

## May 2009 Newsletter

**The Next General Meeting** for IATSE Local 8 will be Wednesday May 6, 2009. 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.

**Financial** 2009. Second quarter stamps are now due. Stamps are \$50.00 per quarter \$200 per year for 2009. The 2008 Audit was recently completed by an outside accounting firm. Results of the audit will be reviewed by the Union Trustees and presented to the membership at an upcoming meeting.

**Convention Center Elliot Lewis** On April 1, 2009, Elliot Lewis informed all of the unions working in the Convention Center that ALL Elliot Lewis employees working on the Trade show floor would be required to wear work shoes in accordance with the Elliot Lewis Safety manual. While I am not opposed to safety on the worksite, I feel this is another distraction in the Convention center that we could do without. Most of the unions including the IA are looking into how to deal with this issue. Until we figure it out, get yourself a pair of work shoes and wear them when working on the Trade show floor so that the Employer does not send you home. Regardless of whether we are right or wrong, if you get sent home a grievance will take forever to get you back in the building..

**Work Outlook** So far so good. While we would all like to be making more money we have to be grateful our industry is providing the jobs we are getting. We are waiting to see how big (or small) the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events will be but given the economic times we seem to be holding our own. This will be the first year in over two decades that there will be no Jam on the River on Memorial Day. We continue to seek out and pick up hotel AV jobs to fill the void. Keep building up your CAPP accounts and take the work that is available to you. According to the so called experts, nobody knows what the hell is going on with the economy so keep working until they figure it out.

**Contracts Clear Channel.** We will be brining back the EFC (Clear Channel) City Wide Agreement back for a ratification vote this meeting. This contract covers Outdoor Shows, Penns Landing, The Tower and The Parkway. The local signed a three year deal with **Earls Girls, AVMG, Sound and Vision and PSAV** this month. The rate for these contracts (\$29.00) is the highest outside the Convention Center. Benefits stand at 35% with time and one half on Saturdays. We have received a letter from the **Walnut Street Theater** requesting the contract be opened up for negotiations. This deal is scheduled to expire November of this year. The first meeting with **RPAC (Kimmel, Academy, Merriam)** did not go well. The Employer presented a bleak economic outlook for the organization and resident companies (**Orchestra, Ballet and opera**) and presented their opening proposal which included a 20% rollback in wages and benefits and a vague proposal on jurisdictions that would result in a substantial decrease in the work we do in the building. Negotiations are ongoing. This contract is scheduled to expire June 30, 2009.

**Building Committee** drawings are complete, all variances have been approved and the project is going out to bid this month. The bid process takes approximately three weeks and we hope to be breaking ground by June. The Building committee has been meeting once a week for the last year going over designs, budgets, grant requirements, zoning issues, environmental issues and business plans. The Committee will be proposing an increase in the budget to complete the project. We encourage and interested members to come to the next General Meeting or Building Committee meeting to ask questions and go over the plan. While we will be looking to increase the budget, WE WILL NOT BE RAISING ANY PERCENTAGE COST TO THE MEMBERS.

**Committees:** President O'Shea is evaluating the performance of all the Committees and will be re-organizing to keep things going in the right direction. Committees are made up for the most part by member volunteers. These members are donating their time to improve the union. The time it takes to maintain the Committees puts a strain on the individual and needs to be spread out to keep things fresh. As always, the union would like to thank everyone who has served on the Committees. Anyone interested in serving on a Committee should contact Chip O'Shea.

**Employee Free Choice Act** will be the single most important piece of labor legislation debated in our lifetime. If you do not know what this is, you should. Google Employee Free Choice Act or stop in the office to get info on the topic.

### **Congratulations**

*Edward and Becky Barnes on the birth of their daughter Magdalene*

