

Progressions

Official Publication of the Reno Musicians Union, Local 368

Winter/Spring 2014



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Schedule of General Membership Meetings

Our Bylaws Require us to have quarterly General Membership Meetings.

Next Scheduled Meetings are:

Monday, April 7, 2014 1pm

Monday, July 7, 2014 1pm

Monday, October 6, 2014 1pm

New meeting place! Meetings for the time being will be held at:

Bully's Sports Bar, 2005 Sierra Highlands Dr. Reno, NV 89523

Local 368 will supply finger food and soft drinks. Fun will be had by all

The General Membership Meetings are preceeded by Local 368 Executive Board meetings at 12pm. All members are welcome to attend both meetings.

Elections were held at the last General Membership meeting on January 6, 2014. Your board and board officers ran un-opposed and were re-elected. Do you have an interest in serving your union? Maybe next election you might consider running for office. Think about it...

The changes to our bylaws regarding delegates to the AFM Conventions and Life Member status were also approved at this meeting. Minutes, scale book and new bylaws will be posted Local 368's website.

Membership Dues

Regular members

\$40.00 per quarter

\$150 Annually

Life members (Active) and Youth Members

\$29.00 per quarter

\$106 Annually

Life Members (Inactive)

\$25.00 per quarter

\$96 Annually

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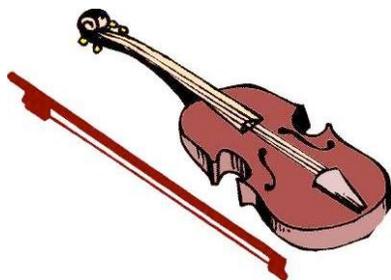
News From Your Local:

AFM Convention is Coming to Reno

In the years between National Conventions the AFM holds National Conferences that are open to all locals from the US and Canada. This year it will be held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno. This is a big deal for us and a chance to show the other locals what Reno is all about. It will also be a chance for you to meet our AFM National President Ray Hair and the International Executive Board, so I encourage you to attend. The dates will be in July 14 -21. I will keep you update and give you more information in our next newsletter.

Your Contact Information

Please update your current contact information with our office. If you have changed your email address or your home address, please let our office know. We can't get news and information to you without knowing where you live. We will soon be sending out notices via email about new services or opportunities in our area. Thanks everyone.



Local 368 Membership dues

If your dues notice has slipped off the edge of your desk and into the trash can, We need to remind you to please pay your dues on time.

As of January 1, 2014 Regular Annual membership dues are \$150.00. Annual Life Time active dues are \$106.00 and Life Inactive dues \$96.00. Online membership dues payments are another option for you. Go to www.afm.org to pay your dues with your credit card. Please keep your membership in good standing. It really helps when you pay your dues on time.

Life membership status is available to members who are 65 years or older and have been a AFM member for 35 years. Call the office at (775) 329-7995 or email us at local368@clearwire.net

Moving Day is Here

As we reported in our last newsletter Maytans is closing and we will have to vacant our office space as of May 31st. Paul and I will be arranging for a rental space in the coming months. We will notify you as soon as the dust settles as to where the new office will be.

All of us at Local 368 would once again like to thank Marianne and the entire Maytan family for their long support of our Local, including the free office space that they have given to us for the past two decades.

Is Music Your Job?

Then Treat it Like One!

"If you treat it like a job, they'll pay you like it's a job". I love this response, because it really sums up the attitude that is required to succeed in the music business. We are in one of the hardest and most competitive industries attracting a large percentage of people that seem

to be looking for an alternative to working hard. I'm sure you've all encountered those types of "musicians"; the ones that are always late to rehearsals, who show up too stoned to play gigs, who sleep in until two in the afternoon. The music industry seems to attract a lot of slackers, at least in my experience.

But the reality is that to succeed in the music business, you're going to need to work your ass off. You're going to need to work harder than in most other industries. You're going to need to practice. You're going to need to take lessons. You're going to need to book shows. You're going to need to promote your music. You're going to need to email publishers. You're going to need to keep writing new songs. You're going to need to record your songs professionally. You're going to need to.... you get the idea, work!

It's fairly obvious why more musicians don't succeed. For most music isn't a profession that pays well immediately. First you have to pay a lot of dues. What happens is that a lot of musicians start out very enthusiastic about their careers, but somewhere along the way, life gets in the way. Bills pile up. Mortgage payments are due. Kids are born. Priorities change and music gets put on the back burner.

