



SPOTLITE

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

SUMMER 2007

GOOD MORNING AMERICA'S LOCAL ONE CREW



Left to right: Marvin Devonish, Ron LaValle, Edward Ford (Head Electrician), (kneeling) Chuck Fields, Kevin O'Connell, Gary Minor, Joe Swift, Norris Culf, Edwin Betancourt, (kneeling) Richard Clifford, Mike LaValle. Not pictured: James Mensching (Head Carpenter), Mark Roland (Head Propertymaster), Darren Joseph (Ramp Head), James Sigler, Louis Curbelos, Liana Capestani, Susan Zirafi, Ken Davis, Joe Colagreco, Brian Hennessy, Martin Bernstock (Outside Props)

The problem is that too many companies today define workers solely in terms of how much they cost, rather than how much value they create.
– James Surowiecki

Early morning Times Square, the night air is cool, but bright. The street and sidewalks are quiet. Sanitation trucks rumble thru the canyon. Millions of Watts of light flash and glitter about the crossroads of the world, seen by the few gawkers around and by the Local One crew of ABC's flagship morning show, *Good Morning America*. The behind-the-

Continued on pg. 4

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I write to you with great pride following our recent election that resulted in a rarity in Local One history; the return of an entire administration. The "entire theatrical community" has surely taken notice of the confidence that our 3,000 members have shown in their current leadership and recognized the stability and strength that our Local resides in at this time.

I would like to formally welcome newly elected officers Trustee Dan Dashman, Financial Secretary Anthony Manno, as well as Replacement Room Chairman Dan Thorn, and wish them all great success. I would also like to extend my congratulations and thanks to retired Officer Paul Dean, Sr. for his many years of service. He is a true gentleman who deserves great happiness in his retirement with his family.

International President Tom Short was kind enough to swear in Local Ones officers at our May 20, 2007 membership meeting. He also addressed those in attendance with his concern for the upcoming Broadway negotiations and describes them as our most challenging ever, while offering the International's unwavering support. I assured him that our membership will be absolutely prepared in protecting our jurisdiction as well as the livelihoods of our families and children. Later in the meeting, our members implemented a provision in our constitution that exercised a weekly assessment of our members in addition to the accumulated millions held in our defense fund. Local One's membership continues to demonstrate that they will not be intimidated with the upcoming negotiations and all of our objectives are proceeding as planned. The negotiations are likely to start in early July and our negotiating committee, as well as our finance sub-committee is in great shape while preparing to find the deal ahead of us. As always, I will keep everyone informed every step of the way.

On a happier note, Local One recently honored our newest 50 year members at our yearly luncheon at The Tavern on The Green. This luncheon remains as one of the finest events of the year and our honorees and their families celebrated with all past 50 year members and past officers invited to attend. Among others, International President Tom Short, as well as honorary gold card members Joseph Volpe and I.A.T.S.E. General Counsel Steve Spivak was also in attendance to honor fourteen brother members on such a great occasion. This year's honorees were: Edward M. Bullard; Alvin Chernoff; Thomas Coughlin; James J. Connolly; Louis DePasquale; William F. Edwards, Jr.; Thomas J. Healy; Herbert P. Hyman; Martin R. Levine; Jack J. Magnifico; Thomas J. McKenna; Michael W. Proscia, Sr.; Edward E. Scheihing; William Strohmeyer, and Irwin Wener. Additionally, sixty year members were also acknowledged with a special presentation.

The Benefits Committee has been extremely busy in recent months with the transitions of our Dental and Life Insurance plans moving from an exhausted and burdened Welfare Plan to our General Fund. The Executive Board with research and recommendations from the Benefits Committee continues to provide great results for our Union Benefits. We are also in the midst of securing Long Term Disability Benefits for our members in another seamless transition to be implemented in July after membership approval. The Union will obviously communicate with all our members once all details and preparations are complete. I would also be remiss if I did not continue to mention that our Healthcare coverage, as well as everyone else's, remains in crisis and all of our efforts and priorities as described in past special membership benefit meetings remain in place. Needless to say our Welfare Plan remains monitored on a daily basis.

