



# The E-NEW ENGLANDER



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## In This Issue

[2009 AFTRA National Convention](#)

[AFTRA Board](#)

[SAG Council](#)

[AFTRA/SAG Boston Partners with CP Casting for Casting Access](#)

[Contract Myths...Busted!](#)

[Boston Local Staff Profile](#)

## Boston Local Staff

Executive Director  
**Dona Sommers**

Assistant Executive Director  
**Tom Higgins**

Membership Director  
**Julie Wood**

Freelance Contracts Administrators  
**Andrew Dansker Vanessa Fazio**

Freelance Contracts and Special Projects  
**Jessica Maher**

Administrative Assistant  
**Robyn Linden**

Intern  
**David Garaffa**

## 2009 AFTRA National Convention

The bi-annual AFTRA National Convention will take place August 6 to 8, 2009 in Chicago. The Boston Local membership has elected 25 delegates, of which seven will attend the Convention at the expense of the Local. Those delegates include National Vice President Shelby Scott, National Board Member John Henning and Local President and National Board Member Paul Horn plus four additional delegates elected by the membership. Delegates were contacted in order of number of votes received until four delegates able to attend were confirmed. All elected delegates are welcome to attend the Convention at their own expense. Following are the Boston Delegates in order of votes received:

Bill Mootos*	Michele Proude	Vic Ramos
Byron Barnett*	Chuck Slavin	Doug Bowen-Flynn
Tom Kemp*	Barbara Ito	Debra Bogstie
Ellen Colton	Joe Stapleton	Fran Richmond
Andrea Lyman*	Rob Gati	Scott Gray
Mike Macklin	Mark Katic	Mike Lawrence
Rena Baskin	Al Terzi	Osmani Rodriguez
Jonathan Hall		

*\*AFTRA National Convention Attendees*

## AFTRA Board Elections

The 2009 AFTRA Local Board elections were uncontested; so it was not necessary to send an election ballot to the membership. The following members will serve as the Boston Local Board for a two year term from 2009 to 2011. In addition, Paul Horn and John Henning will continue as our National Board Members.

**Board Officers**

Paul Horn, President  
 Tom Kemp, 1st Vice President  
 Vic Ramos, 2nd Vice President  
 Ellen Colton, Treasurer  
 Joe Stapleton, Secretary

**Board Members**

Rena Baskin  
 Rob Gati  
 Barbara Ito  
 Mark Katic  
 Mike Lawrence  
 Mike Macklin  
 Nicole Oliverio  
 Osmani Rodriguez  
 Roy Souza

**SAG Council**

The following members are currently serving as the SAG Council for a three year term that began in 2008 through 2011.

**SAG Council**

Doug Bowen-Flynn, President	Steve Auger
Michele Proude, 1st Vice-President	Rena Baskin
Fran Richmond, 2nd Vice-President	Alecia Batson
Ellen Colton, Secretary	Ellen Becker-Gray
Bill Mootos, National Board Member	Francine M. Bouska
	Gabriel Field
	Rob Gray
	Mick Hoegan
	Andrea Lyman
	Dale Place

**AFTRA/SAG Boston Partners with CP Casting for Casting Access\***

One of the benefits of Union membership is the opportunity for actors to get seen by casting directors who may not have called them in before. Casting Access programs was designed for the mutual benefit of members, who get the opportunity to audition and for Casting Directors, who get to see a large number of members in a single day. Unfortunately, there are never as many slots as there are interested members, and meeting all the criteria and deadlines only makes a member eligible for submission to the casting director. The casting director then makes final selections from the list of eligible applicants.

On June 19th at the Park Plaza Hotel, CP Casting and the Boston SAG/AFTRA office teamed up to give 75 members the opportunity to audition for Carolyn Pickman in anticipation of several movies she will be casting this year. Members were asked to submit their information if they had not auditioned for CP Casting within the last three years. The list of eligible members in good standing

was then forwarded to Carolyn Pickman, who selected seventy-five members.

