

play ▶ back

American Federation of Television and Radio Artists • Screen Actors Guild • CHICAGO



*"He who believes is strong;
he who doubts is weak."*

J.F. Clarke

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FALL 2011

SUPERMAN is™ DC Comics

Members At Work

This issue of *Playback* features photos showcasing our talented AFTRA and SAG members at work in Chicago and the Midwest. There has been quite a lot of production around the Midwest in the last few months.

Along with the Superman-themed project that Warner Brothers is currently shooting in Chicagoland, members are also enjoying another year of television work. Both *Boss* and *The Playboy Club* are sure to make up for the loss of the *The Chicago Code* and *Detroit 1-8-7*, which were such great opportunities for employment for Chicago's acting community. Despite everyone's hopes, neither was renewed for a second season.

Over the past year, Ohio has experienced a surge in theatrical production. Films like *The Ides of March*, *Liberal Arts*, *Boot Tracks*, *Fun Size* and *The Avengers* have been keeping Ohio members quite busy.

The independent film community is alive and well again in the Midwest after a few



James McDaniel, Preston Tate Jr. and Shaun Majumder on the set of *Detroit 1-8-7*.



The cast of *Fall Away*, written by and starring Chicago SAG member Grant Stokes.



The NBC series *The Playboy Club*, shot in Chicago, premiered on Monday, September 19.

Background Committee Formed

Chicago AFTRA/SAG has formed a committee to focus on background performers in our region. Though this market does not have television/theatrical background jurisdiction, the goal of the committee is to collect local data, educate our members and work with national background committee members to promote the necessity for national background coverage. The committee hopes to create a more unified background community and dispel myths about union vs. non-union work. Committee co-chairs are Jay Disney and January Stern.

Open to all interested members in good standing, please call the office to be notified of the next meeting, (312) 573-8081.

lean years due to the slow economy. Here are just a few of the films that we have seen come through these parts in the past year: *Three Blind Saints* and *You're Next* (filmed in Missouri); *Dead Weight* and *House of Purgatory* (Wisconsin); *Lumpy* and *Spirits of St. Paul* (Minnesota); *An Outlaws Tale* and *The Drunk* (Indiana); *Passageway* and *God Don't Make the Laws* (Ohio); *Dust of War* (South Dakota); *Just Like a Woman* and *Nate and Margaret* (Illinois).

Please forward us your photos and perhaps a tale or two of your experience on set or in studio so that we may include you in the next issue of *Playback*. Send your items to Linda Swenson, AFTRA/SAG Chicago's director of communications, at One East Erie, Suite 650, Chicago, IL 60611 or by email to lswenson@aftra.com.

MEMBERS AT WORK



Dead Weight, filmed under SAG's Ultra Low Budget agreement, stars Steve Herson.



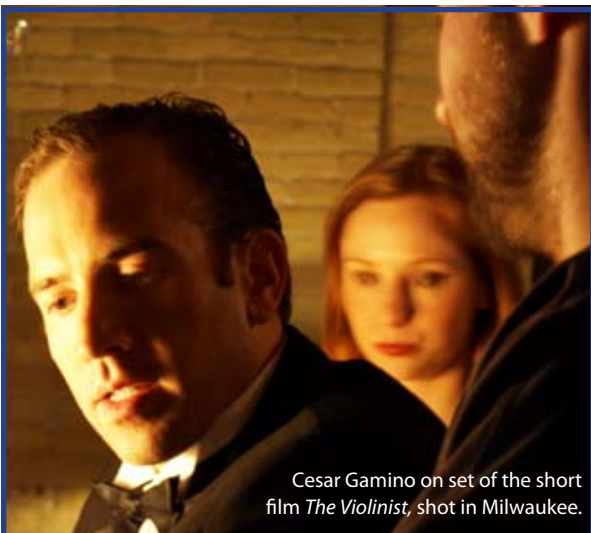
Natalie West and Tyler Ross star in *Nate and Margaret*.



Natalie Martinez, Jane Alderman and D.J. Cotrona on the set of *Detroit 1-8-7*.



Tom Gaitsch, Matt DeCarro, John Carter Brown, and Christian Stolte on the set of *Boss*. With Kelsey Grammer as the mayor of Chicago, the Starz drama premieres October 21.



Cesar Gamino on set of the short film *The Violinist*, shot in Milwaukee.



Producer/director Raza Siddiqui (front) and Jay Disney (back) on the set of *The Last Hug*.



AFTRA Members Re-elect Actor Roberta Reardon National President

More than 300 professional performers, broadcasters and sound recording artists — serving as Convention delegates elected by AFTRA members from 32 Locals and Chapters throughout the nation — assembled in Seattle on July 21-23 for the 63rd National Convention, the highest governing body of AFTRA. Included in the business accomplished, the delegates re-elected New York actor Roberta Reardon as the national president by unanimous acclamation.



AFTRA National Board member Dan Frick marches with UNITE HERE at the Westin Hotel.

“I am a proud member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. It is a tremendous privilege and an honor to represent AFTRA in the great halls of labor at the AFL-CIO, and to know that when I speak on behalf of AFTRA, I am representing this wonderful, complex and interwoven tapestry of members,” Reardon said. She also serves as a National Vice President of the AFL-CIO.

National First Vice President Bob Edwards, a satellite radio host from Washington, D.C., was re-elected to his post. Los Angeles actor Gabrielle Carteris was newly elected as National Second Vice President.

National Vice Presidents re-elected to office were Chicago broadcaster Craig Dellimore, San Francisco actor Denny Delk, New York actor Holter Graham, San Francisco broadcaster Bob Butler, Philadelphia television news producer Catherine Brown and Nashville recording artist Jim Ferguson. Denis Berkfeldt, an actor from Denver, was elected as a new Vice President of the Union.

