

The New Pitch

Volume 19 Issue 3

AFM Local 21

September 2010

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

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@verizon.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

Several months ago I wrote a letter to the editor (News Journal) which I titled, "Is Anybody Awake", which talked about the selling off of America. The main thrust of the piece was the relationship of taxation to manufacturing - hence lost jobs. I wrote this as a private citizen, but I will apply it now to US, the American Musician.

All over the country we are being pounded from all sides. We are seeing major orchestras across the country cutting wages, reducing their seasons or in some cases choosing to cease their union affiliation. In the jazz and other club venues, hiring a union group is like saying, "why should I pay for something that I can get for free". Club owners now "USE" non-union bands, who take the job to promote their recordings which are recorded on "indie" labels (sometimes known as garage recordings).

We all played "for experience" when we were starting out, but the union was our ultimate goal. Now the musician is getting hit by the economy in the employer's budget the same as our household budgets. America's corporations (large and small) and every small business you can mention, including club owners, are circling their wagons. We are all being hit by "the global economy". We professional musicians need to work very hard individually and TOGETHER, to regain our strength by talking to every new musician we meet and show them that they need the protection and strength of the networking of the AFM and Local 21.

Global scoring of American films is becoming more and more prevalent and leaving American musicians to "scrape for scraps". We need to educate our club owners of the strength of the union. We cannot do any of this without more members.

This is a problem for the entire country and Canada, so don't hesitate to call your friends and relatives ANYWHERE and remind them of the power they can supply. We need this strength locally and nationally.

I can't count the times that I have asked for your support through your attendance and participation in the Local, but every passing day we get weaker as a group because we do not get stronger. This general attitude does not go unnoticed by our employers. From club owners to show promoters to symphony and opera Boards we have NO power except through unity. One person cannot win alone but we have won respect in the past by joining hands to fight together.

It is getting to the "now or never" time, so we need each other more than ever. So, I will have to ask again, "IS ANYONE AWAKE YET!!!"

Sincerely, Bill

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).

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.

Summer is over and we're getting back into concert season. At the Local, we have a new slate of Officers and Board to take us from 2011 to 2014 (see p.4).

We are doing our best at the Local to stay ahead of the curve on maintaining expenses. With the elimination of most paper mailings and the disconnection of the fax line, we have reduced monthly bills noticeably. Unfortunately, we may need to have some work on the building in the near future, and some of those expenses will probably not be minor. There is work that needs to be done on the exterior walls, some electric repairs, and possibly repairs to the furnace and roof. Now is a good time to be glad we put our reserve funds into an FDIC-guaranteed account right before the stock market crash, so we at least have some reserves to fall back on if need be.

We still need to make a determination if the membership dues will remain unchanged for 2011. As soon as that decision has been made, I will let everyone know through a new edition of the "Pitch", hopefully in early December.

We have much ahead of us in 2011. The Kennett Symphony contract will need to be renegotiated, and there is a reopener for a possible raise in scale at the Delaware Symphony. I will be communicating with all members of both groups as we go through each negotiation for input, and I will use all member feedback to create a consensus for strategies.

We also hope to spend 2011 re-establishing a relationship with the Wilmington Ballet Academy of the Dance, creating an agreement that let us restore Local 21 members to the orchestra pit and securing work via a multi-year contract. As that goes on, I will keep you all informed.

And lastly, I again ask everyone to keep in touch with the Local office. Your thoughts, opinions, and suggestions are vital to how we operate. I also urge everyone to try to make it to at least one meeting in 2011. When the dates are settled, I will let you all know, and I will continue to send out reminders as we approach each meeting date. But either way, this Local is meant to represent its members, so we need to know what's on your mind in order to do that. This is YOUR Local and when we ask for your input, there are no wrong answers!

Glenn

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

Johnson, Lura: 413 N Rock Glen Rd., Baltimore, MD, 21229; phone: (410) 947-4796; cell: (443) 676-1491; e-mail: lura@lurajohnson.com; PIANO

Members rejoining Local 21:

Soukup, Katie: 621 S Bradford Ave., West Chester, PA, 19382; phone: (610) 431-1141; e-mail: ccsoukup@verizon.net; TRUMPET/PIANO

Bush, Patrick: 700 Smyrna Ave., Wilm., DE, 19809; phone: (302) 792-2919; e-mail: pbush63236@aol.com; PIANO/ORGAN/SYNTHESIZER

Members reinstated:

Marks, Florrie

Resignations:

Hammell, Lisa

Address/contact information changes:

Lee, Jennifer: new cell: (215) 605-8499

Gardner, Jon: 109 Biddle Dr., Exton, PA, 19341; new home phone: (610) 363-6424

VanBergen, Chris: 2003 Kimball St., Phila, PA, 19146; phone: (215) 806-9349; e-mail: crvanbergen@gmail.com

Becker, Matt and Weckerly, Brenda: new e-mail address: beckerweckerly@comcast.net

Yamazaki, Hiroko: 2649 Boxwood Dr., Wilm., DE, 19810 (same phone number)

Scalzo, Laura: 1805 N. West St., Wilm., DE, 19802; new e-mail: laurascalzo@me.com (same phone)

Members Suspended 9/30:

Kee, David
McCommon, Barry
Rester, James

ADVERTISE IN THE "PITCH"

AND BE SEEN BY MUSICIANS IN DELAWARE,
PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY, MARYLAND, AND MORE!

Contact the office (302-777-7780 or glenn@afm21.org) for information.

Local 21 Officers and Executive Board for 2011-2014 are announced.

Local 21 had positions open for Officers and Executive Board for the 2011-2014 term. Again, as in 2008, we had exactly the number of candidates as open positions, so the new slate was elected by acclamation.

Returning officers are President Bill Berger and Secretary/Treasurer Glenn Finnan.

Returning Executive Board members are Ralph Buck, Carlton Cannon, Sylvia Jackson, and Joan Sparks.

New incoming Board members are Ruth Kreider, Rick Linn, and Angela Walker. These new members have a wide variety of experience as musicians in the area and their input and guidance will be a great benefit in steering Local 21 through the next 3 years.

We are saying "goodbye" to three Board members: Don Brill, Dan McDougall, and Howard Griffith. We say thanks to each for their volunteer service to the Local. The Local must have good volunteers with broad experience, professional demeanor, and the ability to handle tough and sometimes awkward issues with grace, clear thinking, and fairness. In each of these three members we had all that and then some, and they will be missed.

We are also saying "goodbye" to Vice President "Bips" Egnor. Bips is a highly-regarded one-man band, and was also our MPF co-ordinator for many years and a vocal supporter of the Local.

As a result of this vacancy, and the fact that there were no candidates to fill it, it was decided at the Local meeting of September 12 that the position of Vice President would be eliminated, effective January 1, 2011. The MPF tasks had been assigned to the Secretary/Treasurer position last year. Also, IRS and AFM policies encouraged and allowed this change. When it came time for the Board to consider this action, this change was not arrived at lightly or without much discussion. However, in this time of economic stress when the Local has pledged to do all it can to reduce or eliminate expenses, so that we can keep our dues close to their current level, every possibility has to be considered. If, in the future, the need arises for the position to be filled, and a candidate or candidates present themselves, this change can be re-examined.

Please show your support for our new Board members and for your Local by attending meetings. All input is encouraged and welcome. As soon as the slate of meeting dates for 2011 has been decided, I will notify everyone through the "Pitch", so you will all know when to come!