

# May 2010 Newsletter

**The Next General Meeting** for IATSE Local 8 will be Wednesday May 5, 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 29th. 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. Failure to submit the proper dues could result in a warning and possible expulsion from the Local.

## Contracts

**Live Nation** negotiations are still underway. The Local received a letter from the International President offering assistance which the Local voted to accept at the April meeting. **Penns Landing's** contract has expired. The Local met with the Employer and presented a number of proposals. We are scheduled to meet to resolve the issues. This contract may be brought back to the membership for approval at the May meeting. **Philadelphia Orchestra** contract extension agreement was ratified at the April meeting. The POA crew agreed to match the wage freeze agreed to by the musicians union for this upcoming year. **Pin Point Lighting** maiden agreement will be brought back to the membership for discussion and a vote at the May Meeting. **Proof Productions, Doherty Rigging** were ratified at the April meeting. **Quinlan's Scenic Studio** is still in negotiations and if completed will be brought back to the membership for ratification.

**Lights of Liberty's** has cancelled its season this year. There will be no shows or work for this Employer for this year. Lights of Liberty has been running every season since 1999 with a crew of 15 to 20 Local 8 members. Many of the members of the union got their first year of service by working for this company. Lights will reopen next year with an updated show using a smaller tech crew. There will be a wrap/reunion party at Franklin Square for anyone who has worked for Lights since it opened. Time and Date are being worked out.

The Local has a meeting scheduled with **PSAV** on May 20<sup>th</sup> 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 is ongoing. 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 Newsletter** is 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 narrative submitted along with the grant gives a good overview of the upcoming educational agenda for Local 8. The narrative will be posted on the IATSE Local 8 website.

**International Executive Board Committee.** Philadelphia will be hosting the IATSE Executive Board Meetings from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Meetings will be held at the Sheraton on 16<sup>th</sup> and Arch. Locals 8, 52, 752, 799, 804, B-29, 600, 700, 161 and USA 829 will be the Host Locals. Local 8 is part of a Committee made up of the host Locals 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. Members interested in helping out can email Mike Barnes at [mbarnes@iatse8.com](mailto:mbarnes@iatse8.com)

**Building Update.** We continue to trudge through the mess of red tape thrown at us by the Bank to get the financing for the loan. We have heard the naysayers and conspiracy theories but the simple matter is Banks are not lending money the way they were before the recession. We are scheduled to close our loan with the Bank on Monday April 26th. The contractor is submitting application for the permits and we hope to break ground in May. As in the past, the political opportunist are attacking this project the same way they attacked the mergers with Camden and Trenton, getting Health Care for members without House jobs, the Convention Center contract, The Pension Plan and organizing new members. But the truth of the matter is, this is a small minority of the members and the actions of the past prove the decisions of the majority benefits this Local. I have no doubt that once completed, the Training Facility will be a tremendous benefit for the members of Local 8 and the same people attacking this project will attack whatever project the union takes on next. That is what democracy is all about.

### **TOWER THEATER ALL LIVE NATION PAYROLL**

We are aware of the ongoing problems with the Tower Theater payroll and are addressing the issues daily with management and through the contract negotiations. We ask members report any and all problems with this Employer to the Steward (Fred Maples) or the Office.

**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**

I have been working with President O'Shea to get Pensions for members of Local 8 qualifying for the Pension benefit. We have identified between 12 and 16 members that may be eligible to collect money. The information was sent to the iatsenbf. Determinations were sent to the identified members and applications for Pension are now arriving. If you are 65 years or older, you may be eligible for a Pension. Contact Mike Barnes or Chip O'Shea and we will help you get processed. The Pension is based on the

amount days and money you work and earn from Local 8 Employers. We successfully negotiated this benefit into our contracts over the last 8 years. Pensions are helping our retired members now and will become the primary revenue source for members retiring down the line.

The severance package negotiated for certain members who worked for the Academy of Music House Crew before the Kimmel Center opened should have received their annual health care contribution. Contribution amounts are \$3000 a year until age 65 and \$1600 a year for the remainder of their lifetime. This benefit obtained through a past negotiation continues to help those members offset the ever increasing health care cost. If you are eligible and have not received this contribution contact the Office.

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.