Los Angeles actor Matt Kimbrough was re-elected National Treasurer, and New York actor Lainie Cooke was re-elected National Recording Secretary. All officers serve two-year terms.

Earlier in the day, during her President’s Report to the Delegates, Reardon articulated her hope for a single new union through the combined memberships of AFTRA and Screen Actors Guild: “AFTRA members look at the landscape of our industries and we see the tides of change rolling in: We understand that companies

have consolidated their power, and that we face corporations who have learned that diversification is the key to their success. We know that union members need more power to deal with these international giants, more power as we face the digital era that is fast upon us and more power as we struggle with increasing demands of a work world that has become more unorganized as it grows.”

In her report to Convention Delegates, AFTRA National Executive Director Kim Roberts Hedgpeth — a 30-year veteran of AFTRA and the entertainment and media labor movement — also expressed her support for the union’s efforts to unite AFTRA and SAG into a single, powerful new union, saying: “I’m the daughter of two performers, both of whom were members of multiple unions, so I’ve always recognized that it was smart to combine AFTRA and SAG — as a start. I hope that this time, the third time, will finally be the charm.”

Convention delegates passed a resolution affirming the 2011 Convention’s “commitment to the process of uniting AFTRA and SAG,” and endorsing the efforts of the AFTRA New Union Committee to develop a plan that would result in a “strong, unified successor union.” The resolution also dissolves all prior Convention resolutions regarding previous attempts, and further requires the National Board to keep the members informed of the progress of the discussions.

In other actions, delegates unanimously passed a resolution instructing the union to develop and distribute educational materials on “right-to-work” legislation and the harmful impact on members and union organizing efforts.

Peoria’s Garry Moore Addresses 2011 AFTRA National Convention

Many of the delegates reported that AFTRA Peoria President Garry Moore’s impassioned speech about the efforts of his fellow broadcasters was a highlight of the convention. Prior to his speaking, delegates were shown a video produced by AFTRA Peoria regarding the broadcasters’ struggle. The video and Moore’s address can be viewed at AFTRA.com.



Chicago Board Member Daniel Mooney (center) with Local vice presidents Richard Steele (left) and Richard Shavzin.



Chicago delegates Diane Dorsey (center), SAG Branch President Ilyssa Fradin and AFTRA Local President Craig Dellimore.

Craig Dellimore Re-Elected as AFTRA National VP

AFTRA Chicago President and broadcaster Craig Dellimore was re-elected to his office of AFTRA national vice president at the 63rd AFTRA National Convention. He was first elected in 2009.

“I’m grateful to the delegates for the chance to continue serving our union and the AFTRA Chicago Local. We’ve got a lot of challenges facing us, and I’m excited to be able to contribute in any way I can,” said Dellimore.

Dellimore is the political editor for WBBM Newsradio 780, the CBS all-news station in Chicago. It is a post he has held since 2001. Dellimore joined WBBM in 1983, after several years with the Associated Press Radio Network in Washington, D.C. During his years with WBBM, he has performed a variety of jobs, including anchor, managing editor, legislative correspondent and suburban bureau chief. Dellimore has covered several national political conventions for WBBM, and works out of Chicago’s City Hall.

SOLID RARITY

by Allen D. Edge

Chicago Local board member and first-time delegate

“*Hey kids here’s a barn*, let’s put on a show. I can act. You can sing. She can dance, and we have somebody to get the news out. We got a hit!” While the beginning of AFTRA may not have been that simplistic or schmaltzy, it did have the elements of diversity and solidarity that have become its trademark. On September 17, 1952, the Television Authority and AFTRA merged to create a new union: the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. This rich history of diversity and fearless solidarity was played out before me at the AFTRA National Convention in Seattle. I was a first-time delegate. I was a volunteer at the Chicago Convention two years ago, but there’s nothing like being on the inside.

I was overwhelmed by the revelations of not just the corporate greed and discounting of human rights, but how well planned and focused

It was refreshing to experience and be part of a unified body moving forward in solidarity.

the forces of evil are. It was evident that those of us who care about the rights of workers and people in general must become as intentional and proactive, if not more, than those who would enslave us...once again. The testimonies about the abuse of workers and employee inequality were reminiscent of the 1930s. The rapid decline of union density in the United States is alarming. However, I was encouraged by the spirit of my fellow AFTRA members.

A highlight of the convention for me was marching with UNITE HERE workers at the Westin Hotel. The hotel workers union was my first union 42 years ago. My mom drew her pension from SEIU. I was honored to walk the picket line with the workers at the Westin who are in a difficult contract negotiation with management.

Once again, AFTRA is evolving into a union that reflects the technological and societal advances of today. Hey kids, here’s a world. Let’s create a society that reflects the rich diversity and talent that has made the United States of America the most successful social experiment of all time. During this time of a fractured political system and partisan politics, it was refreshing to experience and be part of a unified body moving forward in solidarity. It was indeed a **Solid Rarity**. I pray that my next “first time” as a delegate will be at the First National Convention of The New Union. We are one. We are union.



In June, to celebrate its 10th anniversary, Free Spirit Media hosted a gala fundraiser at the historic Café Brauer in the Lincoln Park Zoo. The event featured live music, raffles, a silent auction and an amazing testimonial video showing a deeper look into the many lives FSM has changed forever.

Since 2001, FSM has recognized a need for digital media arts education by providing instruction, access and opportunity in media production to more than 500 of Chicago's underserved urban youth every year. AFTRA/SAG Chicago is proud to be an industry partner. To learn more and help support FSM's vibrant mission, please visit freespiritmedia.org. ▲



As part of ShortsLab: Chicago, SAG Branch President Ilyssa Fradin was a featured speaker on a panel focusing on production. Fradin spoke about working with SAG actors and SAG contracts.