Let's face it. Not everyone is meant to be or cut out to be a professional musician. But for those of us who are, and you know deep down if you are, let's be realistic about the amount of work we need to put in to get the results we want. I know we all need to work harder to get where we want to go, Right? Okay then, "Get busy!"

Find us on facebook at Reno Musicians and "Like Us"

Local 368 now has a page on facebook, come join the Reno area musical community and your friends online.

- Place photos of you and your fellow members performing in this area and across the country.
- Promote your accomplishments and upcoming events

Spotlight On Our Local

Union Talent

Local 368 is proud to have as one of it's newest members a legend from the Motown Recording Session band known as the Funk Brothers, Jack Ashford. Working in the basement at of a house at 2648 W. Grand Blvd in Detroit, Michigan, Jack and his fellow musicians defined the Motown Sound. The Motown backbeat was the Holy Grail of 1960's pop music. At the heart of it was Jack Ashford's tambourine. Such a little thing, yet so earth-shaking in its impact, Jack's tambourine was one of the dominant forces that gave Motown Records the "The Motown Sound". The group of musicians Jack recorded with at Motown were known as "The Funk Brothers".

Funk Brother Jack Ashford is a celebrated Motown musician who recorded on mostly all the hits released in the 1960's and early 1970's for such legendary performers as Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Jr. Walker, Marvin Gaye and many, many, more. He played with a group of musicians known as "The Funk Brothers". They put the backbeat, and the soul into the hits of Motown Records.

Jack's tambourine and vibes were major instruments giving Motown Records its distinguishable "Motown Sound". He has recorded for a long list of artists, all over the world, for more than four decades.

Currently, Funk Brother Jack Ashford is touring internationally and in the United States with a full band. This

sensational stellar band consists of top quality musicians and vocalists who capture the very same sound heard on past Motown recordings. They produce the same sound and same arrangements as the original records thereby providing "The Legendary Original Motown Sound".

Recognition has never come quickly for the Funk Brothers, but on March 21, 2013 your President was in attendance as Jack and the Funk Brothers were honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Ray Parker Jr. at the ceremony said, "Today is a day for all musicians, because this is a musicians' star."

And I say "Amen" to that. - John



Looking for gigs?

Try AFMEntertainment.org

Let the AFM book your next job. AFM members should sign up today and start getting gigs from AFM Entertainment, the new booking and referral service of the AFM.

Be the first from the local to get your press kit online and get a gig through this new and exciting service.

Register online at:

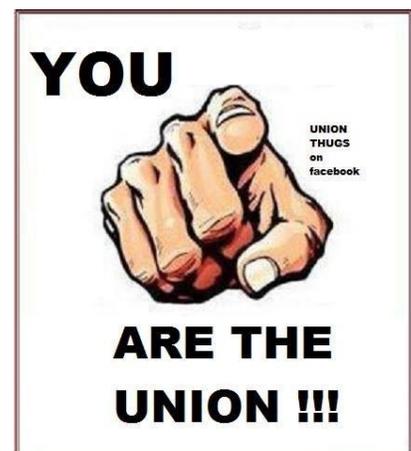
<http://www.afmentertainment.org>



OUR NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS:
Monday, April 7, 2014 1pm

New meeting place! This meeting will be held at Bully's Sports Bar, 2055 Sierra Highlands Dr. - Reno. Local 368 will supply finger food and soft drinks. Fun will be had by all! The General Membership Meetings are preceded by Local 368 Executive Board meetings at 12pm. All members are welcome to attend both meetings.

REMEMBER:



Recommended Resources

Local 368 Members can save 15% with **Union Plus AT&T Discount**. As a union member you can access many discounts and benefits at **UnionPlus.org**

Union Plus offers Smartphone Rebates that offsets the costs associated with new smartphone purchases and moving from another wireless provider to AT&T.

When Union Plus Credit Cardholders upgrade to a new smartphone with an AT&T data plan, you will get up to \$100 and if you move to AT&T from another provider, you'll receive up to \$100 towards the cost of moving their service – potentially a \$200 rebate! But you will need to hurry, as the Smartphone Rebate funds are limited.

Visit www.unionplus.org today.

Five easy ways to prevent music instrument theft - from DiscMakers Blog

Music instrument theft happens to musicians from all walks of life – these simple tips can help prevent it from happening to you

Stop music instrument theft

If you've never been the victim of music instrument theft, chances are you know someone who has or you've seen at least one Facebook post about someone's stolen music instrument. As this is our chosen mission in life, we're sharing five simple things you can do to prevent theft and set yourself up for recovery in case it happens to you!

