

April 2010 Newsletter

The Next General Meeting for IATSE Local 8 will be Wednesday April 7, 2010. 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 Thursday April 1. The Meeting will be held at 2237 Hartranft Philadelphia Pa. beginning 11:00 a.m.

The Second Quarter Stamp is currently due. **Please be reminded stamps are now \$60 per quarter.** If you are working as a stagehand in the geographical jurisdiction of Local 8, you are obligated to pay 3.5% of your gross wage. If you are on the road working under a Pink Contract, you are obligated to pay the amount called for in the Constitution. If you worked for any of the following companies that did not take out percentage, contact the secretary treasurer to make arrangements to satisfy your financial obligation.

A special meeting was held Thursday March 12th at 12 noon at the IATSE Local 8 Union Hall 2237 Hartranft Street to discuss the new Education and Training Facility. The members were given information and asked questions of the Architects, Bankers and Accountants hired by the Local. The Committee reviewed in detail the expenditures, design, timeline and ground breaking ceremony planned for the building.

Work Outlook work has increased in March. What this means depends on your position on the list. NSTA was a fight but we ended up with around twenty jobs. All of our venues are starting to pick up and we are seeing a number of our Local 8/52 members get hired on the television and movies being produced in the area. We continue to fight for every job in the hotel sector. We have picked up jobs at the Airport Marriott, Lowes, Downtown Marriott and Drexel University along with a number of other secondary sites. Every job has a trickle affect down the line. Members can help by calling in when they see our work being done by non-union workers.

Contracts

Live Nation negotiations are still underway. There has been little change or progress since our last report. The Employer is still proposing major condition givebacks. We are tentatively scheduled to resume negotiations at the end of the month. **Penns Landing's** contract has expired. Meetings are being scheduled to negotiate a new agreement. **Philadelphia Orchestra** has requested an extension matching the agreement reached with the Orchestra Musicians. This agreement will be brought back to the membership for ratification at the April meeting. **Lights of Liberty's** contract has expired. Meetings are being scheduled to negotiate a new agreement. **Pin Point Lighting** maiden agreement will be brought back to the membership for discussion and a vote at the April Meeting. **Proof Productions, Doherty Rigging and Quinlan's Scenic Studio** are still in negotiations. If completed, the contracts will be brought back to the membership for ratification at the April meeting.

The Local has a tentative meeting scheduled with **PSAV** to discuss an agreement covering the local Hotel and Special Event Division. Local 8 maintains a term agreement with PSAV Convention and Trade show division. A deal for this work will increase our job opportunities with this Employer. Local 8 is participating with Locals 38, 6, 2, One, 16, 22, 33, 110, 122, 306, 631 and Canada in a negotiation with **Swank Audio Visual**. This negotiation involves the International and could result in a windfall of new jobs for our members in Hotel meeting Rooms we currently do not service. Contract proposals have been sent to the following non-union Employers and are in varying degrees of completion, **Kitchen Sink, Spellcasters, Starlight, Provision, VA Production and ACIR.**

The **Baptist Temple on Temple University** campus has put the labor contract out through their Purchasing Department. **Advanced Staging, Eagle AV and Event Technologies** have bid on the work. The outcome will determine what follow up action will be needed by Local 8. We are anticipating significant work opportunities from this facility.

The **Outdoor (Eagles just announced for Citizens Bank Park June 14th) and Concert** season continues to improve. This will help increase the number of jobs for the lower half of the D list. It is down the road, but we are anticipating **Airbender II** to start in the last quarter of 2010. This along with the run of **Jersey Boys** should help maintain work towards the end of the year.

The Newsletter is going GREEN. Members with email addresses will be sent the monthly Newsletter by email. If you do not receive your letter or want a hard copy, contact or come into the Office. Copies are available. The IT Department has updated everyone's email address. In addition, we assigned anyone without an email address a Local 8 Website Email address. If you did not provide an email, your assigned email address is your first initial and last name @iatse8.com You can access your IATSE email address through any computer including the one we have set up in the Office meeting space. Almost 2/3 of our membership is currently signed up to receive their Newsletter by email.