The May event, presented by the Sundance Institute, was a three-part, all-day educational workshop. A full day of seminars, screenings and panels, ShortsLab: Chicago offered filmmakers firsthand insight and access into the world of story development, production and exhibition of narrative short-form storytelling. ▼



Justin Butler and Susan Sherman

On behalf of her son Justin, a Chicago SAG member, Sandi Butler nominated Susan Sherman of Ambassador Talent as May's SAG Agent of the Month.

"Justin is 12 years old and has been with Susan for more than five years. He has an older brother who is non-union but awaiting a SAG job so he can join as well." Butler wrote, "As a mom, I feel like I have an 'agent mom' watching over and protecting my boys, as well as promoting them like they were her own kids. Susan goes above and beyond being an agent. She thinks of them as her 'people' and not only her 'clients.' Susan is always upbeat and very encouraging. When my kids get a callback, she screams louder than I do — and I'm their mom! I feel confident that my boys are being guided by a qualified agent who always has their best interests at heart. Yet, I feel that she's more than just our agent, she's a good friend, too."

Are you represented by a terrific, franchised agent that you believe does not get the recognition that he or she deserves? Let us know and he or she may just be our next Agent of the Month. Send entries by email to agentquestion@sag.org, or by mail to SAG Agent of the Month, SAG Agency Department, 5757 Wilshire Blvd., 7th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90036-3600. We look forward to hearing from you! ►

In June, the SAG Foundation welcomed a new executive director, Jill Seltzer. Seltzer previously served as vice president of institutional advancement at WBEZ Chicago Public Media, where even in a recession she helped to exceed the station's \$15 million capital campaign goal. From 2005 to 2008, Seltzer worked with the Los Angeles-based Weingart Foundation.

"I am thrilled to be back in Los Angeles and working with such a respected and involved nonprofit as the Screen Actors Guild Foundation," said Seltzer. "For every actor that you see in film or on television, there are hundreds of additional actors struggling to make it big in this challenging industry. We are proud to provide actors with resources through the SAG Foundation Catastrophic Health Fund, which will make their journey a little easier, particularly in times of crisis."

Founded in 1985, the Screen Actors Guild Foundation is an educational, humanitarian and philanthropic 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Governed and funded independently of SAG, the SAG Foundation offers substantive services to Guild members, free of charge. For more information, please visit sagfoundation.org or call (323) 549-6708. ▼

It's Easy to Double Your Support for the KMRC

The Board of Directors of the Kaufherr Members Resource Center (KMRC), Inc. has launched a campaign to raise a \$1.5 million endowment fund that will secure the financial stability of the KMRC far into the future. The investment income from the fund will be used to cover the \$60,000 annual operating costs (rent, electricity, Internet, telephone, part-time staff, etc.), equipment, software upgrades and program development for the center. This effort will ensure that the KMRC will remain open and free to actors, singers and broadcasters who are in good standing with their unions.

The campaign is directed to AFTRA, SAG and AEA members, as well as local businesses in the visual media and production industries, ad agencies, commercial and film producers, studios, and television networks. In September, AFTRA and SAG members received a brochure announcing the campaign, and have the opportunity to make a three-year pledge to the endowment fund.

The Board is gratified to announce that Eileen Willenborg, former executive director of AFTRA/SAG Chicago and president of the KMRC, Inc. Board, has issued a challenge pledge to the campaign: She will match every dollar raised up to \$50,000, so that we can add \$100,000 to the fund! Willenborg said, "I hope this matching challenge will motivate union members to make pledges early in the campaign, and that it will also motivate businesses and others who rely on and work with professional performers in Chicago to contribute to the KMRC Endowment Fund."

In 2000, Jerry Kaufherr's lawyer contacted Willenborg and invited the unions to propose a project that would receive initial financial support from a charitable trust Kaufherr had established. With the help of a group of members, Willenborg proposed the creation of a multipurpose resource center available free of charge to AFTRA/SAG/AEA members in good standing. The trustees of the Kaufherr Trust embraced the proposal, in part because Kaufherr had tried to develop a

similar concept during his years as an AFTRA/SAG leader in Chicago. As directed in Kaufherr's will, the Kaufherr Trust went out of existence in 2010, and now the KMRC must find alternative funding sources if it is to remain a vital resource for Chicago's professional performers.

Willenborg said, "The KMRC offers invaluable support to union performers in all stages of their careers. Free access to the audio and on-camera recording and editing capabilities saves each member hundreds of dollars each time they use the studios. With over 30,000 registered visits since its opening in 2001, countless performers have used the audio or video studio to create marketing tools or to record audition materials that have resulted in **work** for AFTRA/SAG members. The computer center, schmooze room, rehearsal space and script/video library are resources that performers can access and rely on

every weekday. I think we have served Jerry's vision well for the past 10 years, but it is time now for all of us to think about the needs of the next generation of union performers. By making a three-year pledge to the KMRC Endowment Fund, today's members will keep the KMRC open and free for future AFTRA/SAG members in Chicago!"



In August, Fern Orenstein (left), CBS Casting vice president, presented her acclaimed workshop to more than 30 AFTRA and SAG members in the KMRC.

KMRC HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY until 9 p.m.

FREE for AFTRA, SAG and AEA members in good standing.

Follow the KMRC on Facebook & Twitter

You can now stay up to date on all of the events and training offered at the KMRC using Facebook and Twitter. Go to KMRCChicago.com and click on the links to Facebook and Twitter.



