

**International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture  
Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States  
and Canada AFL- CIO, CLC**



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**Atlanta Stage Technicians Local 927**

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**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 AT 1:00 PM AT THE  
LOCAL 479 MEETING HALL, 4220 INTERNATIONAL PARKWAY, ATLANTA 30354. PLEASE  
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL BE AT LOCAL 479  
MEETING HALL AT 11:00 AM ON THE SAME DAY.**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR UNION CARD FOR THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TO VERIFY THAT YOU ARE  
CURRENT ON YOUR UNION DUES.**

**PRIMARY VOTING MARCH 1**

The Georgia primary is Tuesday March 1. Everyone who gets this newsletter is a union member. Everyone here chose to become part of the IATSE for a chance for better wages and conditions and a voice at work. We chose to have money deducted from our wages to operate our local and its hiring hall. We chose to have members represent us in contract negotiations, grievances and arbitration. We chose to have a voice in meetings and union elections. In our most recent election, over 70% of the members voted. In the last general election, about 35% of Americans voted.

The upcoming presidential election is about our way of life. We could lose union protection and worker rights, we could permanently lose employee status for stage workers. We could lose federal protection for wage and hour law and more harsh unemployment, harsher than what we already are dealing with.

We can disagree on issues but we are all workers. We care about wages and conditions. If we want to preserve our right to collective bargaining, Weingarten, arbitration, overtime and minimum wages, then we need to consider voting for candidates that support those issues. Without them, you have no protection at work. Work is what pays your bills work is central to your way of life. Please consider this when you vote on March 1 and in every election coming up.

**ALL POLITICS ARE LOCAL**

When voting, please be aware of what is happening "down ticket". Not just the federal races for president, senators and house representatives but learn who holds state office. For us, the State Secretary of Labor is screwing us on unemployment. How many members voted straight republican and helped put this clown in office? The idea to deny workers unemployment benefits is his. We need to be smarter about what we are doing.

Learn who your state reps are. Find your state house district and state senate district. Learn the name of your representatives. Mine are Rahm Mayo and Elena Parent. I have met them and they know that I am a union

member and that I vote. They also know that I am active in my local and that I will try to get other union members to vote. I may not have a lot of money to give the campaigns but I will give time. They will know my name and they know that I will call them if I need help. Other people are doing the same thing so the elected official can be swayed by voters who are engaged and who take the time to let their representatives know that we are watching and we will hold them accountable. If our representatives are not working for you and your interests then they are working for someone else and their interests. Which is better for you?

### NEW MEETING VENUE, THE LOCAL 479 MEETING HALL

The first two meeting at the Local 479 meeting room went well. They have an exceptional building and their meeting facility is beautiful. They are being gracious to us and letting us use the room. When we are there we need to remember we are guests and that we must be respectful of their property. We must clean up after ourselves and we must return the room to them in the condition we got it. As we have our meetings, please consider what it would be like to move our offices there.

### AT THE FOX

On Friday February 19 we will have the Atlanta Blues Fest in the Fox. This has been a Civic Center show in the past and Eddie Rush is moving it to the Fox. Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> is Yanni. On the 25<sup>th</sup> we do NPR's Wait Wait, Don't Tell Me. The Experience Hendrix on the 27<sup>th</sup> to round out the month. We start March with The Sound of Music from the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>, Get the Led Out on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Moody Blues on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Legends of Hip Hop for two nights the 19-20<sup>th</sup>, and Kinky Boots starting March 29-April 3.

### AT CEPAC

There are a few house shows this month that will be staffed by CEPAC. They are Bill Maher, Lyle Lovett and Artsbridge. We are in at the end of the month with the Atlanta Opera Pirates of Penzance. The in is February 26 and it runs through March 13. We follow that with the Atlanta Ballet 20/20 Visionary going in on the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> with shows until the 20<sup>th</sup>. The month ends with three house shows, Artsbridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Natural Born Pranksters on the 25<sup>th</sup> and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Cirque Du Soleil returns to Atlantic Station with a load in starting on Tuesday February 23. We have five days of load in and one follow spot position on the show. Cirque is an outside job in February. It requires hard hats and safety vests. While Cirque will provide them, we request that member purchases a hard hat that fits and is comfortable. This is a trend in our industry and we need to be prepared. Cirque pays through UPA, union payroll out of San Diego.

### STEWARD CLASS TUESDAY MARCH 8

The monthly steward class will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, March 8 at 1:00PM at the union office. We are working on a daily steward report that stewards will fill out. It covers what happened that day on the call, did everyone show up on time, were there any issues at work, was anyone particularly good or bad, did we have new people and how did they do. Stewards are required by the referral procedure to report to this

information to the BA. The Steward is your representative on the job site but he is also the representative of the BA. The Steward is not a snitch but he is responsible for informing the BA about what happens on the call. This responsibility is shared by the department heads and the members on the call. If you see something wrong, write a note to your steward or your BA. Calling to tell the BA is not enough. If we are going to be a better work force, we need feedback from the jobsite.

