



Motion Picture & Theatrical Division

www.ht399.org

Teamsters Local 399 NewsReel

Secretary-Treasurer Leo T. Reed

Fall 2010

**Leo Reed
Team Wins**



**Teamster Awards
for College**



Back on the Job

Our Agenda for the Future

Message from the Secretary-Treasurer

By Leo T. Reed

Thank you for your overwhelming support in the recent election where Leo Reed was re-elected 80.5% over Mitch Masoner 19.4%.

Celebrating our election victory shouldn't last long. There are too many important issues ahead of us. This successful vote count inspires us to face our future challenges and deal with them with determination and optimism.

It is encouraging that approximately 46% of the membership made the effort to vote in the election which resulted in the re-election of their incumbent officers.

To me this means that you are confident our past performance and experience will prepare us for the tasks ahead. You want us to continue to tackle the important issues of jobs, secure medical benefits and quality representation.

Jobs

Jobs are at the top of our list of priorities. Keeping our members working, the most important immediate goal, is also the most difficult. However, we can accomplish some major objectives.

We can make sure Teamster jobs stay with Teamsters. We are now on good terms with IATSE and we will insist that our contractual work stays with us. Due to my position as Director of the Motion Picture Division, we have excellent relations with Teamster leadership throughout the nation. Our Strength protects each other in any dispute.

Local 399 is fortunate to represent a cross-section of industry professionals — drivers, studio personnel, location managers, casting directors, couriers, prop house members, tour drivers, network drivers and other industry staff. In order to keep our members working, we have to keep the Hollywood industry healthy. In 1999 we were the first labor organization to bring the issue of runaway productions to state and local government officials. We have continued to work alongside Teamster lobbyists to convince officials that the industry needs subsidies. We will not abandon this effort.

Local 399 Business Agents and officers hold major positions on influential committees. They will step up the effort, working with the city and state, to provide incentives for local production. We will also continue to organize and bring in jobs in commercials, cable TV and new media.

Medical Benefits

We read about huge challenges that continue to plague the nation's health care system. These are the difficult economic times when members with quality insurance feel uncomfortable as more and more workers lose their job-based health benefits.

Your health care benefits are a high priority issue that gets harder to negotiate at each contract. However, we understand their importance and will bring over two decades of



Secretary-Treasurer Leo T. Reed

experience to this matter. A unified membership will aid us in this effort as we face difficult times.

Representation

Great union representation only begins with negotiating the contract. All the wage gains, benefits and terms of working conditions must be monitored and enforced. At the bargaining table and the work site, our business agents are fully on the job, making sure the members are treated fairly and the contract is upheld. This will always continue with under my administration.

You can be assured that whenever issues arise that need attention from the local's leadership and staff, we are here to work on behalf of the members of this great local. Our unity has made us a powerful force, and I pledge to keep up the hard work and dedication that gives us strength

Leo Reed Team Wins Union Election



Bonnie Harmon – Dispatcher, Tulima Tuanaki – Administrative Assistant, Rosie Falcon – Recording Secretary, Shanda Laurent – Business Agent, Brenda Santacruz – Administrative Assistant and Vanessa Williams – Secretary



Manny Demello, Randy Peterson and Ron Schwab

Winning 80.5 percent of the 1,961 ballots cast vote, Leo Reed was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 399 and will begin a new term of service to the members for a historic eighth time. He continues as the longest-serving and most successful principal officer in the local's history.

The Leo Reed slate defeated Mitch Masoner slate 1,223 to 261. Re-elected with Reed were President Tony Cousimano, Vice-President Randy Peterson, Recording Secretary Rose Falcon and Trustees Ed Duffy, Jack Fisher and Jon Hopton.

Reed's extensive leadership experience was a major factor in his overwhelming victory, along with the newly negotiated black book contract. In August, Reed and his negotiating team agreed on a new two-year contract with the studios that included raises, secure medical and pension benefits, and no take-aways.

"I would like to thank the members for their continued support over the last 21 years," said Reed. "It has been an honor to lead my fellow Teamsters in pursuit of good contracts, quality medical benefits, and a pension that rewards years of hard work. I look forward to a united effort with the members that addresses the tough challenges ahead."

Studio drivers, drivers, studio personnel, location managers, casting directors, couriers, prop house members, tour drivers, network drivers and other industry staff voted in large numbers, with the local reporting an almost 46 percent voter turnout. The unusually high voter turnout in this election proves that these members are eager to continue with experienced leadership.

Reed's longstanding

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Location Manager Veronique Vowell



President Tony Cousimano receives a congratulatory phone call

Back on the Job



Pete Giraldo, Margo Hunt, Jeff Couch, Tom Siemen, Roy Grace, Chuck Montgomery on the set of "Cowboys and Aliens"

Back on the Job from Severe Leg Injury, Veteran Credits Doctor, Local 399 Support.

After almost 30 years in the business, Roy Grace had experienced a lot of what the film industry has to offer. He was one of those veteran crewmen who had probably seen it all.

