



# SPOTLIGHT

Theatrical Protective  
Union Local No. One  
IATSE, AFL-CIO, CLC  
Organized 1886

FALL 2008

## BARACK OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT



***Change will not come  
if we wait for some  
other person or some  
other time. We are  
the ones we've been  
waiting for. We are the  
change that we seek.***  
-Barack Obama

By PAC member Larry White

The Local One Federal PAC has unanimously endorsed Illinois Senator Barack Obama, the Democratic Party nominee, for the next President of the United States of America. The endorsement was unanimously accepted by the Executive Board of Local One, IATSE.

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## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we look back on a busy summer and thank our Department Heads for focusing on the Union's need for appropriate employment, I can't stress enough the importance of continuing to reach out to those unemployed in our theatres, studios and shops. Some examples are those at the closed New York State and Beacon Theatres whose stage crews who are totally available due to extended renovation periods as well as those at CBS Television due to serious manpower reductions. A noted commendation needs to be extended to Madison Square Garden Head Dennis White who, during a busy MSG summer workload, made a special effort to answer the call of the Union.

This past summer also saw our Federal PAC prepare and perform like never before. As this issue features national politics, and with the recent completion of both Democratic and Republican Party Conventions, it remains the Local's focus to do our part to elect a President and government that will best serve our members and working families.

While all are entitled to their opinion and the right to agree or disagree, I believe it is this Union Leadership's obligation to offer an educated view of issues that applies to labor and working families. The Union is respectfully asking all members and their families to consider all of the resources and support that the labor movement provides to the Union and you before casting your vote.

In viewing both conventions, it was clear to me that the Democratic Convention was the only one that addressed our specific needs of an improved economy, an affordable healthcare system, a government that respects Unions, as well as the right for workers to organize and join a Union. Both conventions prioritized a "responsible" end to the war, but it was the only priority focused upon by the Republicans at their convention. We as Americans first and Union Members second need to consider and vote for the candidates who are prepared to focus on offering solutions for the many problems that this country faces.

It also remains a fact, not an opinion, that the Bush Administration has waged a war on Unions that has never been equaled in this country's history and Senator McCain's objective is to continue this war as well. The Union respectfully requests our Brothers and Sisters, while recognizing your right and respecting your final decision, to prioritize Union Member concerns with their vote for Senator Obama as President.

It is the unanimous collective opinion of our Federal PAC as well as our Executive Board in conjunction with The International and the AFL-CIO, that Senator Barack Obama is our best hope for necessary and positive change as our country struggles to recover from both political parties' acknowledgment of the poor leadership provided these past eight years. As always, I do urge our Members to attend any and all of our open PAC meetings for constructive political discussions with the next one scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in the Union office.

The Union has completed the following negotiations this summer and awaits the memberships formal ratification through the acceptance of the minutes at our next membership meeting on September 28, 2008; 55<sup>th</sup> St. Dance/City Center, The Equitable Group, Hard Rock Cafe, The New Amsterdam Theatre, Scharff Weisberg Shop, CNN, The Apollo Theatre and the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, which was achieved with the strong will of the crew, as well as the memberships confidence and support in providing strike authority.

*Continued on pg. 9*

## FROM THE DESK OF THE RECORDING-CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The privilege of choosing one's leaders is a responsibility that must not be taken lightly. To choose unwisely could result in your child returning from a far-away land in a body bag or disabled for the rest of his life.

For the past eight years, we have witnessed the ultimate abuse of power: our brave soldiers, some barely out of high school, many with families, placed in harm's way abroad under false pretenses as the personal freedom of our citizens at home diminished to an unprecedented low; the geopolitical aspirations and corporate greed of our leaders taking precedence over human life.

Well-written speeches presented professionally and entertainingly from the stage of a hockey arena make for amusing television and dangerous government. It is vitally important to look beyond the slickly produced commercials and snappy sound bites which package the candidates as though they were a box of cereal or the latest, greatest, can't-live-without-it gizmo, and examine thoroughly the positions they maintain on the critical issues, issues which are both obvious and complicated: the economy, healthcare, homeland security, affordable housing, wages and safe working conditions, education for our children, proper care of senior citizens and veterans, issues pertaining to the less fortunate and those with special challenges, the right to form a Union, the right to live under the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.

