



# SPOTLIGHT

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

WINTER 2007

## LOCAL ONE STRIKES BROADWAY

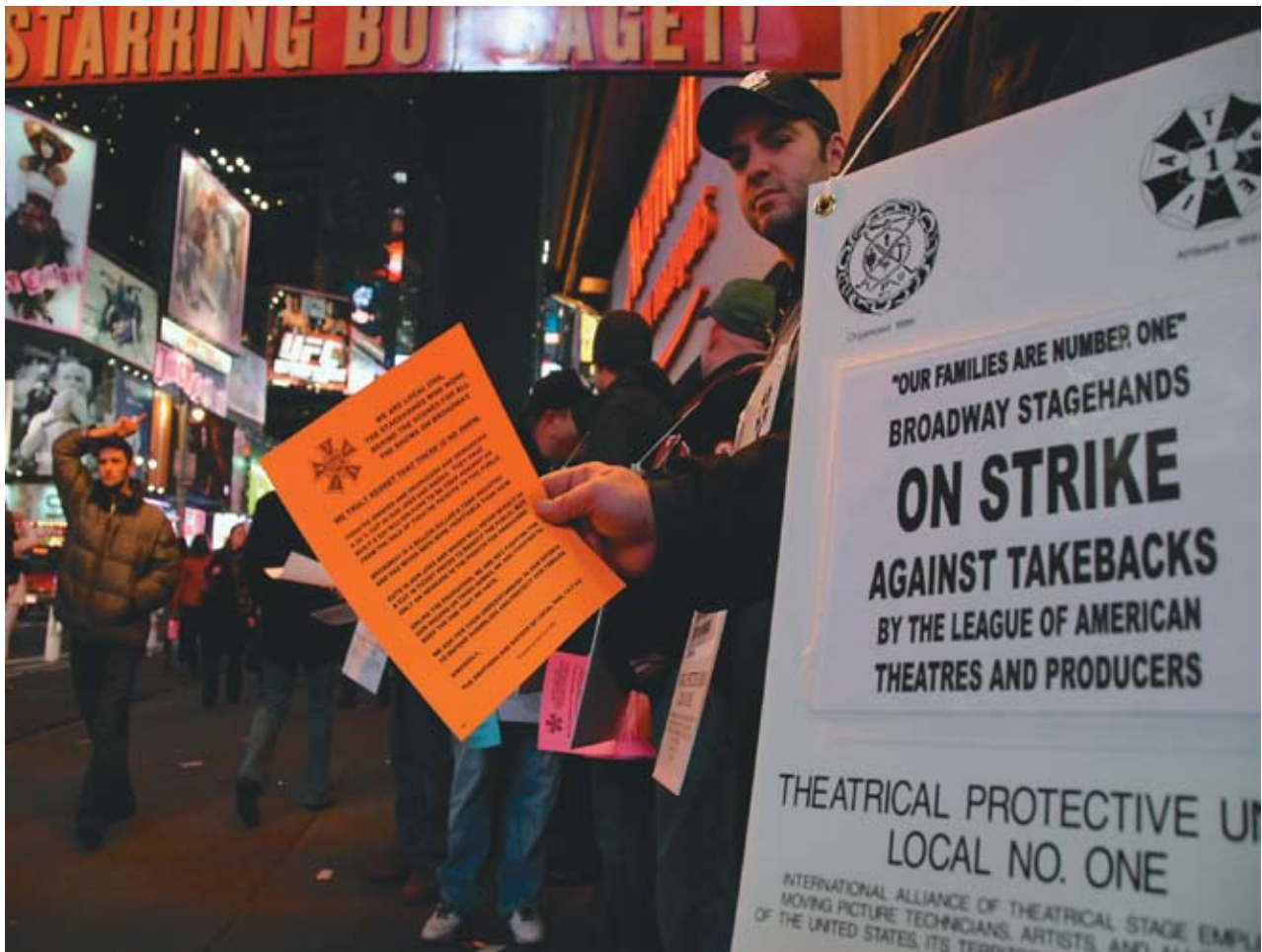


Photo by Mike Terpstra

*We must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately*

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

Armed with the leadership, a strategy and clearly communicated goals to a united membership, Local One resolved to bargain rather than concede contract terms with the League of American Theatres and Producers. After a costly strike, with the help of other Unions and the masterful management of the public relations involved, we reached an agreement satisfactory to both sides.