Volunteers needed! Join a fun group and talk to your fellow actors. The KMRC is calling all Chicago members about the KMRC Endowment Campaign. For more information and to volunteer, please call Richard Hatfield at (312) 573-8081 or (630) 689-7325. Thank you for your support.



Corporate/Educational Contract Ratified

Members of both AFTRA and SAG overwhelmingly accepted the three-year contract terms for the jointly negotiated Producers-AFTRA National Code of Fair Practice for Corporate/Educational Recorded Material and the Screen Actors Guild 2011 Codified Corporate/Educational and Non-Broadcast Contract. Overall, the memberships of SAG and AFTRA voted 95 percent to 5 percent in favor of the new agreement. Ballots were mailed May 9 to 136,585 eligible SAG and AFTRA members, and the deadline for returning them was June 8. The vote represented a 22-percent return in ballots among members.

Minimum compensation increased by 2 percent effective May 1, 2011 and will increase by another 2 percent effective November 1, 2012. Members also receive a bump in P&H contributions, from 15.3 percent to 15.5 percent.

New day rates for on-camera principals are now \$480.50 for Category I and \$597.50 for Category II. The on-camera narrator/spokesperson rate is \$873.50 for Category I and \$1,035.50 for Category II. For definitions of the categories and a complete look at the contract, visit AFTRA.com or SAG.org.

AFTRA Chief Negotiator and Assistant National Executive Director Mathis L. Dunn Jr. said, "It is our belief that this new agreement is a win-win situation: It provides opportunities for more producers to create high-quality, polished productions by employing AFTRA's professional performers, and enables us to increase union work opportunities for our members."

"The voting results show SAG and AFTRA members embrace the gains being delivered by this agreement," said SAG Deputy National Executive Director for Contracts Ray Rodriguez. "We expect this contract will also provide a foundation for increasing the number of non-broadcast, industrial and educational productions, providing additional work for our members."

New AFTRA Videogame Contract Ratified

Agreement includes new, industry-exclusive streaming fee for 'cloud gaming'

In July, AFTRA members ratified a new Interactive Media Agreement, covering AFTRA members who work in videogames. The previous contract expired on June 30, 2011.

AFTRA members approved the new agreement by a vote of 85 percent in favor. Electronic voting by approximately 1,916 affected members commenced on June 27 by phone and the Internet. Voting results were tabulated by TrueBallot Election Services and Solutions, a company based in Bethesda, Md.

The new pact includes a groundbreaking provision: the industry's first-ever streaming payment paid to performers in the form of a new cloud gaming fee. The new agreement will be effective retroactively to July 1, 2011 and expire on December 31, 2014.

"I am so pleased and proud that AFTRA members have ratified this new agreement," said Gabrielle Carteris, co-chair of the AFTRA Interactive Negotiating Committee and Los Angeles Local president. "We now have sufficient time to grow more work for members, harness our resources, organize performers and prepare for future negotiations."

The new cloud gaming fee is an additional one-time payment of 15 percent of the session fee that will be paid to every principal performer engaged on a videogame made available on streaming services.

"Since the 1990s, the AFTRA Interactive Media Agreement has generated millions of dollars in earnings and benefits for union performers, and over the years, AFTRA members have organized to nurture, protect and improve terms and conditions for performers working in this rapidly growing, multibillion dollar industry," said Mathis L. Dunn Jr., AFTRA chief negotiator and assistant national executive director. "Cloud gaming is where this industry is headed and AFTRA is in on the ground floor. This is a significant victory for AFTRA members."

AFTRA negotiated the first union agreement covering performers who work in videogames in the early 1990s. The AFTRA Interactive Media Agreement covers performers who work in interactive media, including personal computer programs, arcade games and interactive computer and video animation. Experienced AFTRA performers working under the contract include voiceover performers, actors, dancers, singers, recording artists, sportscasters and other professionals whose talents improve the efficiency and quality of the gaming experience.



United to Fight Content Theft

*Entertainment Community Announces
Grassroots Organization to Fight Content Theft*

AFTRA and Screen Actors Guild have teamed up with Directors Guild of America, IATSE and major studios and networks to launch the Creative America initiative to discourage content theft and educate the public about its harmful effects.

Content theft affects all of us.

- Websites trafficking in stolen film and TV content get nearly 150 million visits every day, more than 50 billion visits per year.
- Content theft isn't just about movies. TV shows are illegally streamed and downloaded millions of times each week.
- Content theft threatens more than 2 million jobs supported by the film and television industry in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.
- The vast majority of workers in film and TV are middle class, earning \$55K a year on average. These are the people hurt by content theft.
- Content theft has already cost 140,000 U.S. jobs, along with \$5 billion in wages and revenues for residuals and pensions.

Why you should join

Creative America is a grassroots organization uniting the entertainment community and others against content theft. Creative America brings together actors, directors, craft professionals, editors, cinematographers, small businesses that service the industry, studio employees and others who make a living in and care about film and television.

Sign-up now at CreativeAmerica.org. On the site, supporters can learn more about content theft and what it means for them, email Congress and get updates on pending legislation. Follow on Twitter at @CreativeAmerica and through Facebook.

**MEMBER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for
AFTRA/SAG RAPID RESPONSE TEAM**

- LABOR RALLIES
- JOB ACTIONS
- COMMUNITY EVENTS
- PARADES
- INFORMATIONAL PICKETING

CONTACT: ANDY LARSON
AFTRA/SAG Chicago
(312) 573-8081
alarson@aftra.com



I WANT YOU!

Chicago SAG/AFTRA One Union Blood Drive

Over the past six years, more than 130 pints have been collected through the annual SAG Chicago blood drives. With each donation having the potential to save up to three lives,



Madelineine Fallon
and Anne Jacques

that means members of SAG, AFTRA and AEA came together for the benefit of nearly 400 people. Could there be a better example of union performers united for the greater good?