Committees

Education Committee. The Office has submitted an application for a \$100,000 dollar Education Grant. The following narrative was submitted along with the grant and gives a good overview of the upcoming educational agenda for Local 8.

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local No. 8 was chartered in 1893. Our Local and our International has serviced the entertainment industry throughout Pennsylvania continuously for over 114 years. The entertainment industry is one of the fastest growing segments in our economy. In states such as California, New York and Florida, the entertainment industry is one of the top providers of jobs. Reports indicate the film and television industry is one of the United States biggest exports. As we continue to grow and service this industry, we are pressed to provide the training necessary to keep the work in our State.

Local 8's Education and Training has been in place since 1998. The training the Local offers can be broken down into three primary areas.

1. Courses are scheduled to train new hires through a three year program. New Hires are taught basic to advanced courses throughout the three year period.
2. Experienced journeymen are offered courses to keep them up to date on changing technology. The technology in the entertainment industry changes very quickly. Much of the equipment being used is computer driven. Training in the software needed to operate systems occurs frequently. Without ongoing training opportunities, continued employment opportunities would be lost.
3. Certification Training. Industry certifications in rigging, electric, forklift and high reach operation are required to work on jobs. Many times this training is not offered by employers because of the transient nature of the entertainment industry. CPR and first Aid are also offered and can be included under this heading.

In March of 2010, IATSE Local 8 will be breaking ground on a six million dollar state of the art facility that will offer training to workers for Legitimate Stage Productions, Orchestral Ensembles, Opera and Ballet performances, Rock and Roll Concert events, Audio Visual Convention Center training, Film and Television training along with Wardrobe, Hair and Make-Up training. The curriculum will include all safety courses needed in this challenging industry. Given our expertise in the Audio Visual and Broadcast fields, we intend to offer our training programs over the internet to the twenty-eight I.A.T.S.E. Locals located throughout Pennsylvania. It is our intent to develop strategic partnerships with the Commonwealth's Educational Institutions to give graduating students access to the union and develop the most advanced entertainment training program in the country.

The entertainment industry along with the rest of the economy has experienced a downturn resulting in a loss of jobs. Positioning our out of work members through training will allow them to get back into the workforce quicker and will better position them for advancement as the economy rebounds.

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) is an industry-wide program that has brought together an unprecedented group of entertainment industry organizations, businesses and individuals to create a program of rigorous assessments for professional entertainment technicians. ETCP focuses on disciplines that directly affect the health and safety of crews, performers, and audiences.

ETCP encompasses the creation of exams based upon identified bodies of knowledge, the conducting of those examinations, the awarding of certifications, and re-certifying individuals.

ETCP was created under the auspices of the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA), and the following organizations maintain seats on the ETCP Council: Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology (CITT), InfoComm International, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM), The League of American Theatres and Producers, Safety and Health in Arts Production and Entertainment (SHAPE), Themed Entertainment Association (TEA), and United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT).

The ETCP Certification Council membership also includes the following entertainment business leaders: BASE Entertainment, Cirque du Soleil / MGM MIRAGE, Disney Theatrical Productions, Live Nation, NBC Universal, and PRG.

Many of the Employers in the state of Pennsylvania and throughout the country are requiring the technicians hired obtain an ETCP certification to work in the entertainment industry. By creating a financed program that would certify technicians from our area, we would create job opportunities for technicians currently out of work.

ETCP certifications were created by the Employers to develop an ANSI-Accredited Personnel Certification Program to recognize those individuals who have demonstrated knowledge, skills and abilities in specific disciplines within the entertainment technology field. By providing a thorough, independent assessment of knowledge, skills and abilities for entertainment technology disciplines, the Program seeks to enhance safety, reduce workplace risk, improve performance, stimulate training, and give due recognition to the professional skills of entertainment technicians.

The IATSE Local 8 Education and Training Program has identified approximately fifty technicians that are currently unemployed that would be interested and available to participate in a curriculum that would prepare them to successfully pass the ETCP certification test. The job opportunities for these individuals would not only be in the State of Pennsylvania but throughout the country.