When exercising this privilege of choice, each of us must look beyond gender, color, religion, name, and choose what we perceive will be the best hope for this generation and generations to follow. In the privacy of the voting booth, examine your heart and mind and do what you know is right and good and for the benefit of us all.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Robert C. Score  
Recording-Corresponding Secretary

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all had a safe and healthy summer. We had a busy summer and fall. The upcoming U.S. Presidential election appears to be one of the most important period in our lives. The decisions made by voters in November will affect all of us for years to come.

First, on a lighter note, the State PAC Golf Outing was once again, successful. We set a record for attendance at the dinner and awards ceremony. I think it is safe to say that all had a great time. I would like to thank all those who attended and a special thanks to my Co-Chair of the State PAC, President James J. Claffey, Jr., Financial Secretary Anthony Manno and all the members of the State PAC committee who started setting up at 8AM and finished somewhere around 9PM. Given the fact that the State PAC Committee is not compensated, their efforts are appreciated all the more. The success of the outing is a direct result of the coordinated team effort executed by this committee. I would also like to thank our two biggest contributors. They are Ed Santini, who sponsored the \$50,000 Hole-in-One and Chairman of Trustees John M. Diaz, Sr., who sponsored several foursomes.

The Pension Fund year end report is positive. Although the current market conditions are not particularly favorable, the Fund is stable and well. Our continued monitoring and investment diversification has kept the Fund strong. Going forward, the Trustees, as promised, will be seeking further benefits.

There have been some changes and improvements to the Annuity Fund selections. The Trustees have scheduled a Mass Mutual Instructional Meeting for all members and spouses. It will be held on Wednesday, September 24th at the Westin Hotel, 9th floor Pearl Room, from 9AM to 8PM.

One quick reminder is to keep an eye out for your Life Insurance buy-up invoices going out in October. We are now billing on a semi-annual basis in an attempt to make your lives a little easier. If you wish, you can still make a one time payment.

Lastly, the November elections, in my opinion, are the most important we will see in years. One outcome we can predict is that the country will either see their first woman Vice-President or the first African-American President.

The Federal PAC Committee has endorsed several candidates for the Senate and the House. Control of the Senate and the House is a must if labor is to succeed. The Federal PAC endorsements are all to candidates who are friends of and who have positive voting records which favor LABOR.

As the Co-Chair of the Federal PAC Committee, I would like to inform you that the NYC Stagehands Federal PAC has endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States of America.

We are aware that members have their own political views, which we absolutely respect. However, it is the duty of the Federal PAC to inform and educate the membership, not only of the candidates we endorse, but more importantly...WHY.

*Continued on page10*

Obama *Continued from cover page*

There are some very clear reasons why we believe that Senator Obama is the best candidate for working families and the union movement in America.

Five years after George Bush declared “victory” in Iraq, we remain mired in a multi-ethnic regional civil war between and within warring factions in the region. America became the target for the wrath of every extremist group in the Middle East. Our casualties have topped 5,000 with thousands of maimed and wounded in body, mind and soul that we must embrace and care for in the future. John McCain has no timetable for withdrawal and has been quoted as suggesting that troops may be there for the next 100 years.

The blank check that the Bush administration has written for this war drains the American economy as it diverts funding from working family issues such as health care, education and domestic infrastructure repairs. Barack Obama has a plan for orderly withdrawal along with a comprehensive foreign policy for the region. Reducing our dependence on foreign oil and developing alternative energy resources and encouraging conservation measures is the change we need.

