



SPOTLIGHT

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

FALL 2009

LOCAL ONE ATTENDS 66th IATSE CONVENTION IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA



For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past are certain to miss the future.

— John F. Kennedy

Local One participated in the 66th IATSE Convention with the largest delegation in attendance. Our goals were to seek IA recognition of the Broadway 2007 strike and vigorously promote support for single payer health care for all by authoring a resolution to be placed before the delegates assembled. We were successful in accomplishing our agenda and for holding the best convention party as heartfelt thanks to supportive locals.

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The President's letter will appear in the next issue.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing a letter to thank everyone that helped out with the Twenty-fifth Anniversary concert for the *Rock & Roll Hall of Fame* at Madison Square Garden. This was a huge endeavor that started at One AM on Tuesday morning and went nonstop until 8AM Saturday morning. Together we rigged 140 motors and hung over a mile of truss. I want to give a special thanks to Terry Taylor who did an excellent job as the Head Carpenter. The two-night concert event went off without a hitch, even though the crew was exhausted after working forty eight hours straight.

The biggest challenge was getting the building ready for the NY Knicks home opener the next day on October 31st. I promised the Garden that if the show came down at midnight, we would have the floor clear by 7AM. This massive show took 35 hours to load in but only 7 hours to load out. We were off the floor at 6:52AM! The building personnel was amazed and I have been told that the Knicks organization was very impressed as well.

I would like to thank Kenny McDonough and Tim McDonough, Jr. for sending me exactly what I needed: guys that loved ripping and tearing. I would also like to thank Joel Peresman, CEO of the *Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation*, for trusting Local One and Madison Square Garden with this milestone anniversary event. As a team, 150 stagehands contributed over 1,000 man hours of work to make this historic concert an unparalleled success.

This is why Local One is the BEST in the business!!!

Thank You.

Dennis White

LOCAL ONE ARCHIVES
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE, CIRCA 1977
WITH THANKS TO RETIRED BROTHER STEVE DIAZ



L to R, seated: Raleigh Banks, Ferris Goodson, Charlie Reicker, Vince Jacobi, Jr., Henry Lauterstein, Solly Pernick, Skyler Chapin, Robert McDonald, Michael Bronson, Harold Spivak, George Green, Ronnie Vitale.
 L to R, standing: Bruce Katzman, Philip Maher, John Tracey, Stephen Diaz, Charles Perin, William Hauser, Rudy Kuttner, Joseph Volpe, Richard Graham, Dave Goldstein, John Iovino, Jerimaha "Frankie" Hayes, James Catanzaro

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECORDING-CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The so-called health care reform debate amongst our elected officials still rages on in Washington, D.C. with no end in sight. More than forty-seven million people continue to have no health care coverage of any kind. Over fifty percent of personal bankruptcies are at least partially attributed to overwhelming medical costs and still the politicians talk on and on. Labor, on the other hand, is done talking. We have taken the lead by taking a firm stand for a single payer health care system for all. The resolution that was presented by your thirty member delegation to the 66th IA Quadrennial Convention in Orlando, Florida last July supporting a single payer health care system was unanimously endorsed by the over eight hundred delegates representing over one hundred thousand IATSE members throughout the United States and Canada. The IATSE thus became the twenty-first national union to endorse H.R. 676 – a bill written by Congressman John Conyers (D – MI, 16th CD). International President Matthew D. Loeb commented from the podium that single payer health care in the form of H.R. 676 is the “right thing to do.” This September saw the IATSE as one of five international unions to present a resolution to the national AFL-CIO convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Once again, the call for a single payer health care in the United States was unanimously endorsed.

In poll after poll, the majority of citizens in this great country support the implementation of a single payer health care system. I am sure by now you know that the United States is the only industrialized country in the world not to have a single payer health care system. The insurance company industrial complex has done a magnificent job misrepresenting single payer health care. Approximately two million dollars a day is being spent on the campaign to convince you that a single payer health care system will ruin this country, that it is “socialized medicine” and that government bureaucrats will determine whether you will live or die. Actually, a single payer health care system will help solve some of the economic crisis. The only form of socialized medicine that exists in the United States is the Veterans Administration which services our brave men and women in the military. Our elected government bureaucrats are already doing a fine job killing us by protecting the insurance company protocols which deny needed medications and procedures.

Did you know that Senator Max Baucus (D - MT), who is the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, has accepted over a million and a half dollars in contributions from insurance companies? This is the same elected official who denied single payer health care to be on the agenda for consideration as part of the legislation. This is the same elected official who had American citizens arrested for demanding that single payer health care be part of the discussion. Hopefully, this is the same elected official that the citizens of Montana will send packing in the next election.