A notable item for this summer, other than the prioritized negotiations on Broadway, is my plan to attend the July I.A.T.S.E. General Executive Board meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. It continues to be my honor and privilege to represent you all as the President of the premier stagecraft Local in the world.

Please accept my best wishes for a safe, successful and enjoyable summer.

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



FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this letter, I am preparing for the June Monthly Meeting. It will be my fifth meeting of which three was as your Acting Treasurer and the second as your elected Treasurer. These few months have been difficult since the death of Donald, but with the help of the officers, staff and most importantly, the membership, I am proud to say that the Treasurer's office has not skipped a beat. This is a tribute to Donald, as he never stopped teaching. I, as well as the entire membership owe him a debt of gratitude for his relentless service and dedication.

As we move forward, there are several challenges that we will be facing. We have already taken the Dental and Life Insurance from the Welfare Fund and, as of the date of this letter, negotiating to take Long Term Disability in July. This is not to mention the additional funding of our Defense Fund for the upcoming League negotiations. Thanks to the appointments by President Claffey of, what I believe are the most sophisticated and progressive Committees I have ever had the pleasure to do business with, we have been able to absorb these costs with either no change or an improvement to the benefit structure for you the members.

I have come to one realization since February. That is quite simply, I learned a great deal from Donald, but I am not Donald B. Kleinschmidt. It is time to make my own path, because some shoes are just too big to fill.

Going forward, I am confident that we will be able to face the challenges ahead as a Union. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Golf Outing on Monday, August 20th. I encourage all of you to get involved. The Political Action Committee is voluntary. All other committees are appointed by the President. If you have interest in being part of the process, let us know.

Fraternally,

Robert "Toby" McDonough
Treasurer

Good Morning America, *from pg. 1*

scenes craftspeople are fishing for their magnetized IDs and getting the show pre-set underway.

They may be the only stagehands working on Broadway who can't complain about battling the crowds on the way to work. "You have your own personal highway," smiles electrician Marvin Devonish. "It's just you and the State Troopers."

The day often starts at 2:00 a.m. The electrics crew led by Ed Ford, starts correcting and adjusting the lights for the day. Jim Mensching's carpenters descend to the basement and start pulling large components from storage. Mark Rowland's property crew fans out to the various sets, mopping, polishing and checking placement. It's a props-heavy show. There are segments involving food, books, fashion and gadgets. Plus, *Good Morning America* is broadcast in High-Definition. *GMA* was the first American morning talk show to go Hi-Def in 2005. "HD sees everything," points out Gary Minor, the Assistant Props Head. "You've gotta pay more attention to details. It's got to be spotless."

As 7:00 a.m broadcast time approaches, the action escalates. *GMA* is at heart a news show, so there are always last-minute changes.

Many of the basic crew of twenty (plus four department heads) has been with *GMA* since it moved into the Times Square Studios in 1999. "I was here when they placed the time capsule," says Jim Mensching, Head Carpenter, pointing to the large medallion set in the sidewalk outside the northwest corner of the studio. Of course people have days off, but, on the whole, says Minor, "We've been here five days a week for seven years, seven days a week for two years." The daily program expanded with *Weekend Edition* in 2004. Because the Heads and crews cover both shows, the schedule is immersive. "We shoot live, 364 days a year." continued Mensching.

Good Morning America's home, Times Square Studios, was built and customized for the show. Mensching points out the immense freight elevator. It

speeds the smooth transit of cast, crew and guests between the studio's two floors during the show. A full kitchen, prep areas, and set storage are below in the third, underground level. Props, sets, and lighting equipment rotate from storage to stage to stand-by, before, during and after the show. Three of the massive ground-floor windows, at sixty tons each, can be dismantled and stashed in this basement if required. Race-cars and rock-stars are accommodated. The facility also tapes other shows and hosts events in the same space. Even the main sets are often struck and stored. The audience at home, seeing the familiar living room set, never thinks about the constant flux behind the scenes.