Traditionally, Republicans are fiscally conservative. This present radical administration with a subservient Republican Congress for six out of its eight years has waged an elective war and passed tax policies favoring the rich. This has drained the U.S. economy leaving a multi-trillion dollar debt that our grandchildren will still be paying off. Their economic plan was for large tax cuts to the wealthy and businesses in the hopes of stimulating economic growth. The rich have gotten richer from this scheme and the trickle down is we get a \$300 rebate check. We all know that a recession hits our industry early and hard as people’s entertainment dollars are held back for necessities.

Senator Obama proposes tax code reform that is more progressive for working people. These proposals include incentives that would create “green” jobs to stimulate our own economy in areas that will make money and jobs in America.

Although falling short of the single payer health plan that our union has endorsed, Obama has

a superior plan to John McCain’s for reforming our bloated health care system, the world’s costliest. Health care costs have risen 91% since 2000 while wages are up only 26%. Health care reform may help allow us to streamline the tiered system the fund trustees were forced to adopt to save our welfare plan. An Obama presidency with a veto-proof Democratic majority in Congress could counteract the powerful lobbies of the health care and insurance industries and put some significant money back in our pockets. John McCain offers minor changes and more of the same with big Pharma, the AMA and HMOs calling the shots.

Given the unremitting assault on labor that has been waged by this administration, if we hope to have any labor movement at all left in this country, we need an administration that is labor friendly. We have a much better chance with a Democratic administration led by President Obama and a Democratic majority in Congress. The next president will make new appointments to the Departments of Labor, Justice, the NLRB, the FCC, foreign trade negotiators and federal judges especially to the Supreme Court that will hopefully help restore a middle class.

Little of Senator Obama’s plan to restore America will be possible unless we prevent political deadlock blocking his legislative initiatives. It is therefore vital that President Obama have a veto-proof Democratic majority in both houses of Congress so that a progressive, labor friendly agenda can be enacted.

Barack Obama has a vision for leadership the lengthy, countrywide nominating process endorsed. President Obama will fight for the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act and pledges to sign it into law which allows workers to more freely organize. He is co-sponsor to legislation to overturn the “Kentucky River” NLRB decision. He supports the right of workers to bargain collectively and will work to ban the permanent replacement of striking workers. John McCain strongly opposes the Employee Free Choice Act and consistently votes against raising the Federal Minimum Wage.

It is time for change, a new direction and a vision of America in the 21st Century. Barack Obama and Joe Biden with a Democrat controlled Congress represent the best chance for that change. The Local One Federal PAC strongly encourages you to vote Democratic on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4th, 2008.

THEATRICAL  
PROTECTIVE UNION  
LOCAL No. ONE,  
IATSE, AFL-CIO, CLC



**SPOTLITE**

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ALL QUESTIONS, COMMENTS  
AND SUBMISSIONS GREATLY  
APPRECIATED

Upcoming Monthly Membership  
Meeting dates are:

September 28

Oct. 26, Nov. 23, Dec. 21

**COME TO YOUR  
UNION MEETINGS!  
IT'S INFORMATIVE AND  
PART OF YOUR DUTY AS  
A MEMBER.**

Organized in 1886, Local Number One has served the entertainment community in theatre, television, and other entertainment venues proudly and professionally. With over three thousand members covering an expanding jurisdiction throughout the greater New York metropolitan area, our experience and knowledge covers the range of expertise required for any application. From fabrication to installation to safe operation, we can do it.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT JAMES J. CLAFFEY, JR.; VICE PRESIDENT WILLIE WALTERS; TREASURER ROBERT (TOBY) McDONOUGH; RECORDING-CORRESPONDING SECRETARY ROBERT C. SCORE; CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES JOHN M. DIAZ, SR.; THEATRICAL BUSINESS MANAGERS MICHAEL WEKSELBLATT AND KEVIN MCGARTY; TELEVISION BUSINESS MANAGERS ROBERT NIMMO AND EDWARD McMAHON, III; TRUSTEES WILLIAM NGAI AND DANIEL DASHMAN; REPLACEMENT ROOM OFFICER DANIEL THORN; ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY EDMOND SUPPLE, SR.; AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANTHONY MANNO