When asked if the public option that is part of the White House health care reform will cover the millions of uninsured, President Obama said the only way to cover everybody is with a single payer health care. When he first ran for an Illinois State Senate position he was in favor of a single payer health care. He now says such a conversion would be disruptive. Disruptive to whom? The insurance companies perhaps? When Congress approved Medicare and Medicaid under the administration of President Lyndon Johnson in the 1960's, imminent doom was predicted by the opposition to the benefit. How are our senior citizens doing under that government run system over forty years later? Where would this country and its' senior citizens be now if Medicare and Medicaid were not instituted? Where will we be in regard to health care in a year from now, ten years from now, twenty years from now? I pray that we will be in a better place and that our children and their children will have health care coverage under a single payer health care system. It is the common sense cure to our country's health care crisis. It seems to me that common sense is severely lacking in this debate and that dollars and cents are in control and in the pockets of a lot of our elected officials.

Fraternally,

Robert C. Score
Recording-Corresponding Secretary

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all had a safe and healthy summer. The past few months have been quite busy. I attended the IA summer Board Meeting as well as the 66th Quadrennial IA Convention. In addition, there was the sold out Donald B. Kleinschmidt Memorial Local One PAC Golf Outing.

The IA Board Meeting was a success. President Claffey and I requested an appearance before the IA Defense Fund Committee requesting relief for strike benefits. Our case was presented and the Defense Fund Committee granted our full request of \$50,000.

The subsequent IA Convention was made a complete success when President Claffey took the floor and thanked the entire delegation for all their support during the historic Local One Strike. His speech was followed by a standing ovation. It was a proud moment to be a Local One member. I would also like to thank all the delegates who represented the Union with honor.

The PAC Golf Outing was the most successful to date. Each year, the attendance has continued to increase. This year the event was a sell out and the dinner/awards ceremony was at full capacity. A great time was had by all. I would like to personally thank the Local One PAC Committee who worked the event. Without their help, this event simply does not happen. Special thanks to all of the Sponsors as well. The date of next year's outing will be determined shortly. Reserve your spots early!

President Claffey, Secretary Score and I attended the Local One Trust Meetings in October. We are pleased to announce a \$1,000 holiday check which was approved for all retirees and beneficiaries. It is scheduled for delivery approximately December 15th. The Pension Fund has been recovering over the last several months and future benefit improvements, as always, will be considered.

Something I don't do often enough is to thank my staff in the Treasurer's Office. Lyudmila Vasilchenko, Cynthia Williamston and Lynn Gratton serve the membership with smiles on their faces everyday. Financial Secretary Anthony Manno does an outstanding job. The membership is truly being served. Combining all their efforts makes the Treasurer's Office run smoothly and makes my job a lot easier. My thanks to all the members who bring the ladies candy and flowers. It makes their day.

The Christmas Party is around the corner. I hope to see you all there. In closing, I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

Fraternally,
Robert "Toby" McDonough
Treasurer

CONVENTION, from page 1



Television Business Manager Bob Nimmo and Recording Corresponding Secretary Bob C. Score were asked by other local officers to help nominate them for various International offices.

At the Local One party, President Claffey spoke of the solidarity of the locals directly affected during the longest strike on Broadway as well as grateful thanks for all of the other locals who supported us. He also noted the sacrifices by many during the strike and especially by our dear Brother Frank Lavaia.

Brothers Wally and Brian Bullard ably served as Sergeant-at-Arms for the delegation.



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



SPOTLITE

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Visit: www.iatselocalone.org

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**ALL QUESTIONS, COMMENTS
AND SUBMISSIONS GREATLY
APPRECIATED**

Upcoming Monthly Membership
Meeting dates are:

November 22

Dec. 20, Jan. 24, 2010

**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

July 2009

Recently I left my condo in West Palm.

Upon my arrival to my condo in Southampton there was a package waiting for me. It was from the Union.

I am honored, humbled and in awe of your remembrance gift recognizing my 60 years as a member of Local One! It will be a family heirloom.

Who is this name Eugene Travers?

My father, James Travers got into the Clearers Union which was absorbed into Local One. He was a member for over 50 years.

I served in the U.S. Army during World War II for 3 years, 3 months and 14 days, saw service in the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands. Somewhere during the 1940's Dad placed my brother Jim and my name on the Union List. I was an Apprentice in Nolan's Scenic Shop.

I was assistant Carpenter for several years in C.B.S. Studio #51. This was the Maxine Elliot Theatre. It has been razed. I spent many years in C.B.S. Studio #46.

Continuing the Travers name in the Union are my three sons: Eugene Travers, Jr., Douglas Travers, Thomas Travers. Also my deceased brother Jim's son and grandson: James Travers and James Travers III.

*Sincerest Thanks,
Gene Travers*

PRESIDENT CLAFFEY SALUTED BY ST. MALACHY'S CHURCH



L to R: Actors Equity Executive Director John Connolly, President Jim Claffey, Father Richard Baker holding the award, Cablevision President and CEO Chairman Jim Dolan
The Father George Moore event was a fundraising opportunity for the church to study and develop a business plan for a Day Care program to serve the Broadway community. NYC Mayor Mike Bloomberg stopped by Sardi's Restaurant as a surprise guest.



LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In an effort to get members thinking about whether long-term care insurance is right for them and their families, the Benefits Committee has compiled some information to share with you.

Generally, long-term care insurance covers the cost of long-term care services not covered by traditional health insurance or Medicare. There is a great deal of choice and flexibility in these policies and its important that you do a thorough investigation of your options before deciding whether to purchase this insurance, and, if so, what to purchase and when.

Please note that Local One is not recommending that you purchase long-term care insurance and we do not recommend any particular provider. We simply want you to make an informed choice and to that end are providing you with some resources to begin your inquiry. Often the cost of these policies is related to your age and health at the time you purchase the insurance, so thinking about long-term care earlier rather than later may be right for you.

We recommend checking out these links to get you started:

http://www.longtermcare.gov/LTC/Main_Site/index.aspx

then

http://www.longtermcare.gov/LTC/Main_Site/Paying_LTC/Private_Programs/LTC_Insurance/index.aspx

http://aarp.org/health/insurance/articles/longterm_care_insurance.html

http://www.aarp.org/money/personal/jonathan_pond/articles/pond_long_term_care.html

If after reading the information contained in these links you have questions or would like to know how you can obtain additional information, please contact Local One Benefits Committee Member Kenneth F. Merkel at 212-799-3100 x2513 or 917-612-2410



PAC member Sister Karen Zabinski and U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillebrand (D-NY)



Secretary Bob Score, NY City Councilman John Liu who is running for NYC Comptroller (and whom we supported for the Nov. election), Financial Secretary Anthony Manno

TUBE TALK

“Circle The Wagons”

By Bob Nimmo

Most entertainment historians credit the above quote to John Wayne from the movie *Fort Apache* in 1948. His words, which have since been quoted by many others has lived on and became an often used phrase when individuals are faced with an enormous challenge. The individual realizes that there is strength in unity; that the collective efforts of many far surpass the efforts of any one individual no matter how great the individual effort.

Based on the recent developments in our jurisdiction, it's time for all Local One members to circle our wagons.

In September, the soap opera *Guiding Light* taped their last show in the CBS Broadcast Center after being on the air for seventy plus years—not a bad run. In the past several years the producers for the show had made changes to the show in an attempt to appeal to a younger audience with younger cast members and story lines. Production costs were reduced by installing permanent sets and shooting on location in New Jersey, which we serviced. These efforts were not enough to save the patient and the show passed away.

The void for us is that we now have two empty or seldom used studios in the CBS Broadcast Center. Although there is talk about bringing in game shows to the building, which is what was put on the air in the time slot and appears to be the next cycle in programming, game shows have far fewer jobs for Local One members than soap operas. This situation is of grave concern to us because of the employment problem it creates.

In addition, on Dec.11, *All My Children* is scheduled to tape their final show in New York in TV 23 at the ABC West End Ave. studios. The show will be relocated to California and be done by our IA Brothers and Sisters from Locals 33 and 44. This ends a forty

year run for Local One doing the show in New York – again not a bad run.

ABC plans, as of this date, is to close TV 23 to do some renovations and then move the show *One Life to Live* from TV 17, The Armory to TV 23. No date for the move has been announced. TV 17 is then to be dismantled and no longer used as a TV studio. The bottom line is, Local One is losing another big show and an entire studio. The issue is apparent—further job loss, not only in the studio but on the ramp, the outside prop department and in the warehouse.

The Local One members, both at CBS and ABC, have been able to provide for their families through the job stability they have enjoyed. That stability is now being disrupted. This affects people and their entire families not only financially but also emotionally and even physically. It's now up to us to band together and minimize the disruption to our Brothers and Sisters and protect their families.

On Nov. 8 President Claffey will preside over a special union meeting to deal with this issue. Based on how the postal service is working you may receive this Spotlite before or after the 8th. If before, I urge you to attend the meeting to listen to what measures the Union will put in place to deal with the situation. Please offer any suggestions. If after, please be sure to take whatever steps you can to secure these members' gainful employment. We have seen far leaner times than these. I remember when the most prevalent marquee on a Broadway Theatre was “See A Broadway Show, Just For the Fun Of It”. We survived that period and prospered by taking care of each other. We will survive this, our latest challenge.

It's time for us all to listen to that great American hero, John Wayne, who I'm sure, if faced with our situation today would be saying “Brothers and Sisters of Local One, It's Time To Circle Our Local One Wagons”.

Fraternally,
Bob Nimmo

DONALD B. KLIENSCHMIDT ANNUAL PAC GOLF OUTING AT BLACK BEAR GOLF RESORT, NJ



THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS FUN EVENT A SELL OUT THIS YEAR.
THE FUNDS RAISED WILL HELP OUR POLITICAL AGENDA.



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WITH THANKS TO ARTIE GRIFF



March 1972, Metropolitan Opera House crew, "Othello", Act II. Just a reminder that your photographs can be added to the Archives during our Nov. and Dec. Monthly Meetings.