Currently ETCP certified technicians are brought in from outside our State to work on Industrial and Trade Shows in the Convention Centers and Hotels, Rock and Roll Concerts in arenas and stadiums and movie and television sets throughout the State. By certifying our unemployed members, the Employers will hire locally reducing their cost and making Pennsylvania a more attractive State to produce multi-media events.

One of the challenges presented to the unemployed technician is the cost of the training and testing to acquire the ETCP Certification. Without the Certification, employment opportunities in the industry are less resulting in a lack of funds needed to obtain certifications.

If the IATSE Local 8 Education and Training Fund is successful in obtaining this grant, we would initiate an eight week training schedule to review and teach techniques needed to pass the ETCP test. Instruction would be given by ECTP Nationally recognized Board members who were part of the oversight body responsible for creating the test material. At the conclusion of the training, testing would take place immediately certifying technicians who successfully passed the test. Based on similar programs that have taken place throughout the United States and Canada, we anticipate most if not all the participants will become certified.

Upwards to 85% of the cost to certify the technicians would go towards testing and obtaining training materials. The remaining 15% would go towards trainers and instructors. The IATSE Local 8 Training and Education facility would provide the classroom and practical area needed to train at no cost. Cost per person to become certified is approximately \$1200 dollars.

Audio Visual Manufacturer Certifications and Training is needed to create work opportunities for out of work technicians in the Convention Center and Hotel sector. According to the Convention Hotel Guide, there are over 7500 Convention Centers worldwide. This number grows exponentially when you add in the number of Convention Center Hotels. New jobs in this sector are driven more by new technology than any other sector in the entertainment business. Software updates are made daily enhancing the presentation quality the Employers use to compete for clients. Technicians with the most updated training will have a leg up on their competition when technicians are needed to service this growing industry.

The IATSE Education and Training program has developed a curriculum using the leaders in the Audio Visual industry to identify the newest hardware and software being used by these Employers on jobsites throughout the world. Our trainers through participation in industry recognized shows such as USITT, Infocom, Lighting Dimensions International have identified the newest equipment and software being used in the industry.

If the IATSE Local 8 Education and Training Fund is successful in obtaining this grant, we would initiate a twelve month training curriculum in which manufacturers and Employers would be brought into the IATSE training Facility and using the equipment currently being used in the industry train and certify our out of work members on its use. The training would be offered to up to one hundred out of work technicians that could use the acquired skills to obtain work in the half dozen convention centers and over fifty hotels in the Philadelphia and surrounding county area.

Cost associated with this program would include the rental of the equipment, fees, transportation and lodging of the Manufacturer's or Employer's trainer needed to provide the instruction. The IATSE Training facility will be used as the base for the training. Classes typically run between two to five days and can provide training for up to forty people per trainer. Cost per class will be approximately 2500 to 5000 dollars. The amount of classes offered will be determined by the funding available.

Convention and hotel sector job training. The training we will be conducting will provide employers a significant saving as there biggest expense is flying in, paying hotel rooms and expenses for technicians to work there shows. We will now be able to provide the highest level technician with all the certifications and qualifications required to ease the mind of these employers.

With our new state of the art training center we will be able to host events such as; small trade shows, meetings, stage shows, and political events. This will give us an unprecedented opportunity to showcase our training and technical capabilities as a local. We will be able to provide webcasting and all sorts of recorded media for distribution of the events we host. Some of the services we will train our members to provide are teleprompter services, audience response services, camera operation, shading, switching, PowerPoint, tape operators, graphics technicians. Lighting board operators on the latest lighting console and software. Audio technicians on the latest digital equipment available.

Film and Television Training is needed to staff the new work created throughout the state by the Pennsylvania Tax Incentive Program. Last year over 250 million dollars was spent in the Easter part of Pennsylvania on films produced in this area. The new studios in Chester County will create numerous job opportunities and it is yet to be determined what the effect the Comcast acquisition of NBC Universal will have on the area in the future. The sudden surge in jobs in this sector in 2009 made it apparent for the need of training. Many of the jobs that would have gone to Pennsylvanians went to people from out of state with the required skill sets who traveled here temporally to work on the motion picture projects.