It's good to be back to work.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER	2
SECRETARY'S LETTER	3
TREASURER'S LETTER	4
LETTER TO LOCALS	5
LEAGUE, BENEFITS PIX	7
TUBE TALK	8
STRIKE PIX	9-11

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. It is with great pride that I look back on a successful 2007 that gave us a lot to be thankful for and that is primarily because we have each other. I firmly stand by my previous statements that because of an informed, educated, united and sophisticated membership, we have unquestionably confirmed to one and all that we remain the premiere Stagecraft Local in the world.

While the Local remained on course to tie up a handful of open contracts, we chose to address our Pension and Welfare Funds at the beginning of this New Year. Fund Trustees Treasurer Toby McDonough, Secretary Bob Score and I have previously informed you and particularly our retirees that we continue to aggressively pursue Pension allocation improvements. In addition to the \$500,000.00 Christmas distribution to all retirees and widows, I am thrilled to inform you that at our January 2, 2008 Trust meeting we were able to successfully increase all \$9.75 Pension credits to \$50.00. This historic improvement to credits that were earned prior to 1961 will significantly improve the financial situation of our oldest retirees who most need the assistance. Our active membership deserves much of the credit for supporting our efforts and making this possible with Pension contribution increases in all of our recent negotiations. It would also be an understatement to say that this Pension improvement would not have happened at all if not for the monumental efforts of Treasurer McDonough. Please be further advised that we are still pursuing another significant improvement for all other retirees once we receive additional data for the March 11, 2008 Trust meeting.

Our Local's Benefits Committee remains focused on the preservation of our medical plan and primarily the well being of our families whom it serves. I have previously reported that we are in a Healthcare crisis, surviving while other Funds crumble into bankruptcy. It is my responsibility to report that it is now necessary to address the projected three million dollar deficit of 2009 that I have spoken about many times. While the tier earning requirements will remain the same, it is necessary to make small increases in nearly all areas of the self-pay premiums. With continued rising costs of healthcare outpacing wage increases, we need to address this crisis in a reasonable and businesslike manner, which remains unavoidable until this country changes its entire healthcare system. Local One is as educated and understanding as any workforce to meet the challenge. Our membership will soon receive notice of the increases effective July 1, 2008. Our medical cost increases are unavoidable, but it's a reality that must be dealt with and Local One will succeed as we always have.

In closing, I proudly submit to you all that our Union functions and performs at a level that has truly never been equaled in our 121 year history, and you as the contributing members are the reason for it.

Please review the following letter on page 5 that I recently sent to all I.A. Locals with regards to our strike on Broadway, which I believe will speak for itself.

It remains my honor to serve you.

Respectfully & Fraternaly,

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



**FROM THE DESK OF THE RECORDING-CORRESPONDING SECRETARY...**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The historic Broadway strike is over. It was the first time in our 121-year history that Local One called a strike against the League of American Theatres and Producers and the Nederlander Organization. Most of Broadway was shut down for 19 days. The final set of contract negotiations began on Sunday, November 25th at 11:00 a.m. and ended at 6:00 a.m. Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. The second session began at 6:00 p.m. Monday lasting till 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The third and final session began 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 28th and lasted until approximately 10:30 p.m. that same night.

There is no thrill of victory for me from our decisive win in the negotiations with the League and the Nederlander Organization but rather a very clear sense of who we are and who they are. We are a proud, unified, hard working, family oriented bunch of people with only the welfare of our families, the future of our children and the pride of being the best stagehands in the world deeply embedded in our hearts. We simply are not what they said we were. Will they ever understand that? After attending the final marathon negotiating sessions and witnessing a certain type of behavior across the table while hearing statements on TV and reading inaccurate reports in newspapers and periodicals, I doubt it. Cordial business relationships do not translate into true meaningful friendships in my book. The people I trust my life with are all holding Local One Union Cards. The time I spent on the picket lines and in the negotiation sessions and interacting with the flow of traffic through the office these past few weeks reminded me of the reason why I became involved in the Union. The camaraderie, the dedication, the humor, the sense of unity and solidarity was on full display; real people doing real jobs and fighting for their entitlements as working men and women doing what our forefathers have done for over one hundred years. Always getting the show up and running for appreciative audiences night after night and then scrambling for the last train or bus to get home for a night's sleep before starting all over again the next morning has been the calling of the Brothers and Sisters of Local One for many, many years and will continue to be so for a long, long time.

