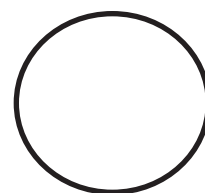


NEWSREEL

MAY-JUNE

2007



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 399 • SECRETARY-TREASURER LEO T. REED



Golf Tournament Winners

Ramiro Pacheco Retires



Location Managers Meeting

INSIDE: Members Urged to Join DRIVE

Motion Picture Divison Report

By Leo T. Reed

On April 30, 2007, from 3:30 to 6:30 pm, the Motion Picture Division meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Present were 69 Union Leaders, Business Agents, and IBT Officials from 33 Locals throughout the United States and Canada. On the agenda were a national contract, IATSE raiding Teamsters' jurisdiction, and a jurisdiction issue between Locals 399, 270, 5, and 568. On the National Contract, I will put the AMPTP on notice that we will be seeking a National contract, and we should be able to work this out at our next division meeting in October. It is about time everyone gets equal pay for equal

PICK UP PHOTO FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE

work and that the playing field is level. Remember, the productions are leaving Hollywood because of the incentives by the various States and Governments. It is not the labor cost. For example, Boston and New York labor costs are just as high as Local 399's. Yet their productions have increased. We will remember this when we go into negotiations.

A few Locals had problems with the IATSE trying to raid their jurisdiction and crossing their picket lines. I reminded them that that scab union had also crossed over 100 of 399's recognitional picket lines. However, we were still successful. The IATSE problem will also be addressed at our next meeting. Finally, I answered Locals 270, 5, and 568's complaints with facts.

The facts are the recent decisions by the Arbitrators and the US District Court which confirms Local 399's right under Paragraph 59 (e) to follow

our equipment throughout the entire US, its territories and Canada. This was sent via US Mail to all the Motion Picture Locals in the US after the meeting.

It was a very informative meeting and at the end the applause demonstrated our solidarity. We will not allow the Studios to pit us against each other.

It is our duty as Teamsters to support each other. I committed our total support, whether it is in organizing or negotiations. Total support includes extending each others' picket lines. When we are together we can't be beat. The Teamsters are the strongest Union in the world. I'm sure that a certain group is aware of this.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 399

Studio Transportation Drivers
(818) 985-7374

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On The Cover

Top Left Corner: President Tony Cousimano with Golfing partners at Golf Tournament.

Middle Right: Ramiro Pacheco with crew from Gilmore Girls.

Bottom Left: Commercial Scout Dennis Thomann

Members Urged to Join DRIVE Political Action Needs Union Support

Local 399 is beginning an aggressive effort to get its members more involved in the political process by contributing to the Teamsters DRIVE Program.

— DRIVE stands for Democrat Republican Independent Voter Education—a political action fund built by and for members of the Teamsters Union. DRIVE is by far the largest program of its kind in the United States.

— DRIVE raises money from Teamsters in government and private sector jobs. The standard contribution is just one dollar a week. DRIVE spends its funds wisely — contributing campaign funds to public officials who stand up against layoffs, cutbacks, contracting-out and indecent treatment of working men and women.

— DRIVE dollars go to defeat politicians who trample on the rights and needs of workers in city, state and federal jobs.

“We’re asking our members to pledge the dollar-a-week,” says Secretary-Treasurer Leo T. Reed. He notes that here in California there is crucial entertainment industry legislation — mostly tax based credits — that could put a stop to runaway production

and it takes DRIVE money to lobby for its passage. (Unions are forbidden to use their treasuries for political purposes; DRIVE is a separate fund.)

Other important labor legislation, both on the federal and state levels, includes improved workers compensation benefits, national health care for all, highway safety and the battle against unsafe trucks crossing our borders, and affordable child care.

“Big Business spends big money in Washington to influence members of Congress and promote their anti-worker plans,” notes DRIVE Regional Director Marc Shumar. “They outspend working families on politics by more than 15-1.”

Through grassroots political action and aggressive lobbying on Capitol Hill and in State Houses and City Halls across America, Teamsters and other unions have stopped some of the worst attacks on working people.

“But Big Business is pushing their agenda harder than ever,” says Shumar. “That means we have to fight back stronger than ever. And we have to move forward with our own programs, like improving job safety, fighting for

affordable child care, and stopping abuses by corporate health providers and insurance companies.”

He says you can take a stand for working families by contributing to DRIVE — the Teamsters’ political action committee. Your contribution will support grassroots action by the Teamster community to stand up to Big Business interests. And your membership in DRIVE will help elect political candidates who care about working people.

Contributions to DRIVE support a wide range of Teamster activities:

— Keeping members and their families informed on the key issues that affect our future, including voter guides that show the records of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

— Rallies, news conferences, advertisements, and phone banks to build support on issues of concern to working people.

— Voter registration, and financial support for political candidates who will stand up for working families. DRIVE is non-partisan and independent from any political party.

*Volunteer Drivers Needed
- For -
Disabled American Veterans*

If interested please call: 310.478.3711 ext. 49064

Members Only Golf

There were 108 total p

1st Place

Geno Hart, Peter Schw
B

2nd Place

Ed Nassaney, Dana Croc
L

3rd Place

Jerry Roberg, Dave Tozier

4th Place

Rick Maginess, Howard
S

1st Place

Jim Frear, Buck Compton



f Tournament

players at the tournament.

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Film Commission Director Speaks to Location Managers

An update from film commission officials and a heartfelt farewell was the focus at the quarterly meeting of Local 399 Location Managers on April 17.