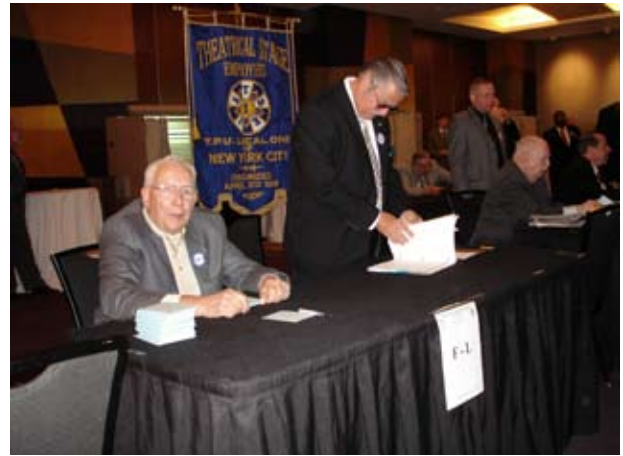
For the crew during the show, there's a taut alternation of stillness and quick action. Four or five distinct sets share the upper stage floor, two or more share the street level. Stagehands from every department stand by during every shot. When the on air host says "We'll be right back." all are ready for action. "Commercial! Two Minutes!" calls the Stage Manager, and everyone moves efficiently. Carpenters slide walls out of camera view for the next shot. Props crew are snatching up items and placing furniture. Electricians break connections, coil and stow the last scene's cables, carry lights on tripods to new positions and unfurl and connect the next scene's cables. The camera crews reset and stagehands thread paths between each other's cables. The host and guest have strolled to the next set, settled in. It's all in place in less than 120 seconds when the Stage Manager calls out, "In FIVE! Four!...."

Kevin Lock, who as Art Director has 'dressed the *GMA* set' since 1999, says the skills and commitment of the Local One crew make his job much easier. "Not only are they good at their individual jobs and take a real interest in our work, but they have become great stylists. They challenge themselves, they come up with solutions. The sets give the impression of a breezy, yet grounded environment. The details, the fresh flowers, art and texture conjure the feeling that 'this is our living room, we live here,'" says Lock. He feels the guests can sense the respect the crew brings to the set. "This is the finest crew I've worked with

TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS HELD AT THE WESTIN NEW YORK



Brothers Mike Gillen and John Brennan assisting in signing in the members.



Brothers Fred Becker and Joe Gorta also helping out at the front table.



After the closing of the polls, the Election Committee tabulated the results.



Election Committee Chairman John Simeone smoothly managed the well run operation.

in thirty-five years in this business.”

Good Morning America's News Anchor, Chris Cuomo, notes that “Live morning television, as an animal, is all about unpredictability. Stories are re-written up to the broadcast, and breaking news can up-end every plan. The one given is the crew, the one thing we can depend on. They are not only professional, but warm and real. I know I can depend on the men and women of this crew. *GMA* has a great group of people.”

When asked about the advantages of working for a potentially seven-day, very early schedule, most *GMA* stagehands agreed on one point. “It’s nice to have contact with home,” said one. Even though the day usually involves “post-tapes” after the main broadcast wraps up at 9:00 am, and striking a set or assembling elements for the next day’s shoot, there’s usually plenty of daylight left at the end of the call. More than one stagehand told me, “It’s really nice to get home in time to pick up my kids from school.”

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:

June 24, 2007

Sept. 23, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, 2007

**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

Save the Date:

**What: Third Annual Local One PAC
“The Donald B. Kleinschmidt Memorial
Golf Outing”**

**Where: Black Bear Golf Club,
Franklin, NJ**

When: Monday, August 20, 2007

Contact Toby McDonough for further info

COMMITTEES UPDATE

BENEFITS: Long Term Disability Insurance enveloped into General Fund issues; Cigna renewal presentation

BUDGET: Oversight adjustments noted as they arise; mandated annual statement review

LEAGUE: Preparations for anticipated contentious negotiations

PAC: Congressman Anthony Weiner appearance before committee; appearance by Local One representatives at selected political events around town

SAFETY: Regular issues covered

TECHNOLOGY: Hands on Rigging training held at Apollo theatre; advanced rigging class upcoming this Summer

PAUL DEAN RETIRES



Daughter Ann, Andy, wife Mary, Paul Senior and Paul Junior at the recent retirement party for our outgoing Replacement Room Chairman. Paul's long and distinguished service to the membership was recognized with a plaque and the announcement that the renovated first floor space will be called the Paul Dean Replacement Room. Happy trails, Paul, for a well deserved rest.