As SAG and AFTRA move ever-closer to unification, it seems only right to dedicate this year's blood drive to merging these two great unions once and for all. On Monday, October 17, the Chicago SAG/AFTRA One Union Blood Drive will take place at the KMRC from 1 to 7 p.m. Once again, The Actors Fund will be providing free flu shots (from 2 to 6 p.m.). There will be a few more surprises as well! Watch *The Activator* for details. Stay tuned!



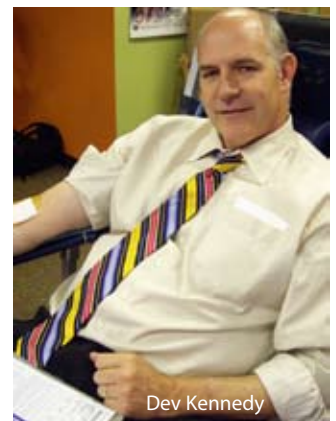
Craig J. Harris

Come to...

- **Give Blood**
- **Get a Flu Shot**
- **Support Your Friends**
- **Save Lives**
- **Show You Care!**

October 17
1 to 7 p.m.
in the KMRC

Please contact Kathy Byrne at the AFTRA/SAG office to sign up, phone (312) 573-8081 or email kbyrne@aftra.com.



Dev Kennedy





Eric Chaudron

“This Country will not be a good place for any of us to live unless we make it a good place for all of us to live.”
Teddy Roosevelt said these words in 1910. He lived and led through an era with many of the same challenges that currently face our country and our union. The challenges facing each of us, our families, our country and our union are daunting, but not insurmountable.

Roosevelt didn’t make that statement in a vacuum. The time commonly referred to as the “Gilded Age” was ending, and the Progressive Era was just commencing. As a result of Roosevelt’s efforts, and that of reform-minded legislators and citizens of both parties in years to come, it also marked a significant turn to the belief that creating and sustaining a strong middle class in this country was the key to prosperity for all Americans. Roosevelt believed in strong trade unions and corporations that played by the rules. His policies laid the groundwork that others would continue in order to create a vibrant labor movement in the years following his presidency.

Our union has its roots in the era Theodore Roosevelt nurtured and that his cousin Franklin helped bring in to full bloom. SAG was formed in 1933 by actors fed up with grueling hours working for the movie studios. AFTRA (the forerunner of AFTRA) was formed in 1937 by performers in New York City who, sensing the tide of trade unionism sweeping the country and desiring representation in the studio, fought for the right to speak as a single voice to owners in the workplace.

We will always be a forward-thinking, innovative and future-focused union in Chicago. At the same time, we have to understand that the conditions, benefits and pay we receive came at a cost to past generations who fought for the rights you and I enjoy. The key to their success was that they worked *together*. These people pooled their talents and actively worked to make the union vital and strong.

The success of a union is always measured by how many members are involved and working for the benefit of everyone in the union. With that in mind, we are beginning several new initiatives to involve you, the member, to help all of us grow and prosper during these difficult times. Here is my challenge to you:

We want you to step up and take ownership of your union in one or more of the following ways: First, **help us on our Rapid Response Team**. There are many events where we need to have a presence. Whether it’s a job action, attendance at union-sponsored or sanctioned functions, volunteering for charitable causes on behalf of the union, or supporting your fellow members in their performances and appearances in the community, we need to be a visible presence in Chicago and in the Midwest. We do this by agreeing to make a commitment of time to raise the profile of this union in the community. We want Chicago to recognize that we are an important part of the community.

Second, **join an AFTRA/SAG committee**. We have a lot of great committees that are just waiting for talented, energetic and smart folks (that means you) to take them to the next level. The Senior Radio Players and their Health and Wellness subcommittee, the Diversity Committee, the Singers Committee, the KMRC Committee, the Emerging Media Committee and the Conservatory Committee are just a few of the vibrant groups meeting regularly to fulfill AFTRA/SAG’s mission of creating opportunity for membership while raising the profile of our organization.

Finally, **communicate with us/communicate for us**. We are expanding our outreach to the community. As an entertainment, media and performers’ union, we have a built-in allure and appeal. It behooves us to be out in our community supporting causes and attending events as **AFTRA** and **SAG** members.

AFTRA
LOCAL PRESIDENT



Craig Dellimore

I’m writing this on the plane headed back to Chicago from the AFTRA 63rd National Convention in Seattle, Wash. It was a convention dominated by the challenges this union faces as it moves closer to the creation of a new union, in conjunction with Screen Actors Guild.

I’m thinking about some of the moments from this gathering that will stay vividly in my mind, and there are many. Some were uplifting; some were troubling; and some were gratifying.

Most troubling, perhaps, was a series of slides that AFTRA National Executive Director Kim Roberts used to illustrate her report to the convention delegates. It showed the percentage of all union jobs across the country over the years. They showed that so-called “union density” has dramatically declined. Not so long ago, many states could

Member: n, An individual belonging to a group such as a society or team.

Seems simple enough. A society is a community of people working together for a common good. A team is a group of individuals working as one towards a winning goal.

We are members of Screen Actors Guild. What does that mean, really?

Well, to me that means I am part of a larger community working together like a team. As members of our very unique union, we have to change our attitude of what's best for 'me', and think about what's best for the community if we want to continue to thrive and move towards the common goal of success.

I believe the success of actors is dependent upon many things — talent, skill, education, luck — but most importantly, success happens when we make connections and build relationships and work as a team, whether at an audition, on set, or in negotiations. I can't think of a single acting experience that is done completely alone.

