


# Overture online



## PENSION RELIEF, AT LAST

What the American Rescue Plan Act  
Means for Working People

April is Arts, Culture  
& Creativity Month

#AFM47 Member Spotlight:  
Serena Kay Williams

# Overture online

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AFM LOCAL  
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## Message From the Editor

Please be aware that until further notice, AFM Local 47 will not be publishing, due to cost-saving measures, a print Overture Magazine. We will continue to publish our monthly digital e-magazine, Overture Online, and will continue email blasts and our Local 47 Beat email newsletter.

In order to better serve you, Local 47 is looking at every possible way to cut costs and save on administrative expenses. One simple yet effective step all members can take to help us reduce expenses is to add your current email address to your Directory profile. This allows us to ensure that you receive timely updates from Local 47 in the most cost-effective way possible.

Please update your Directory profile with your current email and notification preferences by filling out the update form at [afm47.org/directory](http://afm47.org/directory) or call 323.462.2161. Thank you!

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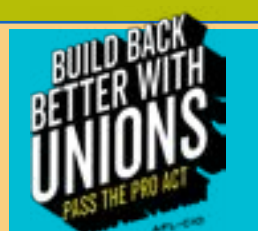
**April is Arts, Culture  
& Creativity Month**



**#AFM47 Spotlight:  
Serena Kay Williams**



**Next General Membership Meeting:  
Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.**



**What the PRO Act Means for Creative  
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# President Stephanie O'Keefe



This month I found myself ruminating about musicians and why we do what we do. In the past year, I suspect that each and every musician has had at least one moment when they paused to reflect on the path that led them to a life in our profession.

The arts are unique – artists do for a living something they began doing as children. We're used to seeing children's dance recitals or hearing youth orchestras, but not a seventh grade brain surgeons' ensemble, or a group of 12-year-olds investing in the stock market. Something made us start playing music, and keep playing, setting us on the path to making music our profession. And that something has kept us going forward to this day.

Perhaps the secret can be found in the words of a 14-year-old horn player I know, excerpted from a school project:

*"I keep mentioning we communicate using music, but never explain what I mean by that. Take movies for example; each movie has a unique soundtrack to it. Depending on what music is playing you have a feel for the mood of that scene. The best example I think to compare this to is the horror/thriller genre. I think everyone knows what I'm talking about. There's always that one scene where the music starts to play and you know something bad is going to happen, but you don't know what yet. Your heart starts racing as the music starts to become more suspenseful. **Like I've said before, music can completely change someone's mood or even emotions. Some people will listen to music when they're sad and some will listen when they're happy. It's up to the person.**"*

When I heard these words, just yesterday, I realized she had answered the question – we do what we do because it is magic.

Stephanie



# Vice President Rick Baptist



I would like to start this report by saying a congratulations to each and every one of our musicians who, when they paid their membership dues for 2021, included donations to go toward the Relief Fund to help their fellow members. It is so heartwarming in these pandemic times that thousands of our members cared enough to provide funds to their fellow musicians. All I can say is, God bless you for that.

In this last month I have started speaking again to the various college students in the Los Angeles area — of course still by Zoom. I started with Chapman College. The teacher was Jeannie Pool and her class was the Business of Music. The next classes were at the Herb Alpert School of Music at Los Angeles City College. I truly love speaking to these young students. They have always amazing questions for me about my career in the studios and about the Union. They rightfully were concerned about the COVID situation, not only for the studios but for live music. I always answer them truthfully and don't sugarcoat this pandemic. When I finish my presentations, I always give them my personal cell number and my home email so that they can ask follow-up questions. I am looking forward to many more Zoom sessions with these young future musicians/members to represent the Union at all our area colleges.

I pray you and yours are safe and healthy, and hopefully will get a vaccine shot.

Remember to Live laugh and love,  
Rick Baptist



## Secretary/Treasurer Danita Ng-Poss



Photo by Mustafa Sayed

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. It's April! It's Spring!

It is hard to believe that it has been over a year since the world was officially halted by a virus. Live music has been silenced. Recording sessions had to be restructured for the safety of musicians. I never anticipated watching my computer screen as a way to attend concerts. We are still far from returning to the normal that we used to take for granted. A year later we all miss seeing each other, hearing our friends play music live, and giving hugs, but we are now at least heading the right direction toward recovery.