Never leave a man behind (in the car)

Not only can extreme temperatures play havoc on your musical setup; car, van, and trailer break-ins are the most common music instrument theft

stories we hear. Bring your gear inside!

Duck and cover

Your garage may be a great place to get loud, but anyone with the proper motivation and inclination can guess that your gear is vulnerable when the place is quiet. Put things away after practicing, cover windows when possible, and lock it up.

Insure it already

If you make money with your rig, it probably won't be covered by your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy. Check the fine print and look into music instrument insurance. It's actually not too expensive and can get you back on the road quickly if disaster strikes.

Take stock

Take a moment and record the serial numbers from all your music gear. Take photos of everything, including identifying marks. These important details can mean getting your instrument back should theft occur. Store these details in a safe place, away from gear. We know a good place...

Make your mark

Place a sneaky hidden ID in your instrument (especially if it doesn't have a serial number) in a place thieves wouldn't think to look. Do the same with your case.

Online Stolen Gear Tracking

I want to let you know about GearTrack, an online instrument registry that aims to deter theft and aid in instrument recovery. This something that I think might be very useful for professional musicians. GearTrack is currently partnering with the Seattle, Twin Cities, Ottawa Musicians Unions and others to offer this free member service.

<https://www.gear-track.com>

Instrument Insurance

If you're a professional musician, an instrument is not merely your livelihood: it's an extension of yourself. Instruments vary in cost, but many well-crafted instruments are worth thousands of dollars. For some people, instruments rank just below vehicles in terms of most valuable possessions. Affordable instruments can benefit from musical instrument insurance policies, especially if you rely on them for your career. Go to AFM.org and find out more about getting insurance for your instruments.

"Music Instrument Insurance Provides Protection and Peace of Mind"

Bandleaders, You Need This!

Musician Liability Insurance

AFM members are protected if they are injured during a performance by signing up for the Musician's Liability Insurance. This policy provides up to \$1 million for each occurrence and up to \$2 million of aggregate coverage for lawsuits arising out of bodily injury and/or damage to property for others, occurring on or off premises during your performance.



News From Your Secretary/ Treasurer

Affordable Healthcare Act (AHCA)

Starting this year you are required to have health insurance or you will pay a fine to the Internal Revenue Service. Personally, I think it would be better to get the insurance rather than deal with the IRS, but before you act, I suggest that you contact a professional prior to signing on to AHC, Medicaid, or other health insurance.

I have heard many people tell me they have read the new healthcare law. If you think you've read the law, guess again. The new law is a tax, and just like the Internal Revenue Code, it is written to be extrinsic. If you read one sentence of the new healthcare law, you would need to look at the several sections of United States Code, Public Law, Code of Federal Regulations, and executive decisions to understand that one sentence. The new law's first six pages resulted in 429 pages of new federal regulations. Not bad. It's scary to think that there are about 1,000 pages to review.

Many folks are finding out when they log onto the healthcare site, they qualify for Medicaid. If you are over 55 (and most of our union members are) and do sign on to the Medicaid program, the states are required to seek recovery of certain Medicaid payments from your assets should you pass away. If you happen own a home, it may be seized and sold to help pay back services. Liens are also other tools the states can use for recovery.

Don't believe me? Here is what's stated on Medicaid.gov under Estate Recovery and Liens:

State Medicaid programs must recover certain Medicaid benefits paid on behalf of a Medicaid enrollee. For individuals age 55 or older, states are required to seek recovery of payments from the individual's estate for nursing facility services, home and community-based services, and related hospital and prescription drug services. States have the option to recover payments for all other Medicaid services provided to these individuals, except Medicare cost-sharing paid on behalf of Medicare Savings Program beneficiaries.

Under certain conditions, money remaining in a trust after a Medicaid enrollee has passed away may be used to reimburse Medicaid. States may not recover from the estate of a deceased Medicaid enrollee who is survived by a spouse, child under age 21, or blind or disabled child of any age. States are also required to establish procedures for waiving estate recovery when recovery would cause an undue hardship.

States may impose liens for Medicaid benefits incorrectly paid pursuant to a court judgment. States may also impose liens on real property during the lifetime of a Medicaid enrollee who is permanently institutionalized, except when one of the following individuals resides in the home: the spouse, child under age 21, blind or disabled child of any age, or sibling who has an equity interest in the home. The states must remove the lien when the Medicaid enrollee is discharged from the facility and returns home.

Along with partisan sniping, Washington, D.C. sure creates a lot of paper. And the Affordable Care Act is really adding to the pile. The nearly 11,000 pages of regulations for this one law alone would reach three feet

high if you made the mistake of printing it.