Being a part of this team comes with many benefits, none greater than our collectively bargained agreement (CBA). These agreements (contracts) are created to protect the members and provide solid wages and safe working conditions. Every time a member works without a contract or "off the card," they threaten the very

boast of a significant share of jobs held by union members. But, as the years have become more recent, fewer and fewer states have many union jobs at all. The South has all but disappeared from that map. You can blame so-called "right to work" laws for that.

Reasons for hope could be found in the sobering PowerPoint presentation used by National President Roberta Reardon. She showed that the top entertainment conglomerates from NBCUniversal to Disney/ABC and Fox control companies that span the constellation of professions AFTRA and SAG represent. They create everything from movies, broadcast television shows and cable networks to sound recordings and audio books. But, she also showed that it's possible to bring pressure on these businesses and their partners as we negotiate contracts and organize. One chart showed the companies where AFTRA can exert influence. Another showed where SAG could hold sway. There was little overlap. When the two charts were combined, it showed that one union could be strong through much of the industry. It was a compelling argument for combining our resources.

Uplifting moments could be found in videos shown throughout the convention, including reminders of AFTRA's support for embattled public employees in Wisconsin, the activism of National Public

Radio's AFTRA members in Washington who won themselves a good contract, and efforts to organize dancers in Los Angeles.

protections our community has fought so hard to secure for each and every member. If a member chooses to work — and even if it's done unknowingly — without a contract, it negatively affects everyone in our broader community. It makes our CBA weaker and our talent worth less.



Ilyssa Fradin

I know some may think being a member of SAG is an elite, special privilege, like belonging to a club. A member or pre-member may even think, "Why should I help or follow the rules of the union? What has it done for me?" If you can't see it as a community or team, why not look at it more like being a member of a family. A family that fights for each other, supports each other, and gives guidance and assistance when needed — no matter what. I would never turn my back on my family.

Next time someone asks if you're a member of SAG, proudly and honestly reply, "YES," and know that you are part of a winning team, a stronger community, a protective family.

A moment that pulled it all together came when Peoria AFTRA Local President Garry Moore outlined the struggles of members at WEEK/WHOI-TV. Owner Granite Television wants to outsource its local news operation to a television station in Indiana. AFTRAns produced an effective YouTube video to make the case for keeping local news in Peoria local. And the on-air staff has been vocal and persevered against enormous pressures...and the threat of losing their jobs. Actor Amy Aquino, who is both an AFTRA member and Secretary-Treasurer of the Screen Actors Guild, stood up to say the presentation moved her, among others, to tears. And she pledged that she would urge SAG to stand with the broadcasters in Peoria too. As AFTRA Chicago Local 1st Vice President Richard Shavizin said to me amid all the thunderous applause for Aquino's remarks, "This is why we need one union." Amen, brother!

Finally, for a gratifying moment, I was re-elected a national vice-president for this union. I am humbled and honored to be allowed to continue to serve you. There are many challenges facing us right now, and in the future. But we face them as one. And, that gives me hope.

www.aftra.com | playback | 11



AFTRA Members Hold 'Day of Reckoning' Rally for WEEK/WHOI-TV in Central Illinois

On July 15, members of the Peoria Local of AFTRA held a 'Day of Reckoning' rally for WEEK/WHOI-TV. They were joined by community and business allies, including local labor, civic and religious leaders, and staff from the Chicago Local.

The news team at WEEK/WHOI-TV, who are members of AFTRA, protested the company imposing its "last, best and final" proposal to employees, despite repeated offers by AFTRA negotiators to return to the negotiating table.



AFTRA members began contract negotiations with station owners in November 2010. The negotiations stalled on February 18, 2011, despite months of good-faith bargaining and offers of compromise by AFTRA members to many of the

corporation's proposals. Since then, AFTRA members have continued to work without a contract. The station's owners unilaterally imposed the new terms on July 16, 2011.

The corporation's move to impose its proposals on the WEEK/WHOI-TV news team subjected the employees to a number of substandard working conditions that threatens to damage the station's ability to deliver local news to the Central Illinois community.

"The corporate negotiators' proposals open the door to have the local news we have delivered to our community for decades outsourced some 300 miles away to Fort Wayne, Ind., allow nonprofessionals to do our work and include a host of other takeaways. The corporation's terms seriously compromise our ability to do our jobs well, and undermine the commitment that the WEEK/WHOI-TV AFTRA members have made to provide our viewers in Central Illinois with the quality local news they deserve," said Garry Moore, AFTRA Peoria Local President.

Moore continued: "The corporation's decision to impose is revealing: Silver Point Capital, which owns Granite Broadcasting, is a private investment firm based in Greenwich, Conn., and it is investing in a posh \$4 billion casino in Macau, China. Clearly, this is a corporation that is more concerned about its investments in China than providing our families, friends and community with quality news from the names and faces they know and trust. Imposing this contract is an insult to the community."

In addition to Granite Broadcasting, which operates stations in local markets around the country, Silver Point Capital has holdings in various industries in the United States. In 2005, Silver Point acquired a controlling interest in FiberMark, an upstate New York company. Shortly after Silver Point took over the operations of FiberMark, the firm implemented devastating changes for the work force, including cutting wages and benefits for working families. A few years later, Silver Point Capital sold FiberMark for a profit. The firm also



has an account, through Silver Point Capital Offshore Fund, in the Cayman Islands and offices in the United Kingdom.

A recent petition drive garnered more than 2,700 signatures from area residents in support of the 30 AFTRA employees at WEEK/WHOI-TV who provide professional, quality local news and weather in Central Illinois. You can follow the efforts of the Peoria broadcasters Peoria AFTRA on Facebook.