My Dad wasn't a stagehand. He was a mechanical engineer but got up every morning and went to work each day and instilled in me the work ethic that I proudly carry daily into the Local One Union Hall. It is the same work ethic that had me showing up for 8:00 a.m. calls at the New York State Theatre for over 25 years. It is a working life. It is a life of trucks and cables and scenery and technology. It is also a life of enjoyment, rapport and fulfillment. All the holidays we missed spending with our families are spent with our theatrical families of actors, musicians, dancers, wardrobe folks, ticket-takers and ushers. The true appreciation of our work comes from those working families that really understand what it is that we do and stood shoulder to shoulder with us night after night on the picket lines. The true reward comes from them and the audience members that are entertained and thrilled to see a real Broadway show, an opera or a ballet. Don't ever let anyone tell you that the stagehands of Local One are anything less than the best in the world. We always knew it and now the rest of the world knows it too.

I hope you and your families had a very Happy Holiday Season. May we all live to see the day when our children's dreams come true.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Robert C. Score  
Recording-Corresponding Secretary

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The morning of November 10th, 2007, will prove to be one of the most defining moments in Local One's history. It was the first time in 121 years that this great local declared a strike on the great white way.

Our President called us together and made the announcement. We all moved in unison out of the Westin Hotel, grabbed our picket signs, went to our positions and proceeded to shut down Broadway within minutes.

What seemed to be a monumental task was pulled off without a hitch. Some may ask (including Management) how did they do that so well and so fast? The answer is simple...being PREPARED. From having the signs, the shirts, vests, radios, police barricades, flyers, hats, truck, sign-in binders, Line Captains assigned and Picket Central, Local One was up to the task.

As time and negotiations went on, I can honestly say that the resolve and strength on the lines only grew stronger. Stagehands, Musicians, Actors, Porters, Ushers, Treasurers, Wardrobe, etc. became closer and unified on the lines. The League undoubtedly underestimated the solidarity we displayed. New friendships were made, respect for all was evident. Without a doubt, all the IA locals have become closer as a result of the strike. It was the proudest I have ever been to be a Local One member.

After the strike, from December 5th through December 8th, President Claffey, Secretary Score and I (the three Fund Trustees) traveled to Hollywood and Orlando, Florida to visit with the retirees. Two luncheons were well attended and it was great to see many great men (many whom I worked for in the past) and their wives. It was their day and we not only provided them with potential pension improvement information, we welcomed any and all questions they asked.

As I write this letter to you, it is Thursday, January, 3rd, 2008. It is the day after the meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Pension, Welfare and Annuity Funds of Local One. President Claffey, Secretary Score and I were in attendance. I am happy and proud to announce that the \$9.75 pension credits have been eliminated. They have all been increased to \$50.00. Also, the 50% Joint and Survivor option for widows of members who were eligible for retirement at their time of death, has been increased to 100%. This will be retroactive to January 1st, 2007. In addition, the \$500,000 equally divided distribution, was mailed out on December 15th.

It has been a proud time to be a Local One Stagehand and I am proud to be your Treasurer of the greatest Local in the land. As we head into a new year, I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy 2008!!!!

Fraternally,

Robert "Toby" McDonough  
Treasurer

January 4, 2008

## TO ALL I.A.T.S.E. LOCALS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please accept this as a sincere message of thanks to you all for the letters, cards, telephone calls and gifts that you were kind enough to forward us during our 19 day strike on Broadway. I must also note the extraordinary contributions of Locals 4, 8, 16, 51, 52 and 600. The support from our Brothers and Sisters throughout the United States and Canada, as well as abroad was so instrumental in our ability to stay strong and honorably represent ourselves, the Alliance and the entire labor movement as a whole.

I cannot express in words how proud I am of the noble effort that our members of Local One exhibited throughout an implementation period and a strike. However, our membership truly recognizes the real heroes in our efforts to defend ourselves to be all the other Broadway Unions' members who proudly walked along side us each and every day on 29 picket lines.