It may be a very slow recovery, but vaccines are getting distributed. Let us not be too hasty about going back to the old normal. We are not completely out of the woods yet. Nobody really knows what the new normal will look like for us, and for the music community. What we do know is that we will be doing things a little differently. Yet I have hope that our resilience will soon enable us to be with each other again creating, listening, and enjoying music together in person. If you are eligible to get vaccinated, do so. Do so ASAP. Check out updates on COVID-19 and vaccine news here: [publichealth.lacounty.gov](https://publichealth.lacounty.gov)

Since April is Jazz Appreciation Month and we are yet unable to attend live concerts, listen to some jazz music at home and celebrate the fact that you are doing your part to stay healthy and safe for your friends, family and your music family.

I am sorry to announce that, currently, members are not able to pay their work dues online. Due to the fact that the website has been having data sync issues with our internal database, the work dues statements displayed online do not match the amount members owed in our database. Because of that, we had to temporarily disable the ability to pay your work dues online. When you visit the login page at the AFM Local 47 website, you will see the special notice below:

***SPECIAL NOTICE: Our online payments portals are currently experiencing technical difficulties. We apologize for any inconvenience. To verify your current "paid-thru" date for Membership Dues, or to inquire about a Work Dues balance/make a Work Dues payment, please contact our Dues Department: 323.993.3116, dues@afm47.org.***

***If you received a paper Membership Dues statement and would like to make a payment online, please click the 'Membership Dues' menu link above.***

***Thank you.***

With reduced staff and funds from lack of work dues and membership dues, Local 47 has been working really hard to keep serving our members. Please know that we are doing our best to be there for you, even though it may not look like much right now. As your Secretary/Treasurer, I am trying to implement moving the Local into the 21st century as I promised during the campaign. Know that this will be an ongoing project and that this is one of the biggest challenges to the Local. COVID has only made this challenge greater.

Recently, I received a letter from an expelled member who had not been working and was unable to pay membership dues before COVID-19 started. Since the pandemic, matters have been made worse by being behind on mortgage payments and multiple personal misfortunes. We understand and feel this musician's hardship and pain. Members' lack of work, and non-renewal of membership, means lack of financial resources for us. Side note: Local 47, along with every other Local within the AFM, has to pay a percentage of members' work dues and membership dues to the Federation. This helps sustain the AFM as an organization that works for you to protect you as a musician at your workplace. Without you, there is no Union. Without the Union, you have no protection at your workplace. You are the Union. That said, with limited funding, updating Local 47's infrastructure to the 21st century seem like an impossible task. So, Local 47 and its staff truly appreciate your understanding and patience through our growing pains.

We hope to see you at the upcoming General Membership meeting on April 26, 2021.

Meanwhile, be well and please stay healthy and safe.

Regards,

Danita Ng-Poss

(pronounced dah-NEE-tah UNG-poss)



**Questions About Residuals?**  
**What Exactly is a "Secondary Market"?**  
**How Do I Get Paid?**



*Join your fellow musicians for  
"FMSMF 101": A Presentation and Q&A hosted by  
Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund.*

FMSMF 101 will be presented twice, to accommodate the schedules of musicians across the country

**April 21-- 7:30 PST/9:30 CST/10:30 EST**

**April 28-- 7:30 EST/6:30 CST/4:30 PST**



**THIS EVENT WILL BE RECORDED & POSTED ON OUR  
FMSMF YouTube CHANNEL**

**RSVP HERE: [rsvp@fmsmf.org](mailto:rsvp@fmsmf.org)**

**MUSICIANS FROM ALL AFM LOCALS INVITED**





## Pension Relief, At Last

### What the American Rescue Plan Act Means for Working People

Last month, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act, a \$1.9 trillion bill to help fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. President Biden signed the law which will provide significant assistance to the American people during this unprecedented crisis. Additionally, thanks to advocacy efforts by a broad coalition of music and entertainment industry groups, it will provide much-needed assistance to millions of music creators and artists across the country.

Notably for AFM members, the bill provides long-sought after relief for multiemployer pensions, including our own American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF). On March 17, AFM-EPF Trustees agreed to withdraw the pending Multiemployer Pension Reform Act application. With the passage of the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the need for proposed AFM-EPF benefit reductions in the forthcoming years has been eliminated. The American Rescue Plan Act has created a special financial assistance fund under the Treasury Department from which the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation will be able to make grants to financially troubled multiemployer pension plans.