The NYC Stagehands Federal  
PAC recommends the following  
*for President of the United States:*  
**Barack Obama/Joe Biden (D)**  
*for US House of Representatives:*  
**Michael McMahon (D-13th C.D., S.I.)**

The NYC Stagehands State  
PAC recommends the following  
*for NY State Senate:*  
**Craig Johnson (D-7th S.D., Nassau)**  
**Diane Savino (D-23rd S.D., S.I., Bkln)**  
**Liz Krueger (D-26th S.D., West Side)**  
**Eric Schniderman (D-31st S.D., Manh)**  
**Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-35th S.D.,  
Westchester)**  
**Suzi Oppenheimer (D-37th S.D.,  
Westchester)**  
*for NY City Council:*  
**Elizabeth Crowley (D-30th District,  
Middle Village, Queens)**



# LABOR DAY PARADE TPU GRAND MARSHALL FRANK ACQUAVIVA AND PRESIDENT JIM CLAFFEY



Brother Acquaviva has marched in the Labor Day Parade for over fifty years for Local One.



## TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE LOCAL

By John M. Diaz, Sr.

A year has passed since the last report and with that Local One has come out with its head still held high. Unfortunately during this time we were forced to use the last weapon of choice when dealing with an employer which is the right to strike. Through it all, we held it together, although it did cost us some of our defense funds. We had enough to pay for the strike and still kept our members' benefits going even stronger than before. We added dental for all members and improved the life insurance for active members as well as other benefits such as long-term disability costs to the General Fund.

I hear all the noise about our dental not being as good as we would like it to be. Well, taking into consideration what can be budgeted for this benefit, it is the best we can get. The President and the Union Trustees of the Local's Funds, as well as both the Secretary and Treasurer offices' researched all the companies that could provide us a plan for the amount of money we had for this benefit. The Executive Board had to make a choice and we did the best we could at the price we could afford.

The Broadway strike and added benefits took a necessary toll on our General Fund. From the hard work of many including the Defense Committee, Executive Board and dues paying members, we have enough funds to keep going. The Budget Committee is now working on the 2009 budget and is even looking ahead to what are our needs will be in the year 2010. The Education Committee is preparing some programs that the Local will hopefully run four times a year in addition to the classes now being offered, i.e., Pride training, the Mechanics Institute, New York City Technical College and the new members classes that we do in four sections. They will mostly concern safety issues we are all facing as a local.

President Claffey is moving to make other committees more efficient and active. The President is now the chair of the Stewards Committee with the assistance of Trustee Dashman. The Safety Committee is now chaired by Vice President Walters. The Technology Committee has now become part of the Education Committee which is chaired by me, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. In addition, there are many other committees which run throughout the year and the chairs and members are appointed by President Claffey on an as needed basis. The Budget Committee is chaired by Treasurer Robert "Toby" McDonough with Trustees Ngai and Dashman and Financial Secretary Manno, as well as three other members: Brothers William Nimmo, Robert Gort and George Dummitt. When necessary, Secretary Robert Score and Administrative Secretary Edmond Supple, Sr. attend as well.

### I AM MY BROTHERS' KEEPER

During my tenure as Chairman along with the President and the Treasurer, we have signed checks worth millions of dollars in benefits distributed back to our members. We realize how hard you work to earn these dollars and that these benefits are the best that we can give you. We also know we have a financial responsibility by law to the funds, which means we have to prudently choose how your money is spent and not spent.

As a father, I have learned that you have to choose what is good for your family and how to help get it for them. The same goes for the Officers of our Local. When I teach the new members coming in, I tell them I am my brothers' keeper. If that makes me a socialist, then I wear that button proudly. I think it makes me a Unionist. We stand together and fight together.

I wish you a safe and good year. And remember, your 4 % is always spent with you on our minds.



President's Letter *Continued from page 2*

CBS Television remains an open negotiation and our toughest task in attaining a new deal as the network is refusing to offer an appropriate economic package to our deserving Brothers and Sisters. Lincoln Center Jazz, Lincoln Center, Inc. (Avery Fisher and Alice Tully Halls), J.P. Morgan Chase (corporate auditoriums), City University of New York venues (CUNY) and Broadways Sound Designers remain open as well but are all prepared with appointed committees and dates for bargaining.