I.A. Locals 306, 751, 764, 798, ATPAM, USA Local 829, all Pink Contract Employees, as well as Bartenders Local 1245, Service Employees Local 32BJ and of course our friends in Actor's Equity and Musicians Local 802 demonstrated courage, class and a fighting spirit that established themselves as the model of true unionism for all the labor movement to follow. Local One's fight to achieve a new collective bargaining agreement for all to be proud of became their fight as well.

The patience of our fellow Union's brother and sister members allowed Local One the avenue to meet its primary objective of negotiating a "worthy" deal that would never embarrass or disgrace the reason for striking in the first place.

I am pleased to report that on Sunday, December 9, 2007, the membership of Local One, with the exception of one vote among one thousand in attendance approved and ratified our new agreement with The League of American Theatres and Producers.

Local One with a world of appreciation invites you all to share in our great pride.

In solidarity,

James J. Claffey, Jr.

President,

Local One, I.A.T.S.E.

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



**SPOTLITE**

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Past editions available Online

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

Upcoming Monthly Membership  
Meeting dates are:

January 20, 2008

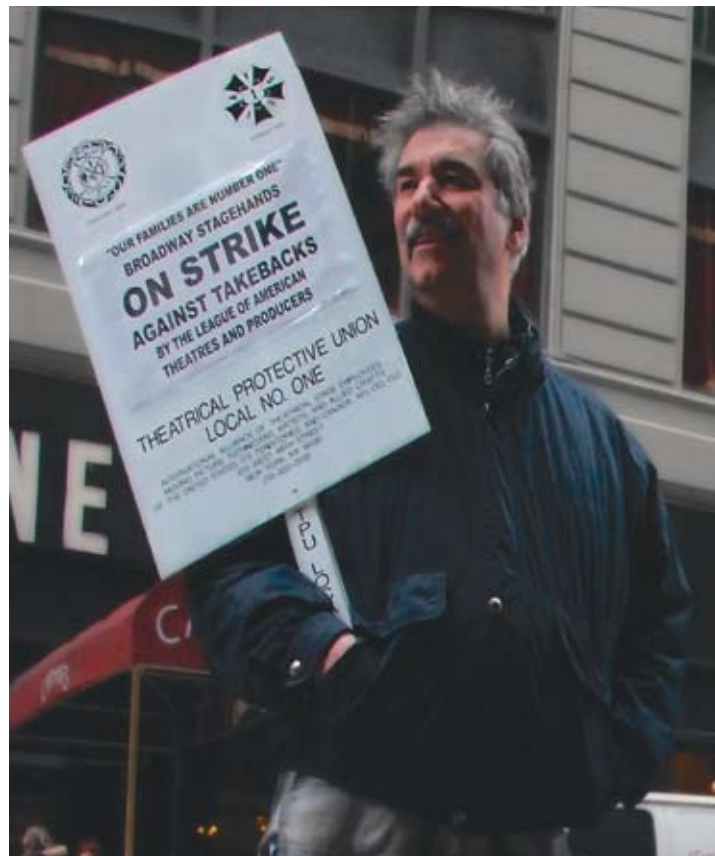
February 24, March 16, April 27, 2008

**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. Our experience and knowledge covers the range of expertise required for any application with over three thousand members covering an expanding jurisdiction throughout the greater New York metropolitan area. 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 D. DASHMAN; REPLACEMENT ROOM OFFICER DANIEL THORN; ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY EDMOND SUPPLE, SR.; AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANTHONY MANNO



FRANK LAVAIA  
1950-2007

IN BROTHERHOOD FOREVER

## 2007 LEAGUE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE



Photo by W. Ngai

Seated, L to R: Richard Kirby; Legitimate Theatre Business Manager Mike Wekselblatt; President James J. Claffey, Jr.; Brother Counsel Steve Spivak; Legitimate Theatre Business Manager Kevin McGarty. Standing, L to R: Glenn Russo; Fred Ricci; Scott Mulrain; Brian Bullard; John Kelly; George Milne; Todd D'Aiuto; Trustee Dan Dashman; Counsel Jim Murphy; Bob Etter; Publicist Bruce Cohen. Third Row: Dennis Smalls; George Dummitt; John Riggins; Tom Lavaia; Robert Minor; Jim Mayo. Not pictured: Trustee William Ngai; Heidi Brown; Tommy Phillips; Manny Diaz; James Bay; Gary Wilner.