Our AFM-EPF pension plan is one of more than 100 multiemployer union pensions in critical status because of aging demographics, declining participation, and reduced contributions. As a result of the newly passed legislation, these plans will not have to repay this financial assistance. The AFM-EPF is now able to avoid proposed benefit reductions and can offer members a solvent pension for the next 30 years.

Here are more details about how the American Rescue Plan will help working people:

**1. Provides relief for multiemployer pensions:** Provides approximately \$86 billion in financial assistance to struggling multiemployer pension plans, which the plans will not have to repay, to cover all benefits due through plan year 2051, with no cuts to accrued benefits.

**2. Makes direct payments:** Provides \$1,400 in direct payments to individuals making less than \$75,000 and married couples making under \$150,000, and for dependents claimed on federal tax returns.

**3. Extends unemployment benefits:** Extends pandemic-related unemployment assistance that was set to expire on March 14, including the current \$300 supplement to unemployment benefits, for another six months through Sept. 6. Provides that the first \$10,200 of unemployment benefits received by taxpayers making less than \$150,000 will not be subject to federal taxation.

**4. Fully subsidizes COBRA:** Subsidizes 100% of health care premiums of COBRA-eligible individuals who lose their job or had reduced hours, who will not have to pay any premiums, for six months. The employer or health plan can claim a refundable tax credit against their Medicare payroll tax liability for the cost of the premiums.

**5. Funds public health:** Provides \$48.3 billion for testing, contact tracing and personal protective equipment (PPE); \$7.5 billion for vaccine distribution; \$5.2 billion for procurement of vaccines and supplies; and provides \$10 billion to expand domestic production of PPE, vaccines and medical supplies under the Defense Production Act.

**6. Increases workplace safety:** Provides \$200 million for pandemic-related worker protection activities at the Labor Department, half of which would go to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to support OSHA enforcement and worker training in high-risk sectors such as meat processing, health care, correctional facilities and agriculture.

**7. Provides relief for state, local and tribal governments:** Provides \$350 billion in aid to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to help deal with the budgetary impact of the pandemic.

**8. Reopens schools safely:** Provides \$125 billion in state grants to help local educational authorities reopen K-12 public schools safely, address instruction loss and support students as they recover from the effects of the pandemic. Provides \$39.6 billion to colleges and universities and their students, at least half of which must be spent on emergency financial aid grants.

**9. Provides payroll support to the airline and aerospace industries:** Provides \$15 billion for the wages and benefits of employees of airlines and contractors in the airline industry, on terms similar to airline payroll support in previous legislation: no layoffs or pay cuts through Sept. 30 or whenever the assistance is exhausted, whichever is later, and the continuation of current restrictions on stock buybacks, dividend payments and executive pay. Provides another \$3 billion to create a payroll support program for aviation manufacturers.

**10. Boosts transportation:** Provides \$30.4 billion for grants to transit agencies, which can be used for operating expenses, including payroll costs and PPE, and \$1.7 billion for Amtrak in fiscal year 2021, including funding to recall furloughed workers and restore the frequency of long-distance routes.

**11. Extends the Paycheck Protection Program:** Extends eligibility for the PPP forgivable loan program to more tax-exempt groups, including 501(c)(5) labor organizations. Creates a new \$28.6 billion grant program for restaurants.

**12. Reduces child poverty:** Expands the child tax credit through 2021, increasing the maximum credit to \$3,600 for each child younger than 6 and \$3,000 for other children, and making the credit fully refundable.

**13. Expands tax credits for child and dependent care:** Expands the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to \$4,000 per child or \$8,000 for two or more children, and makes the credit fully refundable. Provides \$39 billion for child care, including \$15 billion in grants to states to help low-income families afford child care and help essential workers regardless of their income, and \$24 billion for state grants to child care providers.

**14. Funds emergency paid leave for federal workers:** Provides \$570 million to create an Emergency Federal Employee Leave Fund to provide up to 15 weeks of emergency paid leave for civilian employees and postal workers, including those who have COVID-19, who are caring for someone with COVID-19, are looking after children during virtual classes, or are obtaining a COVID-19 vaccine. Provides \$13 million for an Emergency TSA Employee Leave Fund and \$9 million for an Emergency FAA Employee Leave Fund.

**15. Extends sick, family and medical leave tax credits:** Extends current tax credits through September 2021 and expands eligibility to include state and local governments.

