

# MEMBERS

## NEWSLETTER

Make Every Musician Benefit from Efficient Responsible Service

Vol. 25 No. 1

January • February • March 2007



New York, NY

### LOOKING AHEAD

## A New Term Begins

**W**ITH the election of Mary Landolfi as President, Bill Dennison as Recording Vice President and seven of its Executive Board candidates, the Concerned Musicians party will become the dominant force in 802 governance and policy for the next three years.

This will be a critical period for Local 802 and its members, encompassing, as it will, two AFM conventions and several key contract negotiations including those with the League

of American Theatres and Producers for the Broadway agreement.

Important staff positions will need to be filled—most importantly in the organizing department—and services vital to our members and for the proper functioning of the Union itself must be restored. All of this will have to be done in the context of 802's growing fiscal concerns.

The shrinking of the Union's membership rolls over the years and lower employment levels and, consequently, work dues income,

are additional concerns, especially in the light of constantly increasing basic operating costs.

Although we have been highly critical of the Concerned Musicians leadership over the past year for reasons which we detailed at the time, we certainly wish them well in their efforts to lead this union during the coming term.

We urge all members, no matter how they voted in the recent election, to help the new leadership continue the effort to protect live music, secure equitable contracts and keep Local 802 in the black. **MN**

## The End of an Era?

*On January 1, 1983, Local 802 began a new era, with Executive and Trial Boards of active musicians permitted to work in all musical fields.*

The governance of this union by working musicians was achieved under MEMBERS Party leadership and that first musician-based administration was comprised entirely of candidates put forward by the MEMBERS Party. For the following twenty-five years, 802 was guided by Members Party administrations.

### A New Administration

Now, after more than two decades, that era has come to a close with the election on December 5 of an administration dominated by the Concerned Musicians.

All of the leaders of the Concerned Musicians have run as MEMBERS candidates in past elections, but the divisions which led to the split were based on significant differences in union philosophy. We will be interested to see how these differences are reflected in their administration of Local 802.

### Milestones

We are proud of the many milestones achieved under our stewardship since 1982. Most notable among these are the Local's own building, 802's first strike fund (assets presently in excess of \$500,000), the MEMBERS Legal Services Fund, active musicians serving on the

boards, the Local's own payroll service (Legit Inc.), Broadway musicians' contractual right to send subs, more than 50 contract bans on the use of the Virtual Orchestra and, perhaps most importantly, the recognition and inclusion of working musicians, through elected committees, in negotiating and administering the contracts under which they work.

These advances are well established and we believe that the benefits which flow from them will continue long beyond the MEMBERS Party's tenure at 802.

### Challenges Ahead

There are many significant challenges remaining and we wish the new administration success in dealing with them.

Critical problems of shrinking union density and gaps in the enforcement of signatory compliance in the clubdate field must be addressed. New organizing targets need to be identified and pursued in a timely manner. We have to find ways to get contracts and benefits for jazz musicians.

Techniques must be developed to reach out to rock musicians and other contemporary pop music groups to gain their cooperation in unionizing their work.

The Union is both understaffed and fiscally challenged. The aborted strategic planning initiative which the previous administration attempted to develop must be revisited in order to get Local 802 on a sound structural path and to maintain fiscal solvency.

### The MEMBERS Party

As for ourselves, we plan to continue publication of the *Newsletter* in order to provide 802 members with information and our take on events. Whether or not a MEMBERS administration will return to office at some point in the future will be up to the members of this union.

We heartily thank the more than 800 members who voted for our candidates in the election and we ask for your continued help going forward. **MN**

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Next Issue: **The Broadway Agreement**

## The Changing Face of 802 Politics

**O**UR union's political processes have evolved over the past thirty years and several aspects of the recent election are worthy of note.

Probably the most striking is that, with the election of Mary Landolfi, Local 802 has a woman as president for the first time. This is in itself a significant development.

Twenty years after the repeal of the Local's mail ballot election process, the number of absentee ballots cast in this election actually exceeded the number of in-person votes.

For the first time, e-mail and Web sites played a major role in the campaigns of both parties. Many issues were aired only online.

Some of those who remember the outcry against the 2003 Broadway contract have noted that, in this election only three years later, key figures involved in that negotiation were elected or reelected to office. This is an apparent indication that 802 members were willing to put aside their resentment with the passage of time.

It has also been pointed out that, although David Lennon was the principal focus of opposition attacks during the campaign, he was actually the fifth highest vote-getter among the eighteen MEMBERS Party candidates.

Significantly more money was spent in this campaign than in previous elections. The MEMBERS Party spent a little over \$8,000 and knowledgeable sources within the Concerned Musicians have reported that their expenditures were in the "tens of thousands."

However any of us might view these developments and the impact that they may have on 802 politics, it is likely that they will continue in the future, for better or worse. **MN**

### A Letter From David Lennon

Dear 802 Members,

Now that my term of office as your president has come to an end, I would like to express my appreciation and best wishes for the future to all of my friends, colleagues and supporters at Local 802.

I will miss my daily involvement in the service of this union and my regular contact with you, its members.

The coming months and years will be critical for New York musicians and Local 802 will have to face many issues and challenges during this period. In the weeks after the election I offered whatever assistance I could to Mary Landolfi to insure a smooth transition. I hope that the new officers will lead this local effectively and that you will all do your best to help them to succeed in their efforts to represent you. I hope I will have occasion to see you in the future.

Please accept my best wishes and my thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president over the past three years.

Sincerely,  
David Lennon

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER is published four times per year by the MEMBERS Party, P.O. Box 1502, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10101-1502. Basic subscription rate is \$10.00 per year.

## The Role of the MEMBERS Party

**T**HE MEMBERS Party was founded in 1980, just a few months before that year's election. After a "close but no cigar" electoral outcome, the party went on to win all 22 positions in 1982.

Many years have passed since then and, now that we did not prevail in the 2006 election, the time has come for us to examine our future role in Local 802 politics. The new administration will need as much help as they can get from all members. Our primary focus

will, of course, remain the welfare of our union and New York's professional musicians.

Many members say they hope we will continue as a voice in 802, some even urging us to assume the role of watchdog during the next three years. It is too early to predict just what our role will be in the future.

If we are to remain a presence in this union we will need your support. We ask those of you who value our input to assist us by contributing whatever you can to help us meet the cost of our continued publication.

Contributions can be made by check payable to the MEMBERS Party, or online through PayPal at [www.membersparty.com](http://www.membersparty.com). **MN**

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