Held at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City, the meeting featured guest speakers from the California Film Commission, its Director Amy Lemisch and Assistant Director Jim Fitzpatrick. The pair spoke about certain policies that are changing, particularly filming on highways in Southern California, and gave an overview of important incentive programs that are still being discussed for productions.

Preparing for retirement, long-time Local 399 Office Manager Carole Stepp also stopped in to say goodbye to the location community. "She has been vital assisting our members with a variety of information, particularly pension and health plans." Business Agent Ed Duffy recalled after the meeting. "Her knowledge is invaluable, and I can't tell you how much

she will be missed."

Local 399 represents approximately 675 location managers, assistants, and commercial scouts and managers. The quarterly meetings are held specifically for the location community because there are a number of issues pertinent only to their group that need greater discussion.

"There are specific needs and concerns that affect their industry," Duffy emphasized. "Having a meeting in conjunction with the general membership meeting allows us a chance to address those concerns, share current information, and feature guest speakers who can talk about the issues unique to the location community."

Moreover, the meetings provide a forum for professionals to share their thoughts, comments and concerns with their colleagues.

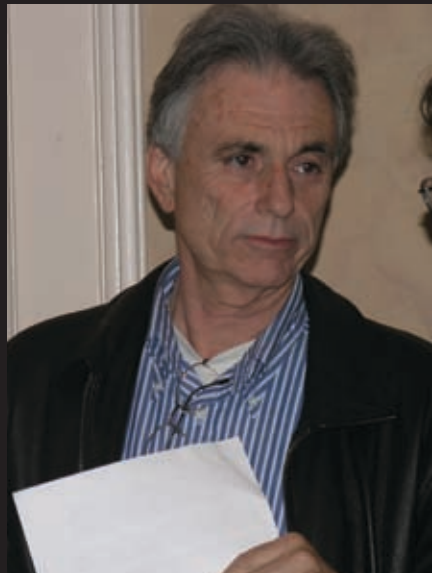
Duffy, a former location manager with nearly 30 years in the business, emphasized that challenging times lie

ahead for everyone working in the entertainment industry and encouraged the location managers, assistants and scouts to attend the informative meetings.

"The drivers' contract is up on July 31; this fall we are facing the writers' negotiations; then the actors and directors guild will begin talks. The next year is going to be an interesting time, and likely full of twists. We must all be aware of what's going on and get involved because this directly affects careers and livelihoods," he said.

In addition to the meetings, members in the location community are encouraged to stay informed through Duffy's weekly email updates. To register, visit the local's newly re-named web site, www.ht399.org.

The Location Managers' meetings are always held the Tuesday before the General Membership meeting. The next gathering is scheduled for July 17 at the Sportsmen's Lodge.



Business Agent Ed Duffy



**Amy Lemisch - Director of CA
Film Commission, Speaker**



**Location Manager
Tim Hillman**



Key Assistant Location Manager Michael Sandknop



**Location Manager Ernest Belding and Key Assistant
Location Manager Karen Gilbert**



Ron, B.A Steve Dayan, Recording Secretary Rose Falcon



Location Manager Alistir Boyd

Ramiro Pacheco Retires

After getting into the industry 'by accident' in 1976, Ramiro Pacheco simply says it's time to move on. The long-time studio driver officially hung up his keys and retired on April 27.

Born in Mexico, Pacheco moved to the United States in 1966. While he was working as a mechanic servicing picture cars and studio equipment at a car dealership, a friend invited him to the Warner Bros. lot, where he met the transportation supervisor. Pacheco asked if they were hiring, and a few months later he got the call.

The soft-spoken driver spent

"There's no question, we're fortunate to belong to a great union with good benefits, including my pension. I feel like I don't ever have to worry about going back to the work force, which makes it really nice."

a couple years at Warner before the industry experienced a slump. But it was the early 80s and the beginning of the Lorimar heyday, so he soon found work at Universal. A decade later, he was back at Warner Bros. and he has spent the last seven seasons on The Gilmore Girls.

Throughout his career, Pacheco did some feature film work but mainly he drove for television productions. Staying close to home was important to him.

"In the early 80s we lost our first child, a girl. Then we were blessed with two daughters and I didn't care much to be out of state. I didn't

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want to miss too much of them growing up," the dedicated driver recalled.

Although he says the reason why he's stayed in the industry over 30 years is because he enjoyed it so much, Pacheco readily admits the long hours can be tiring.

Retirement, he notes, will bring plenty of time for unwinding with his wife, Leonor. "We're planning on traveling a little bit; visiting all the states we've never been to before. Maybe I'll do a little fishing here and there, and possibly take up golf again. Once thing is for sure, I'm a pretty active person and I'm not going to get bored," he emphasized.

He did stress that there is one area of retirement he won't worry about. "There's no question, we're fortunate to belong to a great union with good benefits, including my pension. I feel like I don't ever have to worry about going back to the work force, which makes it really nice."

Like many members who retire, Pacheco says the hardest part is saying goodbye to co-workers. "I'm

going to miss the people I've worked with. We're like a family. We spend a large amount of time together and you get so attached. That's what I'm going to miss. But, that's the way life goes ... you just have to move on."

He also leaves the industry with deep appreciation. "I'm so grateful to the person who hired me into the business and Leo Reed and all the union members who have been

so helpful," he noted. "And I want to thank Mike Padovich (check spelling with Local) and the rest of the crew on The Gilmore Girls. I wish I could have stayed on until the end of the show."

While the North Hollywood resident is sad to say goodbye, he tips his hat to others. "I really respect the guys on the lot who have 40-plus years of service. I just don't know how they do it," he concluded with a chuckle.



President Tony Cousimano congratulates retiree Ramiro Pacheco

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