**16. Extends the employee retention tax credit:** Extends the current tax credit through Dec. 31, 2021, and increases the percentage of wages covered for severely distressed businesses.

**17. Expands the earned income tax credit:** Expands the earned income tax credit for taxpayers without children for 2021 by increasing both the credit percentage and phaseout thresholds.

**18. Funds veteran retraining:** Provides \$386 million to create a rapid retraining program for veterans who are unemployed because of the pandemic.

**19. Provides housing assistance:** Provides \$21.6 billion for emergency rental assistance to prevent evictions and \$10 billion to help homeowners avoid foreclosure; \$5 billion for emergency public housing vouchers; and \$5 billion to address homelessness.

**20. Extends nutrition assistance:** Extends a 15% increase to monthly benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program through Sept. 30, 2021.





## April is Arts, Culture and Creativity Month

*by Julie Baker, Executive Director,  
Californians for the Arts*

The month of April is our time to celebrate, recognize and advocate for the arts, culture and creative industries in California.

In 2019, Arts Culture and Creativity Month was declared by the California Senate in a concurrent resolution to be every April in California to recognize and celebrate the significant impact the arts have in California. Activations occur throughout the state including city and county proclamations, op-eds, special events, performances, round tables and more. The goal of our monthlong campaign is to elevate public awareness of the value of the arts and the collective impact the arts bring to our communities and state.

To learn more visit [californiansforthearts.org/about-accm](https://californiansforthearts.org/about-accm).

### SAVE THE DATES!

#### **Advocacy Week – April 19-23**

Advocacy Week involves speaking directly with elected officials. In these meetings advocates can encourage elected officials to support increased public funding for the arts, along with legislation and policies that are pro-arts, arts education, culture and the creative sector. Register at [californiansforthearts.org/about-accm](https://californiansforthearts.org/about-accm) and be linked with other arts advocates in your region and statewide.

#### **ACTION ALERT: Letter writing campaign**

Help us reach our goal of submitting 10,000 letters in support of our budget and legislative asks including significant funding for the arts!

#### **ACCM Virtual Convening – April 27**

Join arts advocates from across the state at the ACCM Virtual Convening on Tuesday, April 27. This year's conference includes advocacy action updates, breakout sessions on relevant topics facilitated by leaders in their field, and a celebration of the rich California artistic community.



## Member Spotlight



Photo by Tom Pease

*Secretary/Treasurer Emeritus Serena Kay Williams holds the AFM Local 47 dedication day programs from the 1950 opening of the Vine Street building in Hollywood, and the 2018 opening of our current Winona Avenue building in Burbank – both of which she attended.*

*Editor's Note: Serena Kay Williams made history as the first woman officer of AFM Local 47 when she was elected Secretary in 1984, a position she held until her retirement in 2007. [Her legacy as a trailblazing musicians advocate and union leader](#) stands as an inspiring tale of dedication, perseverance, and strength. AFM Local 47 President Emeritus Hal Espinosa shares his congratulations to his longtime friend, colleague and mentor in honor of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 9, 2021.*