The program was a tremendous success both for members and for CP Casting. Carolyn Pickman was so impressed by our members that she has agreed to do a future Casting Access. We hope to have additional Casting Access events with other local casting directors in the near future.

Any members who would like clarification about the process, or would like a copy of the Casting Access guidelines should contact Julie Wood at [jwood@aftra.com](mailto:jwood@aftra.com) or call her at 617-262-8001

\*This program is not affiliated with the SAG Foundation's Casting Access Project.

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## Contract Myths..... Busted!

**Myth:** *As a member of the Union you cannot audition for a reality TV show or game show.*

**Fact:** The operative word here is "*audition.*" You can and should audition for any and all types of work. We suggest you go on auditions constantly to keep your auditioning skills sharp. When you get the part, call our office so we can determine what - if any - applicable contract this work might be under. As a general rule, if you are "portraying" yourself and are not scripted or performing on a game show or reality show, your work will not be covered by an AFTRA or SAG contract and would not be a "**Rule One**" violation. **But**, there are exceptions, so always call the office before accepting the engagement.

**Myth:** *There is no contract that covers commercials that will only be seen on the internet.*

**Fact:** The current AFTRA and SAG Television and AFTRA Radio Commercials Contracts covers "made for the internet commercials," but the contracts do not have set rates or use periods. Principal and extra performers can bargain those rates freely. The work must be covered by the applicable contract and by a union signatory, with SAG P&W and AFTRA H&R contributions made on all performer earnings. Free bargaining for "made for internet" commercials contract will disappear in 2011 when set rates kick in.

*Got questions? Have doubts? Have a myth you need busted? Call or e-mail the AFTRA/SAG office!*

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## Boston Local Staff Profile

Do you have a claim to file for commercial work? Is your session payment for a film late? Are you unsure of the amount of dues you owe? The staff of the Boston AFTRA/SAG office is available to assist you. Below you'll find our areas of work. If you are not sure who to call, dial the main number at (617) 262-8001 and the receptionist will direct your call. Additionally, staff members can be reached via e-mail.

### **Dona Sommers, Executive Director (ext 16)**

- Executive head of the joint AFTRA/SAG Office
- AFTRA and SAG Industry and Legislative Relations
- AFTRA and SAG Governance and Policy Issues
- [dsommers@aftra.com](mailto:dsommers@aftra.com)

### **Tom Higgins, Assistant Executive Director (ext 15)**

- AFTRA Station Staff Contracts
- AFTRA and SAG Public Television
- [thiggins@aftra.com](mailto:thiggins@aftra.com)

### **Julie Wood, Membership Director (ext 11)**

- AFTRA and SAG Freelance Membership
- AFTRA Broadcast Membership
- AFTRA and SAG Dues
- Liaison to the Conservatory Committee
- Office Management/Administration
- [jwood@aftra.com](mailto:jwood@aftra.com)

### **Andrew Dansker, Freelance Contracts Admin. (ext 17)**

- SAG Theatrical Agreements (short films to full features)
- SAG and AFTRA Television Agreements
- [adansker@aftra.com](mailto:adansker@aftra.com)

### **Vanessa Fazio, Freelance Contracts Admin. (ext 13)**

- AFTRA and SAG television commercials
- AFTRA radio commercials
- AFTRA and SAG Non-Broadcast Industrial Agreements
- AFTRA and SAG Interactive and New Media Agreements
- [vfazio@aftra.com](mailto:vfazio@aftra.com)

### **Jessica Maher, Freelance Contracts/Special Projects (ext 19)**

- AFTRA and SAG Communications
- Agency Matters
- Additional Freelance Contracts Support

- [jmaher@aftra.com](mailto:jmaher@aftra.com)

**Robyn Linden, Administrative Assistant (ext 10)**

- Reception/Phones
- Talent Check Processing
- Work Calls (Clearances)
- Hotline/It's a Blast
- Student Films
- [rlinden@aftra.com](mailto:rlinden@aftra.com)

In addition, our intern, David Garaffa, is assisting us through December 2009.

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