CONGRESSMAN ANTHONY WEINER VISITS LOCAL ONE



Congressman Anthony Weiner (D, Brooklyn & Queens) and Mayoral hopeful greets President Claffey at a recent visit to the Union office. Congressman Weiner spoke to the PAC Committee about Health Care, traffic congestion fees and other issues of mutual interest.

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO WORKERS COMPENSATION BENEFITS

by
Denise Ozker

My own recovery from an on-the-job injury prompts me to write this piece. The Workers Compensation system, informally known as ‘Workman’s Comp,’ is set up to provide financial support to the worker injured on the job and protect the Employer from lawsuits. If the injury is accepted as an eligible case, the Employer’s Workers Compensation Insurance Provider will pay for all related medical costs and certain other living support during the period of disability.

The Details

Benefits from Workman’s Compensation are of two sorts: Medical and Indemnity. The Medical benefits are paid directly to medical care providers. As soon as practical after the incident, a form ‘C-3’ is filled out by the worker, Edmund Supple, our Administrative Secretary, will be able to help you with this form.

The “C-3” is filed with Workman’s Compensation New York State which will lead to your individual carrier case identification number. This wallet-sized card shall be used to get medical care paid for. Be careful about showing providers only the carrier case number ID card, not the union insurance card for care covered by the employer’s insurance carrier.

The Indemnity benefits are paid directly to the injured worker. Indemnity benefits include the weekly support money during the period of disability, refunds for travel expenses, and other possible awards stemming from a Hearing where the case is eventually reviewed. Indemnity benefits are not taxed as income for the injured worker.

Another piece of good news, they’ve just gone up, a little. The Legislature of the State of New York recently increased the weekly cap on these payments, which are tied to the worker’s average income before the injury. As of July 1, 2007, the

weekly support payments will be capped at \$500, and will rise at annual increments for several years. In 2010, the cap rises to a level ‘not to exceed two-thirds of the New York State average weekly wage’ for the applicable year ([http://www,nycosh.org](http://www.nycosh.org)).

Eventually, a Hearing

After those first three or four months Brother Supple may help the worker contact a law firm, to prepare for the Hearing that will eventually be called by the Workers Compensation Board to review the case. A prime exhibit here is the Report from the Independent Medical Exam. This is an interview is conducted by the ‘IME Doctor,’ a medical provider, who only sees the worker for this evaluation. The claimant may be quoted explicitly in this report, which is sent to the Carrier, the State, etc, and to the worker. If the worker finds a mistake or has an issue with something in this Report, they should contact the Claims Adjuster immediately. The Report can’t be withdrawn, but it might be possible to get an amended report sent out.

What happens at the Hearing? I dunno yet. My own Hearing happens next month, July 2007. Wish me luck.

The benefits available through the Disability Inactive Fund of Local One has also recently increased with a referendum approved by the membership this Spring, 2007. As described in the By-Laws, Chapter II, to support workers disabled “no less than 28 days,” the Fund now provides \$1000/month for the first three months, then \$400/month for up to six more months, till their ‘return to work date’. This money is recognized as taxable by the Internal Revenue Service as 1099 income. Other systems kick in if the worker needs to apply for Long Term Disability.

That wraps up what I know so far. May you never need to use any of the information above.

Be well, and,...watch your step.

NEWLY ELECTED LOCAL ONE OFFICERS SWORN IN BY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT TOM SHORT



Reciting the officer's oath are Recording-Corresponding Secretary Robert Score, Financial Secretary Anthony Manno, Treasurer Robert "Toby" McDonough and Vice President Willie Walters



Swearing in for the three year term are: Business Managers Mike Wekselblatt, Edward McMahon, Robert Nimmo, President James Claffey, Business Manager Kevin McGarty, Trustee William Ngai, Replacement Room Chair Daniel Thorn, Trustees Daniel Dashman and John Diaz. Administrative Secretary Edmond Supple is out of frame.



IA President Tom Short took time out of his busy schedule to administer the officer obligations and spoke to the membership assembled about the upcoming battle facing legitimate theatre.