In Chicago -

WCPT On-Air and Support Staff Say YES to AFTRA Representation

After a focused effort by WCPT-AM/FM broadcast personnel, station ownership and management have agreed to recognize the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists as the bargaining agent for its on-air and broadcast support staff.

“We are pleased that management has seen the wisdom in allowing their employees to bargain for a fair contract,” stated Eric Chaudron, Chicago AFTRA/SAG executive director. “WCPT is a leader in progressive talk radio in the United States. They have taken a big step to ‘put their money where their mouth is’ with their employees. Our members look

forward to a productive and successful relationship with WCPT in the years to come.”

Unlike a traditional station-organizing campaign using election procedures provided by the National Labor Relations Act, station ownership and management at WCPT-AM/FM agreed to abide by a card check procedure — a first in the Chicago market. On Wednesday, August 17, a neutral third party collected cards from employees, affirming that a majority of the on-air and broadcast support staff wanted to be represented by AFTRA.

Weinbaum Named Chicago’s Director of Broadcast

AFTRA Chicago is pleased to announce that Paula Weinbaum has been named director of broadcast. On staff since 2006, Paula has been extraordinary in the Local’s negotiation of TV contracts during this very challenging time in the broadcast industry.

“Paula has helped spearhead AFTRA Chicago into a new media environment, while maintaining protections and high standards for our members,” said Chicago AFTRA/SAG Executive Director Eric Chaudron. “We’re excited that she has accepted this position and will be a dynamic department head.”

Her long service in the labor movement began as soon as Paula completed her law degree at Wayne State University, first working for the National Labor Relations Board in Washington D.C., then as staff attorney for the Association of Flight Attendants.



AFTRA Members Fight Age Discrimination and Drastic Pay Cuts

AFTRA’s fight continues for a fair contract at WHDH-TV in Boston. WHDH is the NBC affiliate owned by Sunbeam Broadcasting Inc. The last contract expired on December 31, 2008. Two of the key issues keeping the parties apart are the elimination of fees from the contract and age discrimination. Log on to the Boston Local page of AFTRA.com for more information.

In June, several anchors and reporters boycotted and protested outside the station’s money-making Health and Fitness Expo.



AFTRA, Screen Actors Guild Continue Discussions to Create One Union

Formal discussions continue between the AFTRA New Union Committee and the SAG Merger Task Force to facilitate the creation of one union to represent all members of Screen Actors Guild and AFTRA.

In August, meeting together as the Group for One Union, or G1, members and staff of both unions held meetings by video and teleconference between New York and Los Angeles. Originally scheduled as face-to-face meetings in New York, members and staff were cautioned not to travel due to the impending landfall of Hurricane Irene.

The G1, comprised of members including actors, performers, recording artists and broadcast professionals, received a presentation from its Member Education & Outreach Workgroup, and reviewed and discussed findings and recommendations of its Governance & Structure Workgroup. These and four other member-led workgroups have been holding discussions since they were created by the G1 at its inaugural meeting in June.

“If anyone doubted our commitment

to merger, what happened this weekend should put those doubts to rest – even a hurricane couldn’t stop us,” said SAG National President Ken Howard. “We covered a lot of ground and I’m so proud of our SAG and AFTRA team. It’s a challenging task, but we’re working extremely well together and I’m more confident than ever that we will get this done for the members.”

“We made important progress this weekend,” said AFTRA National President Roberta Reardon. “We examined the myriad strategies, approaches and structures to create a strong, new union that will further empower our members to strengthen their careers and secure their future. I thank everyone involved for their continued solidarity and deeply appreciate their patience and resilience as we worked through the challenges of Hurricane Irene.”

The next meeting of the Group for One Union is scheduled for October 14 – 18 in Los Angeles. Updates on the work of G1 can be found on AFTRA.com and SAG.org under the One Union banner.

While we weather these challenging times, we have to insure that AFTRA/SAG continues to grow and flourish. We are getting stronger because of the renewed sense of purpose of our active members. We challenge you to be part of this exciting time because Chicago AFTRA/SAG will be a good place for all of us when we *all* share in its purpose, its promise and its future. (By the way, at just about everyone’s insistence — including my own mother — I have taken the time to sit for a professional headshot. So thank you for the constructive and, in some cases, not-so-constructive, criticism. Enough about the photo already...and I think you all know who you are.)

AFTRA

LOCAL OFFICERS

Craig Dellimore, President
Richard Shavzin, 1st Vice President
Richard Steele, 2nd Vice President
Craig J. Harris, 3rd Vice President
Joe Wright, Treasurer
Don Stroup, Recording Secretary

NATIONAL BOARD

Dan Frick
Nancy Sellers
Craig Dellimore, National Vice President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bernie Allen	Daniel Mooney
Paula Anglin	Wendy Morgan
Bob Baron	Greta Pope
Brenda Barrie	Harry Porterfield
Tony Castillo	Kathleen Puls
Charlotte Davis	Gail Rastorfer
Allen Edge	Zandra Rivera
George Elliot	Nancy Sellers
Dan Frick	Richard Steele
Herb Graham	Don Stroup
Byron Harlan	Bernie Tafoya
Razz Jenkins	Pat Vern-Harris
Dick Kay	Betsey Means Wills
Dennis Kelly	Joe Wright
Karen Lockwood	Cedric Young

SAG

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Regan Rohde, 1st Vice President
Craig J. Harris, 2nd Vice President
Michael Joseph Thomas Ward
Recording Secretary