That all changed on June 2, 2008, while shooting in Boston. In the space of a few seconds, Grace's life would be changed forever. With his attention focused elsewhere, a water truck (that had its warning beeper removed to stay quiet on the set) backed into him,

knocked him to the ground, and crushed his right leg.

"One of my coworkers, Doug Weaver, saved me," recalled Grace, while on the set of "Cowboys and Aliens" at Universal Studios. "He ran over and pounded on the truck to get it to move away. The driver never felt the truck hit me."

Grace was rushed to the hospital with severe trauma to his leg. The doctors decided to induce a coma for three days – rather than subject him to the pain of his injury – while they decided on a course of action. "I didn't find out until later that while I was in a

coma, they told my wife I had only a 50 percent chance of survival," he said. "They were thinking that amputation was the only option to save my life."

When he was brought out of the coma there was one doctor who was convinced his leg could be saved. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Mark Vrahas, who Grace describes as "a miracle worker," took it upon himself to rebuild the injured leg. Due to the belief of Dr. Vrahas, and more than a truckload of fighting spirit, Roy Grace is back doing what he loves — almost two years to the day after his accident.

"The best therapy I've had

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so far is being back at work,” said Grace. “I love this job, working with these people, and getting back to work was the best thing.”

It wasn’t just back at work where Grace felt support from his fellow Local 399 Teamsters. “Leo Reed and Randy Peterson checked in on me for the entire two years that I was out. The outpouring of support really meant a lot. I learned what union brotherhood really means.”

Grace, who has driven specialized equipment his whole career, has known Reed for many years. “I started out in Georgia and did my first show out there in 1979,” Grace explained. “But I actually met Leo in a small town in Arizona over ten years ago. They were picketing a show I was working, and I decided to walk off the job and grab a picket sign with Leo and Randy.”

“It was very brave of him to honor our picket line and it is something I never forgot,” remembers Secretary-Treasurer Reed. “When I found out he got hurt, I wanted to make sure we did whatever we could to help him.”

Now, after 27 months, he knows that a once life threatening injury might have ended his career. But here he is, working with people he respects in the industry he loves, and he wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.

“Leo Reed and Randy Peterson checked in on me for the entire two years that I was out. The outpouring of support really meant a lot”

Roy Grace



Chuck Montgomery and
Vice-President Randy Peterson



Craig Simeroth



Gary Marquis

Three Teamster Awards for College



Ron Hooker, Pierre Meguerditchian, Coordinator Tom Lyons, Miguel Lozano, Mike Bangs and Michael Ortiz on the set of "Franklin and Bash"

Miguel Lozano, already the father of three motivated children, now has even more reason to be proud of them. His 18-year-old son, Fernando, won all three Teamster college scholarships that he applied for: Joint Council 42, International and the Hispanic Caucus.

Lozano, who drives a 65-foot honeywagon, is extremely proud of his son's many accomplishments. Fernando ran cross-country for all four years of high school, as well as participating in track and field, wrestling, and taking all Advanced Placement classes. Even with this seemingly

overbooked schedule, he achieved a 4.2 GPA.

"There were nights when I would get home late from work and he would still be up studying," Lozano said of his son's work ethic. "Then, then next day, he would be up studying when I left for work."

His son also received an academic scholarship from his university of choice, Notre Dame, and is currently enjoying his first semester in South Bend, Indiana. His career may take the path of electrical engineering. "I'd really like to thank the Teamsters for the help they have given my family

in sending Fernando to college," Lozano added. "We don't have the words to thank you."

Tom Lyons, the coordinator working with Lozano on the new television show "Franklin and Bash," knows firsthand how helpful the Teamster scholarships can be. Lyons' daughter Fiona received the award four years ago and just graduated from the University of Florida.

"An education is essential for the leaders of tomorrow," stated Lyons. "Fernando's achievements speak for themselves. I'm very

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Three Teamster Awards for College



Local 399 member and mixed martial arts trainer Michael Ortiz (center), practices moves with the stars of “Franklin and Bash” Mark-Paul Gosselaar (left) and Breckin Meyer (right)

impressed with him and know he will do well.”

Lozano, who has been driving large trucks for 25 years, has instilled the value of education in all three of his children. His oldest son, Miguel, is currently working hard in junior college. His youngest child, Melissa Lozano, wants to be an actress but must maintain her good grades. “With the high cost of college these days, financial support from the Teamsters and the Hispanic Caucus makes a huge difference for us,” Lozano declared.



Miguel Lozano (left) is congratulated by coordinator Tom Lyons



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Leo Reed Team Wins

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relationship with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters leadership, his 16 years as the Director of the Teamsters Motion Picture Theatrical Trade Division, and his eight successfully negotiated Black Book contracts were some of the reasons for his victory. He also serves as a Trustee on the Joint Council 42 Executive Board.



Manny Demello and Leo T. Reed

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