

AFTRA/SAG Membership Meeting
Washington/Baltimore Local and Branch

October 24, 2005

Quorum

A quorum of 15 members was set for AFTRA and 15 for SAG.

Call to Order and Introduction

SAG Council member, John Badila called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM. Mr. Badila asked those in attendance to congratulate our General Counsel Tom Powers, who was presented with AFTRA's highest honor, the George Heller Memorial Gold Card, at the 2005 AFTRA National Convention for his many years of admirable service to AFTRA and its members.

Mr. Badila introduced Local Executive Director, Pat O'Donnell. Ms. O'Donnell introduced staff present, including Jane Love, Tamara Daniels, Tom Powers, George Wright, Anee Raulerson, Sara Bennett, Frane Cooper, Craig Cipollini, and John Cooper. Ms. O'Donnell also introduced Justin Purvis who is on staff as well but wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting. Then she asked the members present to introduce themselves (approximately 80).

Minutes

The minutes of the May 23, 2005, membership meeting were distributed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as written.

Executive Director's Report

Pat O'Donnell reported on all of the following:

The Washington-Baltimore Branch completed elections locally for SAG. The following members were elected: **Stephen Schmidt**, National Board Director, **Jane Beard**, Branch Council at Large & Alternate National Board Director, and **John Leslie Wolfe**, Branch Council at Large & Alternate National Board Director.

With respect to AFTRA elections, those were completed earlier this year. Members were encouraged to read October's "Playback!" newsletter for election results.

At AFTRA's 60th National Convention in July in Los Angeles, there were many actions taken to restructure the National Union. The Board and the Convention Delegates voted to reduce the size of the National Board, to change the number of National Board meetings, and to restructure all of the staff to be national employees while serving their Locals. Additionally, the Convention heard a report from the President's Strategy Cabinet on what AFTRA's priorities should be for the future.

The Deputy Program was put on hiatus so that the office could determine whether or not the Deputy Program was working in an efficient way. The office is also looking into the possibility of hiring a dedicated set representative as an alternative to using member volunteers.

The ITVA Peer Awards were supposed to be held on Saturday, October 22, 2005, but have been postponed to Saturday, February 4, 2006.

AFTRA/SAG is participating in this year's Annapolis Film Festival on November 10-14. Members present were encouraged to obtain detailed information from the "E-Newsletter" recently sent to members registered at SAG.org, our local newsletter "Playback!", and SagIndie.org.

The following AFTRA contracts are currently in negotiations: WHUR, WARW, WTTG, and the ABC network producers. WRC-TV Channel 4 has a tentative agreement that hasn't yet been ratified by the unit. Additionally, in accordance with AFTRA's Constitution and By-Laws, strike authorizations need to be approved for WHUR, WARW, and WTTG so that the negotiators, the members of the bargaining unit, and local Board can decide to call a strike in the unlikely event that talks breakdown.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve strike authorizations for three units (WHUR, WARW, and WTTG).

The Washington Quarter Century Broadcasters Club (WQCB) dinner will be held at the Kenwood Country Club on Friday, October 28 at 6:00 PM. The event is open to anybody within the Washington/Baltimore market whether or not the individual has been in broadcasting for twenty-five years. For the past six years, Walter Starling had been the co-host along with Pat O'Donnell, Executive Director AFTRA/SAG. Unfortunately, Walter passed away in January of this year from cancer, so this year's dinner will be in honor of Walter.

The Local AFTRA Constitution and By-Laws does not currently provide for alternates to attend meetings of the SAG and AFTRA Joint Boards of Directors. So, our Local Board proposed to amend the Constitution to provide for alternates to be able to attend in the event that there is a joint AFTRA/SAG National Board meeting, our elected AFTRA National Board members are not able to attend, and it's deemed important for us to have a representative. The measure before the membership for consideration is to give the authority to the Local President (Joe Krebs) and the Local Board to appoint an alternate to attend. The Local board and the National board passed the measure.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the amendment.

Movie Report

All the movie information available at present is on our local website (www.aftrasagdc Balt.com) or audio hotline (301.654.7483).

"The Visiting"

The Warner Bros. film starring Nicole Kidman will film in the Washington and Baltimore areas through the winter holidays.

"Music High"

The Disney feature film is currently shooting in the Baltimore area through the Thanksgiving holidays.

"The Wire"

Pat Moran Casting is casting local principals and background roles for the HBO series, which has already begun filming in the Baltimore area and will continue filming until May 2006.

"Mission Impossible", "The Good Shepherd", "The Hoax", and "Bones" filmed in the Washington/Baltimore areas for a few days.

"John Adams"

This HBO project has been postponed until February but its still a "go". Executive Producer, Tom Hanks, is expected to film (ten) one-hour episodes in the Richmond/Williamsburg and surrounding areas. Tracey Kilpatrick of Wilmington, NC will handle principal casting. Jeanne Boisineau of Richmond, VA will be in charge of background casting. Those in attendance were also advised that there will be many locations that fall within our jurisdiction for background.

Discussion followed about what parts of Virginia fall under SAG's jurisdiction with respect to coverage of background actors in the theatrical and TV projects.

Committee Reports

a) *Freelance Steering Committee*

Chairman Don Hagen explained that the Freelance Steering Committee (formerly the W&WCC) is looking at developing some positive PR for AFTRA/SAG. The committee meets on a monthly basis and members were encouraged to contact Don via email at donhagen@aol.com with any comments, suggestions, and new ideas for the committee to address.

b) *Conservatory*

John Badila informed those in attendance that Carolyn Bell is stepping down as Conservatory Chair and a replacement is needed to do a very important job for the membership.

SAG National Board and RBD Report

Pat O'Donnell reported that it was a SAG meeting in LA on October 19-23, 2005 with the new SAG National Board and officers. Attending with Pat were Jane Love and John Leslie Wolfe. The first day was set aside for paid staff to ask questions, communicate, and share information with the other SAG staff. The Regional Branch Division meeting followed and then the National Board met for two days.

Ms. O'Donnell communicated that National Executive Director/ CEO, Greg Hessinger was terminated by a majority of the national board at the October meeting. Additionally, the three individuals hired by Mr. Hessinger who had not yet started at the Guild were fired by the National Board. Mr. Hessinger and the three new hires were fired on the basis they did not share the same mission as the new officers. In the meantime, Peter Frank, the Guild's Chief Financial Officer, was named Interim National Executive Director. Mr. Frank has been in touch with Branch staff to express his desire to continue working together for the benefit of the membership.

Copies of some of the trade articles were distributed to the members present and are attached as Exhibit A.

Ms. O'Donnell announced that SAG's newly elected president, Alan Rosenberg, as well as the acting National Executive Director and the Director of Legislative Affairs will be attending our membership meeting in February 2006.

Good and Welfare

Ken Arnold encouraged those in attendance to come out and take part in the Annapolis Film Festival. Ken explained that this event can use volunteers and they are admitted free if they participate in this capacity. This is also a good opportunity for networking. In response to a question, Jane Love reminded everyone about Rule One: Members may not work on a movie unless the producer has signed a SAG contract.

Jane Love reported that she and Tamara Daniels recently conducted a seminar for Indie DC on the SAG low budget agreements. It was a really productive session with approximately forty-five filmmakers.

Liz Noone reported that fellow member Sheldon Smith hosted a workshop (Turning Non-Union Calls into Union Jobs) in New York. Liz was told by some of the attendees that Sheldon is brilliant, well informed, and articulate.

There being no other business a motion was made, second, and passed to adjourn this meeting at 8:30 PM.