NATIONAL BOARD

John Carter Brown
Todd Hissong

CHICAGO BRANCH COUNCIL

Roslyn Alexander	Elaine Opsitnik
Bob Baron	Nancy Sellers
Lacy Katherine Campbell	Stephen Spencer
William Dick	Maureen W. Steindler
Jay Disney	Alma Washington
George Elliot	Ann Wilkinson (IA)
Molly Glynn	Peter Moore (MN)
Martin Halacy	Matthew O’Toole (MO)
Jane McCreedy	John W. Lawson (OH)
Grace McPhillips	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Standing Committees

<u>Background</u>	<u>Diversity</u>
Jay Disney	Tony Castillo
January Stern	Cedric Young
<u>Broadcast Steering</u>	<u>Emerging Media</u>
Craig Dellimore	Razz Jenkins
<u>COCO</u>	<u>Seniors Radio Players</u>
Ilyssa Fradin	Connie Foster
<u>Conservatory</u>	Parker Gronowld
Stephen Spencer	<u>Singers</u>
Alma Washington	Wendy Morgan
<u>KMRC</u>	Michael Joseph Thomas Ward

CHICAGO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Continued from Page 10*

When I go to an event and I say, “I’m from Chicago AFTRA/SAG,” I often get the “What celebrities have you met?” question. I always answer that we have an amazing array of talent living right here in Chicago, and I point out that many of the famous folks in Hollywood and New York call Chicago and the Midwest home. We are an incubator for talent and we should be incredibly proud of that fact. Tell us about the organizations that you belong to. Let your union know how we can plug in with donations of time or money. AFTRA and SAG are two of the most exciting and glamorous organizations in the world. Take pride that you are a member.

PLAYBACK COVER

Cover design by Chicago
AFTRA/SAG member Jay Disney.



Monitoring

So not only have you seen your commercial, but half a dozen friends and family have called to let you know they did too. Now all you have to do is sit back and wait for the residual money to roll in, right? Well, 95 percent of the time that is all you have to do, but if it doesn't come in, what is your next step?

First, anytime you're a principal performer in a commercial — tell absolutely everyone you know. Alert your friends via Facebook, send a postcard to your cousin in Moline, and tweet that college chum you haven't spoken to in three years. Second, ask them to let you know the date, time and station that your commercial aired. Third, double check all your check stubs to make sure you haven't already been paid. And, fourth, call your agent so she/he can contact the signatory to find out why you haven't been paid. If your agent hits a brick wall, then it's time for the union to step in.

Of course we'll start a claim. We will more than likely ask to see your check stubs and you must have the following information:

1. **Date, time and station of the commercial airing**
2. **Signatory, which is usually the advertising agency**
3. **Advertiser and product**
4. **Commercial title(s) and ISCI code(s)**
5. **Session date**
6. **Brief description of the commercial**

Then and only then can AFTRA or SAG officially start a claim, which may lead to the utilization of the union's monitoring system. But please know that commercials cannot be monitored without all the above information.

Remember, it is the union's responsibility to prove that a commercial is airing and payment has not been made.

Your agent knows the answers. *Do you?*

You know your agent's phone number and address. You probably know the hours that the agency is open, but what else do you know about being an agent? Take this Agent's Quiz and see how you do. If you get any wrong and don't understand the rule, give the AFTRA/SAG office a call at (312) 573-8081. We're happy to explain things.

1. As a franchised agent, I can take more than 10 percent commission from non-union talent for non-union work in any area where AFTRA/SAG has exercised jurisdiction.
True or False
2. As a franchised agent, I can charge up to \$100 for an actor to be listed on my website for on-camera and voice-over work.
True or False
3. Since the downturn in the economy, it seems that work for industrials is on a decline. So, it is okay for me to encourage the AFTRA and SAG actors I represent to do non-union work.
True or False
4. In order to maintain my franchise, I must have valid AFTRA and SAG surety bonds and a state license and bond on file with the AFTRA/SAG office at all times.
True or False
5. Over the years, I have worked with a photographer who I believe does excellent work on headshot for my clients. As a franchised agent, I can direct all of my clients to this one photographer.
True or False
6. As a franchised agent, I do NOT need to use pre-approved SAG and AFTRA performer contracts for union actors, I can just make up my own.
True or False
7. If I purposefully and/or inadvertently violate any of the above provisions, my franchise may be deemed surrendered/suspended/inactivated.
True or False

CORRECT ANSWERS: 1 False, 2 False, 3 False, 4 True, 5 False, 6 False, 7 True

What's Your Story?

How Did You Become a Member?

Everyone has a story about becoming an AFTRA or SAG member. We'd like to include the stories of our members' first achievement of membership in *The Activator* and *Playback*. What is it that made you join? How did you feel when you finally became a member? What was your first union job? How has AFTRA or SAG helped your career? We'd like to hear your story.

Please send your story to AFTRA/SAG Chicago's Director of Communications Linda Swenson at lsvenson@aftra.com. Don't forget to include your name and membership number.



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION
AND RADIO ARTISTS/CHICAGO LOCAL
SCREEN ACTORS GUILD/CHICAGO BRANCH
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The cast of *Dead Weight*.

CALENDAR

- October 7 Office and KMRC close at 1 p.m.
- October 10 Columbus Day
Office and KMRC closed
- October 12 New Member Orientation at noon
A/S Senior Radio Players perform
at Cultural Center at 7 p.m.
- October 17 7th Annual Blood Drive
- November 7 Diversity and Entertainment
Workshop
- November 24-25 Thanksgiving
Office and KMRC closed

Park for \$10 at 10 East Ontario. Enter on the north side of Ontario between Wabash and State, then take a ticket. When you sign in, you may purchase a four-hour ticket for \$10. You will need both tickets to exit the parking structure. Cash only.

Save the date! Sunday, January 29, 2012
Chicago SAG Awards Screening Party
More details soon!