### CIVIC CENTER

As of now we have a few more shows and another Family Feud before the building is torn down. The future looks bleak.

### TOOL CHECK ON THE JOB

We have members and referrals that are showing up to work without the required tools. This is not acceptable. Our list of required tools is in the referral procedure. It includes:

A 16 oz. hammer or heavier, an adjustable wrench, 8 inches or longer, straight blade screwdrivers with tips of 1/8, 1/4, and 3/16 inch, phillip's head screwdrivers with # 1 and # 2 tips, gloves, razor knife, flashlight, tape measure 25' or longer, tool belt or nail apron, pliers, diagonal wire cutter, allen key set, ratchet set and pencil.

That is 12 tools you are expected to have on your person at work plus a ratchet set. Every working hand must bring those tools to the job site every call. A Leatherman, Gerber or other knife is not an acceptable substitute for proper tools. Multi tool screwdrivers that switch between flat and phillips are acceptable. We are professional; stagehands and that is part of what professional stagehands do. In the coming months we will be doing random tool checks. If you do not have the required tools at the job site, you will be disciplined up to and including being sent home. **To the job site does not mean in my car. If you have to go to your car to get your tools you will be going home.**

### OPERA/ADP

If you have received a letter about a termination from The Opera via ADP, that letter was just a formality. No one has been terminated, the Atlanta Opera simply switched payroll companies from ADP to UTP Productions, Inc. Because of this everyone was terminated from the ADP system but your standing with the Opera is the same as it was before.

### ORGANIZING CASE LOSS

On the Wednesday before the February meeting, the Appeals court of the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit ruled in favor of Crew One and threw out the decision of the NLRB in our organizing drive at Crew One. This is a devastating loss to us and to all of Organized Labor. We are still trying to understand what this will mean to us but it is a slap in the face to the 161 workers who voted in favor of representation. The International is currently negotiating the Live Nation Amphitheater contract and is insisting that the Atlanta Amphitheaters for Live Nation be included in the agreement. This includes, Lakewood, Chastain and Verizon. The Live Nation takeover of Verizon operations was announced last week.

### YOUNG WORKERS (UNDER 35)

The AFL-CIO and the IATSE are investing in young workers. Tony Barlow with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) is the regional coordinator of the AFL-CIO program in the South. In Atlanta he helps run Atlanta Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT). They are recruiting young union members for fun social events and serious leadership training. They want to groom the next generation of labor leaders through

community action. If you fit this group or are young at heart and want to join in their projects, go to Atlanta leaders of Tomorrow on Facebook or contact Tony Barlow, tbarlow@cwa3204.org, 770 549 5259.

The IATSE is also organizing young workers. They are having a conference in Atlanta in May. The Local can nominate two members to go to this event. If you are interested, please contact the office and we will discuss who should go at the March meeting.

### UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Robert Weaver came to the February meeting and told us how to apply for unemployment. He stressed that we are union members working through the hiring hall and we are unemployed if the hiring hall does not call us for work. We are not employees at will. Make sure that the DOL understands that, even though you may return to work for that employer at some time in the future on another show, at the time of the claim you are not an employee of that employer and not working for that employer: the show is over, you are out of work. We are working on a ruling form for the Georgia DOL that you can bring with you when you file your claim that clarifies this.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Shari (Star) Mendez is being sponsored by Brian Hill, her application will receive its second reading and be voted on at our March meeting.

### NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

First quarter Union dues are due on or before January 1st, second quarter is due on or before April 1st, third quarter is due on or before July 1st and fourth quarter is due on or before October 1st. If payments are not post-dated by the 15th day of the month in which the quarter starts you will be charged a late fee. Quarterly dues are currently \$68.00 and the late fee is currently \$12.00.

According to my records, the following members have not paid their fourth quarter 2015 dues as of yet; Brian Frey, Lisimba Hazell and Marjorie Pomponio.

Also according to my records and along with the members listed above, the following have not paid their 1st quarter 2016 dues as of yet; Kristie Andrews, Randall Atcheson, Wayne Baugh, Ellen Chamberlain, Darren Clark, Frank Dey, Brian Frey, David Haynie, Jarrod Humphrey, Brandon Hurd, Scott Kepley, Joe Kendrick, J. Alan Kopley, Randy McGill, Robert McGovern, Sean Neal, Erika Schlaeger dos Santos, Sid Sikes, Alvin Simmons, Vanessa Smithen (\$3.00), Jerry Snyder, Antonio Tiggs, Jason Vargas, and Jerry Woolard.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mary Alexander, Eddy Allgood, Wayne Baugh, Phillip Burney Sr., Randy Carter, Ellen Chamberlin, Michael Durrett, Herman Hill, Kay Holsenbeck, Phillip Hutcheson, Carlos Jackson, Greg McDonald, Robert McGovern, Justin Muhammad, Ken Nagel and Kendrick Roberts. ☺