The Union also looks to bargain its first agreement with The Lehman College Center for the Performing Arts after our recent monumental 22-0 victory under a National Labor Relations Board administered election. In the past eight years, it has become nearly impossible to organize. That rarity was achieved by the excellent effort provided by Organizer Dan Gilloon and the Lehman Stage Crew who stepped up to fight for strength in numbers and this Union's representation. This venue is more than a viable space with many, many shows and events planned. This election creates great potential for that stage crew as well as to our current members' employment opportunities. Congratulations to all for a historical achievement.

I attended the I.A.T.S.E. General Executive Board Meeting this past July in San Diego, California. International President Tom Short resigned and retired from his position for which he served for fourteen years. Local One wishes him well and I have personally offered our congratulations and best wishes for success to new International President Matt Loeb upon his election by the I.A. General Executive Board. As you know, all International Officers positions are up for election, including the International President, at the 2009 Summer I.A.T.S.E. convention in Orlando, Florida. Local One looks forward to attending with our full delegation.

I recently had a conversation with President Loeb about our merger meetings with Local 4's leadership (Stagecraft-Brooklyn, Queens). The I.A. will join us for some necessary discussions as we proceed.

I again offer complete assurance that full reports of all meetings will be made and with the commitment that your Local's leadership cannot and will not take any action without membership consideration and consent.

I, as well as the Executive Board, would like to extend our congratulations and thanks to all members who took the time to participate and attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Donald Kleinschmidt Memorial Golf Outing as well as the Labor Day Parade. Local One Treasurer Toby McDonough brilliantly organized and led State PAC Committee members William Ngai, Dan Dashman, Anthony Manno, Ken Merkel, Dan Gilloon, Karen Zabinksi, Ed Santini and Jim Edmiston to another successful golf outing, which is the primary source of the funds of our much respected and highly visible State PAC. Local One Vice President Willie Walters deserves our congratulations and thanks as the appointed Local One Chairman of all facets of the Labor Day Parade and its celebration of labor in this city.

In closing, I would like to give my highest commendation to this Unions newsletter and especially its editor, Trustee William Ngai plus his staff of Mary Wills-Schulherr, Dan Dashman, Mike Terpstra and Jennifer Pesce Fagant. The continued quality of this publication remains astounding and that opinion has been submitted to me by many other Unions and affiliates nationwide. Brother Ngai and his staff proudly provide a service in meeting this Local's objective to communicate appropriately and responsibly in a manner that the 3,000 members of the finest Union in the land reflects in itself and of each other as brothers and sisters, being second to none.

I remain at your service.

Respectfully and Fraternally,

James J. Claffey, Jr.  
President  
Local One, I.A.T.S.E.



Treasurer's Letter *Continued from page 4*

Based upon the reasons stated below as well as the comments by others stated in this issue, it is without a doubt that Senator Obama's voting record and his stand on labor issues far exceeds Senator McCain and the Republican Party. The Bush administration has attempted to (and with some success in certain areas of the country) destroy Labor Unions. Why was a random DOL (Department of Labor) audit of the Union ordered from Washington, D.C. five days after the Broadway strike commenced? Why does the auditor have to report to Washington, D. C. and not his New York office? With Senator McCain, we can expect more of the same.

The harassment of Labor Unions has got to STOP. The only way we can stop this is CHANGE.

PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT AND GET OUT AND VOTE!!!

Fraternally,

Robert "Toby" McDonough  
Treasurer



Brother John Kelly in Labor Day Parade regalia sporting a button saying "Friends don't let friends vote Republican"

### 4th ANNUAL STATE PAC GOLF PIX



L to R: State PAC Co-Chair Toby McDonough, Tim McGarty, Mike Perry, State PAC Co-chair Jim Claffey standing before the sponsorship sign noting the grateful contribution by Retired Brother David N. Anderson



L to R: John Diaz, Jr, Mike Bennett, Tim Bennet at it again



L to R: Mike Gillen, Sr.; Mike Gillen, Jr.; Pat Gillen; Ken Mullen. Thanks to them and many others for making this fundraising event successful. Come join us next year!