President James J. Claffey, Jr. welcomed the re-elected officers to the premier stagecraft local in the country. Accompanying him at the dais are Legitimate Theatre Business Managers Kevin McGarty and Mike Wekselblatt with Television Business Managers Ed McMahon and Robert Nimmo.

MEMORIES, MEMORIES

By Retired Brother Alvin George

Sunday, November 19, 2006 was a day that will occupy a special place in my memory bank. Primarily, because it was the first Union meeting I had attended in almost half a century and that afforded me the opportunity to see how professionally and efficiently an organization as complex as Local One is run. Secondly, because as a beneficiary of the Inactive Fund I wanted to loan my support to the presentation of the proposal increasing the monthly benefit. Happily the proposal passed and I'm grateful to the officers and membership for their positive action.

This past March I celebrated my 86th birthday, having been a member of Local One since 1948 and would like to share some of my memories with you. I first saw the inside of a theatre, it was the City Center, in 1943 when I worked backstage with the production of *Carmen Jones*, a musical adaptation of the opera, *Carmen*. I must tell you it was a very exciting moment for a young man. I got my card five years later and went to work with the show, *Private Lives*, starring the legendary actress, Tallulah Bankhead. I worked on the fly floor and received my first Union benefit. No, it wasn't medical or dental insurance and it wasn't a monetary distribution- I got to see all of

Ms. Bankhead, in her roofless dressing room upstage, change her clothes eight times a week. Believe me, that wasn't a bad thing!

Over the years I made many friends like Joe Valentino, Ed Camus, Dick Nimmo, and Tommy McCarthy and worked with stars like Helen Hayes (*Mrs. McThing*), Carol Channing (*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*), Sid Caesar (*Show of Shows*), Perry Como (*Perry Como Show*), Vivian Leigh and Sir Lawrence Olivier (*Caesar and Cleopatra*), Milton Berle, Ben Vereen and Ernie Kovacs to name a few. And more importantly how can I ever forget the guardians of our Union, those giants like John McDowell, Solly Pernick, Bill Gorey and Louie Yaeger. Whether you agreed with their agendas or not these men and the others like them left us their legacy and lay the foundation for the powerful organization the Union has become. I worked my last show, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, at the Hellenger Theatre and when the show closed in 1973 I went on the Inactive List.

Looking back, I wouldn't trade my years in the Union for anything. It was a great learning experience and helped me grow as a person. From the very beginning of it all my dad was right when he said to me, "Al, you're going to like it here."



New York City Council President Christine Quinn with Local One President James Claffey and Recording-Corresponding Secretary Robert Score at a recent political event

SAINT MALACHY'S CHURCH

THE ACTORS' CHAPEL

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Theatrical Stage Employees
320 West 46th Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Members of Local One,

Of all the many people and organizations St. Malachy's Church has made connections with in the Broadway community over the years, establishing a relationship with you is an incredible and personal honor. As the son of a union man, I have an ingrained respect for unified workers. My father was President of the National Chemical Union and taught me the importance of strong labor unions. Local One epitomizes this strength in numbers.

Let me introduce myself to you. A native of Rockland County, I have been ordained a priest for 17 years. Five incredible years were spent at St. Philip Neri in the Bronx, before Cardinal O'Conner sent me to Catholic University in Washington, DC where I earned a Master's Degree in Church Music and Vocal Studies. Working with St. Joseph's Seminary for 10 years as Professor of Music and Director of Music for the Archdiocese of New York, I eventually expanded my call to service to include St. Malachy's in 2003. □

St. Malachy's has a unique ministry, not only to Catholics but all people who are in the theatrical and entertainment business. No matter what your faith, The Actors' Chapel is committed to your service. You are in our prayers and remembered in the Holy Mass. If you have any specific need, call me at the rectory to give me the names of those you wish to have remembered. This November, we will offer a Mass for all the Deceased members of the Union and your loved ones.

□ If there is anything that a brother priest, my staff or I can do for you, please let us know. □

Yours in Faith and Brotherhood,

□Fr. Richard Baker, □Pastor



IL TABARRO
WORLD PREMIER AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE,
2006-2007 SEASON, LOCAL ONE CREW, NEW YORK CITY



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