

October 2010 Newsletter

The Next General Meeting for IATSE Local 8 will be Wednesday October 6th, 2010. The Meeting will be held at the Alhambra 2400 Swanson Street Philadelphia Pa. beginning 11:00 a.m. This facility is located across the street from our new union hall, behind Tony Lukes across the street from Foreman Mills. This will allow us to give members an updated tour of the facility. IATSE Local 8 meets the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00a.m.except during the months of June, July and August.

The Next Executive Board Meeting for IATSE Local 8 will be Monday October 4, 2010. The Meeting will be held at 2237 Hartranft Philadelphia Pa. beginning 11:00 a.m.

The Fourth 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.

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

Political Action: This month we raised close to \$9000 dollars that will go towards our Political Pac and offset the cost of the Golf Tournament. This money will be used to get IATSE Local 8 labor candidates elected. We are not a Democratic or Republican organization but rather a labor organization with one goal in mind to protect working people and more important working people that belong to Local 8. The two main issues we have identified for this election are the maintaining of the Customer Satisfaction Agreement at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. This building has been one of our top three Employers for the last fifteen years and with the expansion in March will easily be our number one supplier of jobs. Greedy contractors have convinced the PCC CEO that the unions must change dramatically in the building. This sentiment is being spread by the Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau and certain politicians. In order for IATSE Local 8 to get our message heard, we must participate financially as well as with volunteers for this upcoming election. If we do not, when the music stops, we may not have a seat in the game. The second issue is the Film Tax Credit. Without going into to much detail, Local 8 Stage-work is up around 10% from last year (2009) yet many of our members are making less. Do the math, Local 8 needs movies to help everyone on our list.

The successful **Golf Outing** and the successful **International Executive Board Meeting** in July demonstrates when Local 8 members work as a team we can accomplish great things. The Local is big and is involved with many important issues that require more of our members contribute. **The Building Committee** has been meeting at least once a week for the last three years to build our new education and training center. This Committee has not been paid a day for their efforts but as a result of their commitment, we are on the verge of a new age for our Local. 8.

A **Facilities Management Committee** has been picked that will be responsible for installing and maintaining equipment and the building after its completion. We will be having our first **Facility Management Committee Meeting Thursday September 30th 9:00AM at the INTECH Trailer located at the new building site.**

Going into our new facility, the **Education Committee** will begin meeting regularly to establish budgets and curriculums using our newly established **Education Trust Fund** that is being funded by our Employers contributions. As announced at the September meeting, we will be starting our **Retiree Committee**. This Committee will be open to any member 59 years or older. The purpose of the Committee will be to deal with issues affecting our true senior members including Pension applications, how to blend Medicare and the union Health Plan, Gold Card lunches etc. Many labor and community organizations lean heavily on their retired and senior members to use their knowledge, experience and time to help strengthen the organization. We will have our first **Retiree Committee Meeting Monday October 4th 12 noon at the Local 8 Office.** Any member 59 years or older is invited. Lunch will be provided.

Going into next year we anticipate work will increase significantly. The completion of the movie studio in January 2011 and the Convention Center expansion March 2011 in addition to the announced Outdoor shows and Lights of Liberty reopening fills up our calendar. To prepare and be ready for this growth, we will be scheduling a **Stewards Committee Meeting, Wednesday October 13th 12 noon at the Office.** These meetings in the past have provided great opportunities to get feedback from our jobsites. The regularly scheduled Local 8 meeting will be Wednesday October 8th. Members are always encouraged to attend these meetings to get all the information first hand and bring their ideas to help improve our Local.

Jobs and Job Actions

The Local has been active in negotiating deals for work outside of our normal venues. The picket line on 12th Street, PSAV Philadelphia Division at the Marriott, Zeo Brothers at the Franklin Institute, Chester Waterfront and West Philly Neighborhood Festival, Event EQ at the Obama Rally on 16th Street were all negotiated by picketing or threatening to picket. The Employers are using the unemployed workforce to fill jobs that should be going to Local 8. Economic pressures are forcing contractors to cut cost which many times ends up meaning cutting union labor. We continue to target these important jobs and appreciate the membership's help.

TCAP

The next TCAP class will be held on Tuesday November 28th at 10am at the Union Hall on Hartranft St. The class is called Hotel Skills and will consist of AV, Audio, Computers and Lighting. The class will begin promptly at 10am and end at 5pm and will count as 1 class. There are only 25 slots open so please register at classes@iatse8.com

November Election

Local 8 will be discussing and voting on candidates to endorse for the upcoming Pennsylvania and New Jersey races. Once endorsed, the Local will be asked to provide volunteers for labor walks, phone banks and Get Out the Vote activities. Please call the Office to put your name on a list to volunteer. We do not want to pester the membership by calling at the last minute to get bodies. Your time and commitment helps your union stay strong.

Congratulations

Michael (Mac) Barnes and Jaclyn who were wed this month

A belated wedding wish to Luke and Laura

Richard Ellerson on the birth of his daughter

Joe Gregorio on the birth of his daughter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the Country sputters its way out of the worst recession since the Great Depression of 1932, unemployment numbers and consumer confidence continues to lag. While the stock market has bounced back and the top banks have gotten their stability back, American Workers continue to bear the brunt of the pain.

It is no coincidence that after Ronald Reagan's attack on the Air traffic Controllers in the 80's and Bill Clinton's decision to push NAFTA and CAFTA through in the 90's, Americans started down a slippery slope. Big Business and the money people gutted union and manufacturing jobs and created paper wealth through the Internet Bubble, Stock market Bubble and Housing Bubble. But as we now have learned, paper wealth gets shredded and bubbles burst.

America was made strong through the Middle Class and the Middle Class was created by Unions. If America is to rebound, the politicians have to stop building our foundation on paper and bubbles and start building the future on good jobs that create good consumers to sustain long term health for this economy.

This type of long term planning takes patience and foresight. The same foresight demonstrated by IATSE Local 8 over the last twenty years. Through the combined efforts of this membership, we have taken the Local a long way. For example:

1. In 1992 the Local's total earnings were at 2.5 million. Today we are over 20 million.
2. In 1992 the membership stood at 152 members, today we have 428 members.
3. In 1992 only the Officers, Orchestra Crew and Academy House Crew had Health coverage. Today we have over 300 Extras covered by the plan.
4. In 1992 the Annuity stood at \$700,000, today we have over \$17,000,000 and have paid out millions to retirees.
5. In 1992 no one in Local 8 had a Pension. Today every working stagehand either has a Pension or is working on qualifying.
6. In 1992 our jurisdiction was the City of Philadelphia. Today we include in our jurisdiction Camden, Trenton, Norristown, Chester and the Pennsylvanian and New Jersey surrounding counties.
7. In 1992 we had no representation on any of the AFL-CIO Boards. Today Local 8 maintains a Vice President on the New Jersey State, Philadelphia County and south Jersey Boards.
8. In 1992 we had no formal Education Program for our members. Today we are 8 weeks from opening a six million dollar facility to train and educate our members.
9. In 1992 we had no Political Action. Today we are recognized as a political force in Federal, State and Local politics.
10. The local has established itself as a leader in the IATSE through a position on the General Executive Board and District leadership.

This is no doubt an impressive resume but we are from done. The plan in 1992 is essentially the same as it is today. Build the Local on good foundation principles. The principles then as they are now include:

1. Signed Contracts. Our Local has gone from less the 10 signed agreements in 1992 to over 60 signed term agreements today. No one knows what agreement will turn into the next Advanced, Liacoura, Tweeter or Penn contract so we continue to police our area aggressively to sign every employer in our jurisdiction.
2. Benefits. Local 8 like the rest of the country is trying to figure out the answer to rising health care cost. While we fight through this problem, we continue to provide our members with annuities, pension, vacation, dental, eyeglasses, death and disability benefits. Local 8's package has come a long

way and is to much of a benefit for our members to let it slip back to the days when little to no benefits were available to our members.

3. Education. While school is not everyone's favorite topic, it is essential to maintain our jobs going forward. Our new training facility will provide the best training available in the entertainment industry which in turn will increase earnings and create jobs for our members.

4. Political Action. Today's unions are as much about politics as any other activity we do for our members. The Convention Center and Film Tax Credit issues will make or break us in the next five years. Both these issues are in the hands of the politicians.

5. Organizing. The lifeblood on any union is organizing. Whether it is organizing a Shop like Bauder or organizing a job like the Obama Event. We must continue to push forward in this area.

Today's challenges are just that, today's challenges. If we continue to work together we will do better in achieving our goals. The immediate future of our Local fortunately is brighter then most labor organizations. Building Trades continue to suffer through a lack of new construction, Teachers are being attached for their contracts throughout the Country, Public sector workers are being blamed for higher taxes. Local 8 was fortunate to have a banner year in 2009 because of our role as the overflow Local for the movie industry. Our 2010 stage earnings are tracking higher then 2009. looking forward our 2011 numbers will increase dramatically as a result of the Convention Center Opening, KCI Festival, Outdoor Shows and reopening of lights of Liberty. We also look to benefit from the Sun Studio opening in January of 2011.

As challenges continue to confront Local 8, we must work together and put our union as a priority. For without this local, many of us would be a lot worse off.

*Sincerely,
Michael Barnes*