Some of the details of the law are far more pertinent than others for consumers. Put simply, you need to be insured or face a penalty starting in 2015, you can't be denied insurance or face a waiting period to get it because you have a pre-existing condition, and if you're a senior citizen, there will be a cap on how much more you can be charged for health insurance than a young person.

These are just some of the examples of the complexities of the federal law that are not necessarily obvious when you are signing up for a program. So please, I urge you to get health insurance to avoid the IRS penalties, but first seek counsel prior signing onto a program to ensure that you meet all of the requirements and protect your assets.

- Paul January



Wait a minute, I need my reading glasses!



Fair Trade music

You buy Fair Trade Coffee don't you? Let's get venues on board with the concept Fair Trade Music. Fair Trade Music is a grassroots campaign that was started in Portland, OR by musicians, for all musicians. Fair Trade Music is an organization supported by the Musicians Union Local 99 and the AFM, but it's for all musicians, Union membership is not required.

The idea behind Fair Trade Music is really simple. They ask musicians:

- 1) What do you celebrate about performing in clubs/venues here?
- 2) What could use improvement?
- 3) How can we work together to effect that change?

Local 368 would like to support a movement of this kind in the Reno/Tahoe area but we need you help. Start by answering the question above and emailing them to me at john@shipleymusic.com

Recognizing and promoting venues that treat musicians properly is important. Musicians don't thrive unless venues thrive; this is a cooperative, constructive movement.

Below is a list of venues that have signed on to the concept of Fair Trade Music, treating musicians with respect and paying them a decent wage.

The American Theatre ~ Hampton, Virginia
The Arts Center ~ Carrboro, North Carolina
The Bugle Boy ~ La Grange, Texas
Circle Entertainment ~ Southport, NC
Down East Folk Arts Society ~ Swansboro, NC
The Eighth Step ~ Schenectady, NY
Fir Colorado ~ Chicago, Illinois

Folk 'N Great Music ~ Rockville, Maryland
Friends Folk Club in Pennsylvania ~ Oxford, Pennsylvania
Institute of Musical Traditions ~ Takoma Park, Maryland
Friendship House Concerts~ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Legion Arts ~ Cedar Rapids, IA
Music Up Close House Concerts ~ Tumwater, WA
Our Place on Park Place ~ Wichita, KA
Peninsula Arts Center ~ Vancouver, WA
"The Place" House Concerts ~ Livingston, NJ
Saint James Episcopal Church ~ Fremont, California
The Sanctuary Concerts, Inc. ~ Chatham, NJ
Soup and Song Productions ~ Laurel, Maryland
The Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse ~ Mt. Kisco, New York
West Bethesda Folk Music Concerts ~ Montpelier, Ohio
White Kitty Farm Concerts ~ Montpelier, Ohio
Panzer House Concerts~Columbia, MD
Down East Folk Arts~New Bern, NC
Peninsula Performing Arts Center~Long Beach, WA
The Eighth Step~Schenectady, NY
Music Up Close House Concerts~Tumwater, WA

This is just a start I know and who knows where it will lead, but what if we can make a change in the ideas of what it means to be a professional musician here in the Reno area?

Quiet please, Bass Solo!



School Donations

Donate your old "International Musician" Magazines to local schools. Your Board members will be taking old issues of the IM to local schools to spread the word about our union. If you would like to help please call the office at 329-7995 or drop off your old copies outside the union office door in Maytans before May 31st.



**FAIR
TRADE
MUSIC
PDX**
fairtrademusicpdx.org

Last Laugh

Two beboppers are listening to the Thelonious Monk Quartet. After a great solo by tenor sax man Charlie Rouse, Monk just sits at the piano staring at the keyboard without playing. One of the beboppers continues moving his head to the beat and clicking his fingers in an extasy of appreciation while Monk sits at the piano motionless. "Hey man," says the other "What are you so excited about? Monk hasn't played a note." "I know," replies the first, "But man, dig what he's thinking!"

What did the guitarist do when he was told to turn on his amp?
He caressed it softly and told it that he loved it.

How many conductors does it take to screw in a light bulb?

No one knows, no one ever looks at him.

Why is a guitar like a girlfriend?

Because there are always strings attached.

An L.A. recording session ground to a halt yesterday when an oboe player, who was constantly sucking on her reed to keep it moist during rests and between takes, inadvertently inhaled and swallowed it. The conductor immediately called 911 and asked what he should do. The operator told him, "Use a muted trumpet instead."

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