If the IATSE Local 8 Education and Training Fund is successful in obtaining this grant, we would initiate a twelve month training curriculum using our own members to train the out of work technicians so that they could obtain employment on the upcoming jobs scheduled for this area. Cost associated with this training would include rental of the equipment used in the motion picture industry and payment to the instructors. Instruction would be broken down into the recognized departments currently identified in this industry

which include; Electric Department, Grip Department, Property Department, Special Effects, Sound Department, Video Assist and Wardrobe.

The IATSE Training facility will be used as the base for the training. Cost per class typically will run between two to five days and can provide training for up to forty people per trainer. Cost per class will be approximately 2500 to 5000 dollars. The amount of classes offered will be determined by the funding available.

IATSE Local 8 Training Facility is breaking ground in March 2010. The scheduled completion of the project is September 2010. Upon completion, IATSE Local 8 will have a one of a kind training facility for entertainment workers unique throughout North America. The 11,000 square foot facility contains administrative offices, classrooms and a 5700 square foot auditorium simulating the environment IATSE technicians work in throughout the industry. The facility is located on a one acre lot in South Philadelphia with parking and close proximity to I-95. The design of the facility and property was focused on multi use incorporating every of the space for training and practical use. The one acre lot not only provides parking but allows us to provide high reach and fork-lift certification training in the open space needed for this course. The front of the building has a marquee is designed to signify who we are as entertainment workers but also contains a lighting system that is accessed through a port in the lobby where computer lighting boards are used to program the various lighting options the marquee can perform. Programming computer lighting boards is a basic function of out technicians and by using the marquee as a training tool; we are getting multiple uses out of this section of the building. This theme carries itself throughout the facility.

The technological advancements in the entertainment industry have been and will continue to be driven by our own members working on the latest movie or rock and roll tour. The newest ideas are quickly incorporated by the shop and often mature while the Employer uses the technology on the latest show. This approach has made it difficult for secondary educational institutions and trade schools to capture a curriculum. The union's exposure to the industry in the Philadelphia market along with our attendance at the yearly industry trade shows will allow us to identify the Employers and manufacturers using the newest equipment and technology and schedule those people to train Pennsylvanians in our new facility. This will create and continue to create new job opportunities on shows and productions that start up everyday. It is our intent to hold job industry fares at our new facility. Producers and Employers will be able to make a one stop shop and be exposed to numerous trained industry certified technicians with industry experience ready to staff their tours. At this time, there is no other place in North America that can make this claim. Our proximity to New York and the number of entertainment shops on the East Coast positions us for success with this endeavor.

IATSE Local 8 Education and Training Fund is a jointly administered trust fund. The Trustees of the Fund are made up of two Employer Trustees, one from Kimmel Center Inc and the other from Live Nation. KCI is the largest theatrical Employer in the State; Live Nation is one of the largest national Employers in the Country. Two Trustees represent the union and are elected by the membership.

The Fund is financed through Employer contributions the amount determined through collective bargaining or through a voluntary Employer contribution that can be made at any time. The Fund is also set up to accept grants for the education of the participants. The Fund was established in 2010 to allow us to have dedicated funding to support our education training facility.

Conclusion The entertainment industry is an ebb and flow industry. Our strength is that we can be up and running with very little investment needed in infrastructure. Employers will employ and travel people from our area if they have the skill sets needed to perform the job. Employers will also see our area as an attractive alternative if cost associated with bringing people from out of town can be eliminated. Places like New Orleans recognized this and invested in this industry following Katrina resulting in an immediate economic boost to the state. If we are successful in obtaining this grant, we will not only put people back to work quickly but will create an economic impact that will stimulate the recovery throughout the area.

International Executive Board Committee. Philadelphia will be hosting the IATSE Executive Board Meetings from July 31st to August 1st. The Meetings will be held at the Sheraton on 16th and Arch. Locals 8, 52, 752, 799, 804, B-29, 600, 700, 161 and USA 829 will be the Host Locals. Local 8 is forming a Committee to assist with Transportation, Sergeant of Arms Assignments, Swag, Restaurants, Cultural Activities, Phillies Game, PAC Party and a number of other activities that will be scheduled during this week. The first Committee meeting will be held on Monday February 22nd at 12 noon at the Local 8 Office. Interested members should contact President O'Shea.

LETTER FROM ACADEMY OF MUSIC MANAGEMENT

On behalf of the Kimmel Center and the Academy of Music, I want to thank the members of IATS Local #8 who so generously donated their services to the Haiti earthquake relief benefit concert held at the Academy on Monday evening, March 8th. Specifically, Jim Gilroy, Tim Johnson, David Williams, Danny Giaquinto, Kevin Barrett, Scott Smith, and Anthony Bordoni of the Academy house crew, joined by Cheryl Harrison and Dan Amadie of the PA Ballet staff, voluntarily contributed over \$5,600 worth of labor to this event.

The generosity of Local 8 members, to this facility and its tenants, is a major part of what makes the Academy a sought-after venue, and such a congenial place to work. I certainly appreciate their efforts, as do our tenants throughout the season.

Sincerely yours,
Greg Buch, Production Manager
Academy of Music, *Kimmel Center, Inc.*
(215) 893-1937
gbuch@philorch.org

TOWER THEATER ALL LIVE NATION PAYROLL

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU TAKE PROPER ID THE FIRST TIME YOU WORK AT THE TOWER THEATER FOR 2010. IF YOU DO NOT TAKE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CARD YOUR PAY CHECK WILL BE DELAYED

ANNOUCEMENT FROM BENEFIT TRUSTEES

If you missed the last finance class or have never attended a finance class, you do not need to attend a finance class to move your Annuity money around. This restriction was lifted early in 2008. If you would like to log into your prudential account, you can do so by clicking [here](#). If your account is locked or you have forgotten your password, you must call the number which will appear on the screen to unlock it. If the person on the line tells you that you need to attend the class, call me and I will tell Prudential that your restriction has been lifted. Dan (215) 588 8030

ANNOUCEMENTS

All Members of the D List are reminded that they need to take at least 4 classes a year for the first 3 years they are on the list, and must take all 12 Core classes before they reach the B list. We have already had 12 of the 20 classes we will be offering this year and attendance has been very low (Even though there has been no work) Attached is an insert of the policy, please read it.

IATSE Local 8 has added a new page to our website. Announcing **HELP WANTED** the information on this page will provide opportunities for our members to earn income as a stage technician (union or non union) in our jurisdiction. Job opportunities not coming off the Referral Hall List will be posted. The union encourages our members to take these jobs. Jobs will be identified as union or non union. On non union jobs there will be no benefits

but members are required to pay the 3.5% percentage due the Local as per the Constitution. These earnings will go towards your Year of Service. On the non union jobs, you will be required to contact the Employer on your own and most likely be required to submit a resume and possibly interview. While the union cannot do this for you, we will be glad to assist along the way. The training, education and experience you have acquired as a union stagehand should give you a leg up on your competition. Jobs are now being posted on the IATSE Local 8 website on the left hand side under HELP WANTED. If you have any suggestions regarding this program or know of any jobs that can be posted, contact the Business Agent.

Your 2009 W-2's from Employers should be arriving. The Office has been informed some Employers may not be taking out Federal Income Tax. Please check to see if all deductions are being made and inform the Office if the deductions are not being taken out. This is also a good time to check your benefits. Local 8 contracts are being updated and posted on the website. Compare your gross wages on your W-2 to the amount being submitted to your Health Plan. (Health Plan contributions can be found on the iatsenbf website). Report any mistakes as soon as you can so that we can assist in correcting your account. The Office is assisting around 15 members with their Pension Applications. As of yesterday, I spoke with the Fund Office to move these applications along. We are aware of who is involved and what the issues are, we are working to get the situation corrected. I have contacted the KCI payroll regarding the severance package negotiated for the Academy House Crew. This affects the House Crew that was in place when KCI took over. We will contact you individually to update you on the status. (MJB)

Congratulations

Anthony Tortorice Jr and wife Stephanie on the birth of their son

Anthony Patrick

