report of Locals. This report gives us much information about the strength of our conference in easy-to-read numbers.

At the General meeting, we also discussed our wage scale and dues adjustment. These items should be of interest to all members and your thoughts should be heard. I would love to have to take our general meetings to a larger venue. Only you can make that dream come true.

The AFM has prepared two information packets. One is a welcome packet for new members and the other is a promotional packet to be given to prospective members. If you know someone who is interested in joining, we will give you a packet to give them.

William C. Berger, President

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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 346
WILM., DE

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 office. I hope that everyone is busy, looking forward to a busy Holiday season of playing and overeating.

We have been very busy here and have had a very successful fall. In the "done" column, we have completed and signed renegotiated CBAs for OperaDelaware and the Kennett Symphony Orchestra. The Kennett CBA in particular was a real labor, and involved much discussion and back-and-forth with KSCC Management. The Local did a lot of research and work in preparing and negotiating for our proposal. We also got a great deal of assistance from the Federation. It was truly a team effort and I am very pleased and proud of how all those involved came together to get this done. The new CBA is a great leap forward in terms of improved players' protections and standard contract terms. Now, of course, we turn our attention to renegotiating the Delaware Symphony Orchestra CBA...

Speaking of economic conditions and contracts, the Local has raised its Wage Scale for the first time since 2004. There was an across-the-board increase of 20% on all items. To see the new minimums, check the out our web site at <http://www.afm21.org/scale/index.html>. Remember, these are minimums; you are encouraged to bargain as much over these as you can.

Also, I am *very pleased* to announce here that the Local is again not raising its annual Membership dues for 2009. Although the economy is (in my opinion) in recession, the Local has been, over the last 2 years, taking advantage of every possible reduction in operating expenses we could find. Also, the decision to dissolve our stock market account in January (and putting our reserve funds in an FDIC-insured account) means that the Local has not lost one cent in the last year of market losses. My estimated budget for 2009 gives us reason to believe that the Local can operate in 2009 without a raise in dues. We will obviously need to make this decision on a year-by-year basis, but for now, we are in good shape.

Please, as always, feel free to let us have your feedback. We want to be sure we are representing you and looking out for your needs, so don't be strangers!

Glenn

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Elizabeth Pfaffle: 115 S. Darlington St., West Chester, PA, 19382

Barry McCommon: 6433 Woodcrest Ave., Phila., PA, 19151

Mascaro, Veronica: 140 Glenwood Ave., Colledgeville, PA, 19426

Lakatos, Csilla: 31 Wenark Dr., Apt 5, Newark, DE, 19713

Fuller, Sara: 2062 E. Fletcher St., Phila., PA, 19125

Cochran, Liz: (add cell phone): 610-322-0140

Schiff, David: cell: (302) 547-9514

Blanchard, Thomas: 14 North Church St. SW, Ephrata, PA, 17522; (717) 661-7982

Eves, Jessica: 1511 Maple St., Wilm., DE, 19805; cell (215) 833-1136

Resignations in Good Standing:

Markzon, Jason
Ayoub, Jason
Ballard-Ayoub, Anna
Troy, Jonathon
Hauze, Andrew
Giangiulio, Patricia
Hacker, Lingchin

New Members:

David Christopher: 509 N Washington St., Wilm., DE, 19801, (302) 654-9729, organimprov@aol.com
Harpsichord/Organ/Piano/Accompanist

Marian Lee: 254 Bucktail Drive, Middletown, DE, 19709, (302) 376-9673,
marianylee@hotmail.com
Piano/Celesta/Organ/Harpsichord

Jie Jin: 130 Eaton Dr., Wayne, PA, 19087, (267) 307-3674,
jiecello@gmail.com Cello

Mary Katherine Ambrose: 1722 Wallace St., #101, Phila., PA, 19130, (513) 252-3899
katy.ambrose@gmail.com French Horn/Wagner Tuba

Zachary Crystal: 3423 Osmond St., Phila., PA, 19129 (917) 301-9713
zachary.crystal@gmail.com All Perc./Tympani

Members Reinstated:

Lakatos, Csilla

Members Expelled 9/30:

Gregory, William David

Members Suspended 9/30:

Petrasek, Joseph

Delaware Symphony Orchestra, David Amado, Music Director,
announces **auditions** for the following positions:

Assistant Principal Viola*/3rd Clarinet/Section Violins**

The Delaware Symphony is a per service orchestra with approximately 70 services per season. Auditions will be held in late fall /early winter 2008. 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 to:

*Paul Eves, Personnel Manager
Delaware Symphony Orchestra
P O Box 1870
Wilmington, DE 19899*

Indicate on envelope: VA for Viola, CL for Clarinet and VN for Section Violins. *If position is won by a member of the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, the vacated position may be offered to the runner-up. **This is a utility position and may include E-flat & bass clarinet in addition to the regular soprano clarinet.

President's Report of the 2008 Penn-Del-Mar-DC Conference of Locals

Friday the 11th at 4 PM the board met to discuss the agenda and procedures for the conference. Howard is on that Board so he will bring the report on that meeting.

Saturday morning the conference was called to order at 9 AM by President El-Char. After the National Anthem, Pledge of allegiance and the Invocation, President El-Char gave us an overview of the proceedings for Saturday and Sunday. The Sec/Treas. then reported to us that as a result of the invitations sent out, we had in attendance delegates representing 6300 members. The bad news is that in response to the call, SEVENTEEN locals did not choose to send representatives for whatever reason. (We could brainstorm this for awhile) It was reported that we have a cash balance of \$16,872.00 on hand. It was reported that in the Board meeting, an emergency resolution was passed to assist Local 60-471 (host local) in paying for part of the live music that we greatly enjoyed.

President Lee was in attendance and reported on some of the things that are happening throughout the Federation and how much better the Executive level is working together since the new IEB took office. He also told us of some very important programs and meetings that are in place. (I will have updates on some of this by our November meeting.

Sam Folio, Sec/Treas. at the Federation, reported that our membership is climbing for the first time after several years of declining. This is due in part to the "on-line" application and acceptance procedure. We are at this time gaining approx. three new members every day and that number is growing. He also talked about TEMPO, which now has a name change to the Legislative Action Fund, which is clearer as to what it is for (more about that at the meeting). Between Tom and Sam, we were informed of the importance of keeping our e-mail addresses "singular" and up to date. Many people are using more than one address, etc. making member information tracking difficult. They are considering assigning membership numbers to each member to correct this problem. There were many other talking points from the Federation (perhaps Howard will mention some others) that I will mention at the meeting. Be assured that important things are happening "at the top".

The Memorial Service was re-scheduled to Sunday morning (it actually was supposed to be Sunday). We received our committee assignments and I served on the Locations committee, and after meeting, the offer made by President William Fairgraves of Local 17 -- Erie, PA was accepted. That meeting will be in the Spring of '09 due to a By-laws change making future meetings in the Spring rather than Fall.

The nominations were duly held resulting in the re-election of the current slate with the exception of the delegate at large (Bill Marselek) who did not run. His seat was filled by Leonard diCosimo of Local 4 Cleveland, Ohio, who holds membership in our conference. We then passed a resolution changing our meeting time to the Spring. This was sent to the By-Laws committee for ratification (chairman Jack Hook Local 40453)

The afternoon session started at 1:15 with the chairman of the PA Council on the Arts with much good information on how to apply for and receive grants from the council. I will have literature from him at our meeting. He was followed by a representative from the DC Arts & Humanities Council, the MD Council on the Arts and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation representative, all with good information on how to receive grants from their organizations. The meeting was adjourned after ample time for Q&A and one-on-one conversations.

The Saturday Dinner was a very pleasant time with a fine meal (not the typical "Rubber Chicken") and great music by the Carnegie Brass which is a breakout of the RIVER CITY BRASS BAND. Before the band came on, we had the Keynote Address by Teri Bjorklund who is the Washington lobbyist for AFTRA; she brought us information about the various bills in congress that affect AFTRA & AFM. She travels the halls with our counterpart, Hal Ponder who came up to a meeting in the office of "Delaware's Joe" (which Hal and I both felt was very fruitful)

The Memorial service was followed by the committee reports, discussion and adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill