

March 2011 Newsletter

The Next General Meeting for IATSE Local 8 will be Wednesday March rd, 2011. The Meeting will be held at the IATSE Local 8 Union Hall 2401 Swanson Street Philadelphia Pa. beginning 11:00 a.m. IATSE Local 8 meets the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00a.m.except during the months of June, July and August.

The First 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.

International Quarterly Bulletin and other International correspondence are also available to you over the Internet. Members interested in going Green can register through the International's Home Page. It is easy to register. The link is located in the middle of the Home page. Call the Office if you need assistance.

The Office is transitioning to take advantage of more IT applications to service our growing membership. Please be patient as we work through the new phone system, we are almost there. Our plans also include updating our website to be more interactive which will include posting the dates and locations of upcoming jobs. We are also in the process of testing a web-based application that will allow us to get more information out quicker and earlier regarding jobs. Our goal is to provide more information regarding your work opportunities to you quicker, earlier and with more details so you can choose your job and increase your work opportunities.

This process will include identifying certain skills required to perform the work we are covering. The skills list will not be used to deny anyone work. We will use the list to make sure we cover our jurisdiction and develop the training programs to get more of our members the skills they need to increase their earning potential. As we plow through this process we ask the members for their input. We do not know everything, but do know we have to embrace technology to fill the upcoming busy work schedule we anticipate.

Contracts

Elliot Lewis in negotiations next meeting early March.
Live Nation in negotiations next meeting March 8th.
Ballet, Proof, Quinlan's are currently expired. Meetings will be scheduled.
Advanced. Tentative Agreement. We plan on a ratification vote at the Meeting.

Committees

Building/Facility Committee has been meeting regularly every other Thursday.

Pension Application Assistance is available at the Office. If you need help and will be attending, call the Office so we can prep the info for you before the Meeting.

Education classes have been being held at the new training facility. Over 47 members took a Power Point class over the week of February 11th. Also that week, over thirty people attended an orientation/knot tying course. Classes will continue to be scheduled to address certifications, advanced training and basic training. Members are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. We also need members to give the courses. The Committee thanks everyone who has volunteered to teach a class.

Political Action. Local 8 has endorsed Frank DiCicco, Bob Henon and David Oh in the upcoming primary races. We have been asked by Bob Henon to help get petitions in the 6th District. If you live in the 6th District and can help get petitions signed, call the Office.

The Film Tax Credit is under review. Local 8 has reacted with numbers through our email, Facebook and Texting efforts. The following link will give you info on who your Rep. is and how to contact them. Please take the time to help with this job creating initiative. <http://iatse489.capwiz.com/iatse489/home/>

Monday April 4th there will be a March Madness Political action function for Local 8 at the Union Hall. Tickets are \$25 dollars which includes a Beef and Beer. There will also be a Blockpool. This event will serve as a good way to develop fellowship among our members while raising money for our Pac. The event will start at 8:00PM on the 4th. Tickets can be purchased at the Office or through the Executive Board.

Local 8 participated by supplying the sound to rallies in Philadelphia and Trenton supporting the fight against union busting attacks going on in Wisconsin. Thanks to the volunteers. We will keep you updated on upcoming events.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we settle in to our new facility many exciting and challenging events are occurring. Education classes are taking place, political action activities are being scheduled, technology updates are underway and revenue is being generated.

At the start of this project, the members directed the Building Committee to construct the facility without raising percentage or dues. The Committee presented a 6.5 million dollar budget that was approved by the membership which was to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of the Race Street Building, A State Grant and Bank Loans.

We are in the process of settling some unresolved issues with the Architect and Contractor but can report the building came in on time on budget. Going forward the debt service to pay the Bank Loans, Utilities and Taxes will be offset by the lease agreement we have with the caterer. This will result in an immediate \$24,000 savings the Local was paying in rent at the Hartranft Street location. During the process the Local increased its physical assets by obtaining a new building, buying and owning a liquor license, buying and owning lights, sound, video and staging equipment (all of which were in addition and paid for within the building budget).

The PNC loan required we use one of the Local's CD during the construction process. We intend on repurchasing the CD upon settlement of the outstanding issues. Going into the project the Local had two CD's worth approximately \$225,000. Upon settlement we will maintain these two CDs' and add a \$90,000 Liquor License certificate along with the above mentioned equipment to our union assets.

Upon completion of all outstanding issues, an audit will be conducted and sent to the membership detailing the transactions associated with the construction of the new facility.

The Office also presented the 2011 Budget for membership approval at the February meeting. The budget for 2011 presented was a balanced budget anticipating additional revenue and decreased spending for the Local and included \$40,000 dollars for legal expenses. A separate recommendation was made at the meeting by the Executive Board to assess each member \$100 each to pay for litigation costs associated with the lawsuit filed against Local 8 by Michele Neese, Sal Dinapoli and Chris Flynn. A vote of the membership will be taken at the March meeting to decide on the Executive Board recommendation.

This above assessment is not needed nor being used to offset any cost associated with the construction of the new facility. Legal costs over the last three years have increased from \$15,000 a year to over \$100,000 this year primarily as a result of this litigation.

Members are encouraged to come to the meeting and participate in the discussion on how we intend to pay the increased legal bills.

Sincerely,

Michael Barnes
Business Agent