## **D-DAY (OR SHALL WE CALL IT HD-DAY)**

**by Mary McGregor, Education Committee Member**

This article is mostly aimed at the Brothers and Sisters who need to understand changes coming to our workplace. I know everyone has been seeing the announcements on television about the big “change” that is coming to your television transmission on February 17, 2009. Anyone who gets television signals via “rabbit ear” antenna needs to purchase a box to receive the new digital signal.

Well February 17, 2009 will also be the day RF systems (wireless microphones and wireless Clear Com) we know and love will also change. There are two opinions on how earth shattering the changes will be. One group says, it won't be that bad, maybe we'll lose a couple of frequencies. The other group (as you can imagine) says we are going to lose all our mics on the same night! I imagine the truth will be somewhere in between.

On that date the TV stations will no longer be allowed to broadcast above 698 MHz and will no longer be allowed to broadcast in analog. How does that affect us? Well, of the 6 MHz bandwidth allocated to TV, they are currently using two frequencies within that band, one for their video signal and one for their audio signal. We have been using frequencies in-between these two signals for a lot of our wireless mics. We will no longer be able to do that. The TV stations in going digital will be using their entire 6 MHz bandwidth.

Now, in truth, the television frequencies will be set and we should be able to move around their 6 MHz wide bands. Losing the frequencies above 700 MHz will also hurt, but the kicker comes with what the FCC/OET (Office of Engineering and Technology) has termed “White Spaces.” These are the frequencies “in between” the allocated TV channels. The FCC wants to allow use of these spaces as if they are empty. Empty? These are the exact frequencies all our shows use.

A group of eight big technology companies called The White Spaces Coalition is lobbying to have their devices use these “empty” spaces. They would like to use these frequencies to deliver broadband Internet

to a new generation of PDA's and smartphones. These devices would be of short burst usage, but they would use an entire 6 MHz bandwidth by “spectrum sensing” open frequencies and move to use them. Several of our wireless companies are working with the FCC on this technology. Because our transmitters are so low-powered, they are concerned that even with the sensing technology, our mic packs are at risk. Imagine a proportion of your audience possessing such devices and checking them periodically during your show!

Here is the bad news/bad news part of the story. So far, none of the devices tested have successfully “sensed” open frequencies. There was even a FCC committee invited to a recent demonstration of some experimental devices at “Phantom.” Word has it none of the devices worked. Will the FCC succumb to the pressure to license the new equipment before they actually work? Probably. We all know eventually the bugs will be worked out. And as there are major technology firms involved, not to mention the Department of Defense in time the technology will probably work.

The sound personnel of Local One are, for the most part, aware of this situation. We are all expecting some rough shows in February and March while we sort through useable frequencies. If you have a couple of wireless mics in use, particularly those of you who may be volunteering at their local school, community theatre or church, check the frequencies. Be warned, you may have to change them. Most of the wireless companies have current information on their websites. The FCC/OET posts updated news releases on their web site. The FCC also has a list of the TV Channels being used in our area.

All of us will have to hold our collective breaths on the white space usage.

*I owe a debt of gratitude to Shannon Slaton for his invaluable help. His “A Wireless Microphone Horror Story” in Live Design Magazine served as the basis for this article. Thanks also to Jeff Hahn at Masque*



**SUMMER 2008 IATSE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**



Left to right: Local One Theatre Business Manager Kevin McGarty. Local 4 (Stage-Brooklyn & Queens) Business Agent Lou Resnick, Local 4 President Joe Holler, Local One Television Business Manager Ed McMahon, Local One President James J. Claffey, Jr., ATPAM (Theatrical Press Agents & Managers) Secretary-Treasurer Nick Kaledin

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