

March 2008 Newsletter

The Next General Meeting for IATSE Local 8 will be Wednesday April 2, 2008. The Meeting will be held at 2237 Hartranft Philadelphia Pa. beginning 11:00 a.m. According to the Local 8 Constitution, IATSE Local 8 meets the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00a.m.at 2237 Hartranft Street Philadelphia Pa. except during the months of June, July and August.

The Next Executive Board Meeting for IATSE Local 8 will be on Thursday March 27th, 2008. The Meeting will be held at 2237 Hartranft Philadelphia Pa. beginning 11:00 A.M. The Executive Board meets the last Thursday of each month.

Financial 2008. Second quarter stamps are now due. Stamps are \$50.00 per quarter\$200 per year for 2008.

Political Action. IATSE Local 8 continues to be recognized as a political force in the Philadelphia area. We have been aggressively solicited by politicians running for local, state and national office. Both Democratic Primary candidates have come to Local 8 to help them get elected. The enormous contributions we make do not match our size. We will be supplying members for phone banks, canvassing and GOTV efforts in the upcoming weeks. Emails will be sent informing members of times and places for campaign events. Your efforts are appreciated. Enclosed in this letter is a Political Action Volunteer Contribution Form. Members are encouraged to participate by signing and returning the form.

Building Committee has scheduled meetings once a week each Thursday starting at 10:00am. The meetings are open to the membership. A Building Committee report will be presented at the April meeting.

The Benefit Committee. The IATSE NBF has updated their website to allow participants to audit their Health and Pension Accounts on a more timely basis. This is your money. Check your accounts often and inform the Office if they are incorrect. To access your personal account, go to iatsenbf.org. On the left hand side is a log-in option. Follow the prompts and get your log-in username and password. Once on your personal page, on the left hand side is a work history option. The Office has been contacted by members and has followed up on missing benefits. Help us help you by checking your accounts. If money is missing, give the Office the Employer and month the contribution is missing. The benefit committee will also be bringing in members 65 and older to review the Pension application process. If you are 65 or older and would like to set up an appointment, the Committee meets the last Wednesday of each month at the union hall 11:00a.m.

The Education Committee Local 8 was informed the state funding we have been receiving will be being cut this year due to a change of leadership in the House Speaker position. As reported, house speaker Perzel was instrumental in getting Local 8 educational money. Through the new leadership, Local 8 was given a 2.5 million dollar educational grant this year which we are using to construct an education and training facility. Until the funding is re-established, the Local will be going back to its grass roots training program. We will be asking employers to allow us to use their facilities (free of charge) and to pick up cost associated with training. We will also be asking our own members to volunteer to give courses. Training will focus on the apprentice program, maintaining the "Core Classes", ETCP Certification training in Rigging and Electric and advanced training targeted at specialized equipment used by our members. The Committee has met numerous times and has formulated a program to address these areas

Contract Information:

Visual Sound in negotiations

Sovereign Bank Arena in negotiations

Forrest Theater in negotiations

Lights of Liberty in negotiations

Lincoln Financial Field in negotiations

Cirque du Soleil will be brought back for ratification at the April meeting.

Work outlook. The Convention Center has picked up after the Flower Show. However, as many of our people on the D List know the Recession is having an effect on us. The lack of shows at the Forrest and Merriam is having a negative impact. Rock and Roll and Outdoor shows will give us a lift this Summer and we may see some jobs from the movie industry. In order to maintain your earning level and benefits, D list members with less than seven years of service members will have to take all work available to them. The exception is people with identifiable skills on the D list. Camera Ops, Power Point Ops, Riggers and Board Ops on the D list have managed better during the slow down in work. People are encouraged to take advantage of the training opportunities offered by the Local to increase the work opportunities available to them.

IATSE local 8 Endorses;

Hillary Clinton for President

**John Dougherty for Pennsylvania State
Senate**

**William Keller for Pennsylvania House of
Representatives**