## LOCAL ONE BENEFITS COMMITTEE CONTINUES ITS WORK FOR THE MEMBERSHIP



Photo by W. Ngai

Standing, left to right: Robert Gort, Steve Diaz, William Colgan, Evan Gelick, Trustee Chairman John Diaz, Sr.; Ken Merkel, Peter Ehrhardt, Neil Wolfe, James Claffey, Sr.  
Seated: Administrative Secretary Edmond Supple, Sr.; William Hauser, Recording Corresponding Secretary Robert C. Score, President James J. Claffey, Jr., William Nimmo, Treasurer Robert McDonough. Trustee William Ngai and Financial Secretary Anthony Manno not pictured.

# LOCAL ONE WELCOMES MSNBC CABLE TV TO 30 ROCKEFELLER CENTER

## TUBE TALK by BOB NIMMO

Monday morning Oct. 22, 2007 was another monumental day for Local One. On that morning, MSNBC cable began broadcasting from their new 3A studio facility at Rockefeller Center with an all Local One stage crew.

Previously, for the last 10 years, MSNBC was at a facility in Secaucus, NJ as a totally non-union operation and was planning to continue this policy at 30 Rock. This was not to be the case. Local One dealt with the issue on several fronts.

On the political front we contacted the office of the NYC Comptroller along with others with whom we have established relationships with through our Local One Political Action Committee. Comptroller Thompson sent a correspondence to the chairman of NBCU questioning why the Company intended to replace union workers with lower paid non-represented employees while simultaneously asking NYC for tax dollars to help fund this program.

Local One also notified "Good Jobs First", a pro-labor, pro-active organization that monitors tax incentives granted to large corporations and what those incentives will be used for.

"Good Jobs First" in conjunction with Local One Brothers and Sisters attended the meeting of the NYC Economic Development Agency at which tax incentives were approved for NBC for the MSNBC move from NJ to 30 Rock. Though we were procedurally denied a formal voice at the meeting, the message delivered by Local One was heard loud and clear by all present with follow up articles the next day in several local newspapers.

Through these efforts and the diligent work of the NBC contract negotiating committee, President James J. Claffey, Jr. and the Television Business Managers, all MSNBC stagehand work done at 30 Rock is done under a Local One contract. All Local One positions at the MS cable news operation are paid at the NBC network TV rates. These 24-hour cable news operations from studio 3A, news nooks and from other areas around the building have created numerous full and part-time studio positions for our members. In addition to the new digital MS studio construction, studio 3C has been totally rebuilt to accommodate the NBC evening network news broadcast.

Special thanks go to the entire membership and all those involved for their support in bringing the MSNBC cable operation into the Local One fold.



Photo by Mike Terpstra

President Jim Claffey along with Local 802, AFM Vice President Bill Dennison listening to Actors Equity Association Executive Director John Connolly's inspiring words as to why working people should not have their jobs reduced to Wal-Mart type compensation while management enjoys record prosperity.





Photo by Mike Terpstra

St. Malachy's Church on West 49th St., November 11, 2007: Local One President Jim Claffey holding a press conference in response to League misinformation. His clear defense of his membership's middle class jobs with the support of other unions was, for many, a turning point in the labor dispute dialogue both in the public and across the negotiating table.



Clockwise, above: Picket Captain Tim Bennett patiently discussing the strike issues with a passerby; Brother John Kelly briefing the throng of picketers on 52nd Street; Mary McGregor on the O'Neill Picket line; the Marriott picket line on Times Square; Actors Equity support: Invaluable!; AEA Sister members Donna Marie Asbury, Michelle DeJean and a good friend with an appropriately sized sign on the Ambassador picket line. All photos by Brother Mike Terpstra.





Clockwise, above: A view of the enormous line at the Lunt Fontanne; Brothers Tom McDonough and Richard Anderson marching in front of the St. James theatre; Bob Fehrbach with Retired Brothers Hank Reynolds and Donnie Beck having a great time by the August Wilson theatre; Richie McQuail, Peter Wright, Sean Fedigan, Chris Beck and Eric Schultz amongst others attending one of the many information meetings keeping the membership up to date on the status of negotiations; Theatrical Business Manager Kevin McGarty at the podium during an update meeting; more good times at the Music Box theatre picket line.



**PRESIDENT JIM CLAFFEY ANNOUNCING STRIKE  
SETTLEMENT RETURNING BUSINESS TO BROADWAY**



Photo by Mike Terpstra

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