## AFM Local 47 Secretary/Treasurer Emeritus Serena Kay Williams Reaches *the Grand Milestone*

*by Hal Espinosa, AFM Local 47 President Emeritus*

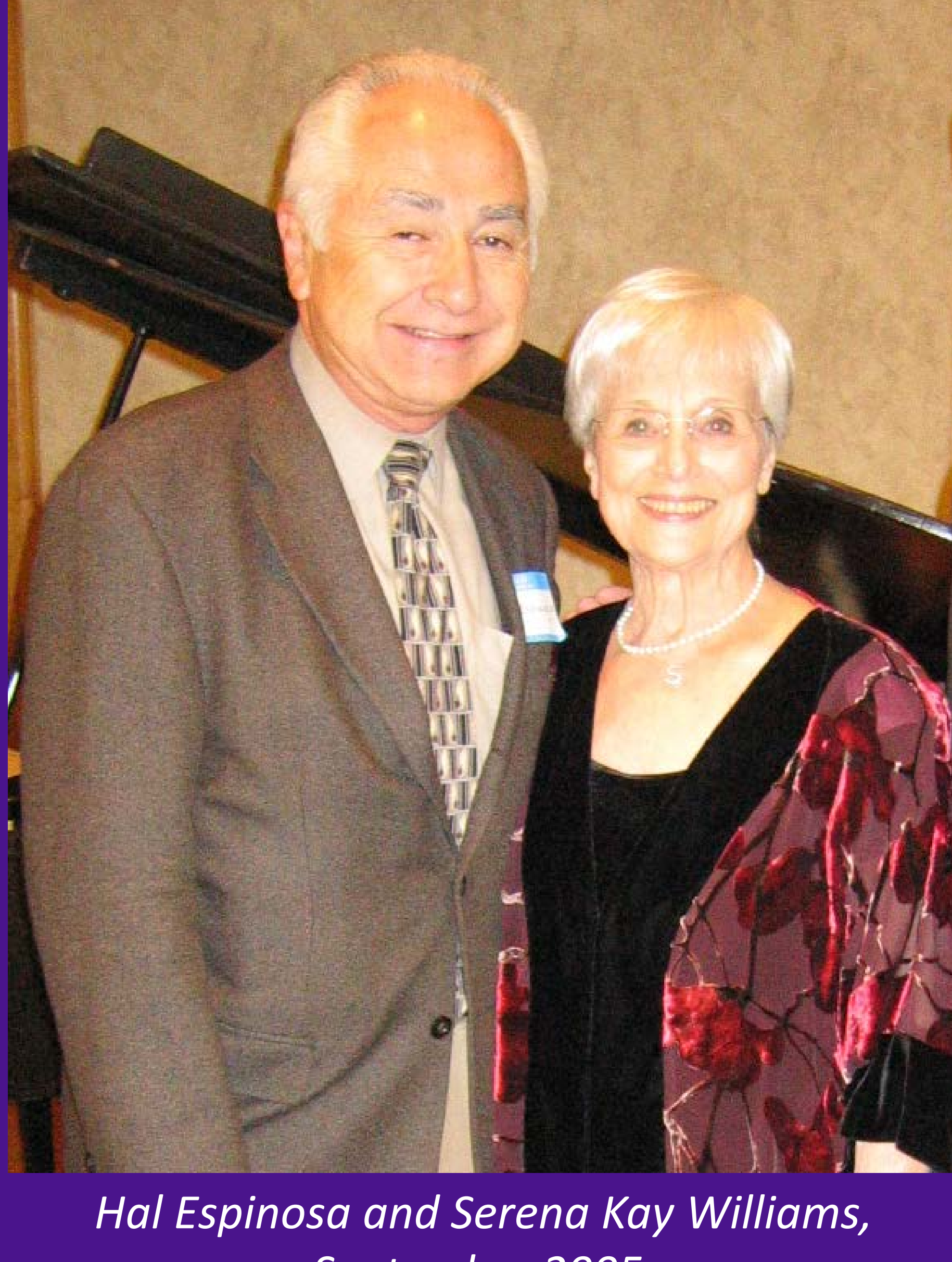
Serena, less than 1% of all people have the privilege of earning the title “Centurion” and fortunately for us, this has been granted to such a remarkable person. A 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is a **Grand Milestone** and something to be celebrated. I would like to say, “When I grow up, I want to be like you.” Some might say I’m too old to use that line, so instead, I’ll just wish you a **very Happy Birthday!**

From the moment I was elected in 1991 until the time you deservedly decided to retire in 2007, you were my mentor and teacher. I still remember my first day as Vice President. You came up to me with a letter in hand and asked what you should do. I remember saying “You’re the Secretary,” and with a serious look on your face, you came back with, “*But you are the Vice President.*” You got my attention! I read the letter and gave my response, you thanked me, turned and walked back to your office. I’ve always been certain that was done for dramatic effect, and it worked! From that moment on, I gained the confidence and strength needed to ease into a role I wound up loving.

Paving the way, in 1984 you were the first woman to be elected as a Local 47 Officer. Giving well over 20 years of extraordinary, dedicated service to the local and its members, you saw leaders, colleagues and our members come and go throughout your career, and gained respect and gratitude from all alike. You inspired us through your actions to lead by example, have a strong work ethic, and demonstrate empathy. You’ve touched many lives and have helped countless musicians through good times and bad.

There is so much to admire. With exceptional character, you are an extraordinary person. You exemplify living life with heart, kindness, and humility! You have collected a century’s worth of wisdom and experience, and we are all better for knowing you. Like a fine wine, you have only gotten better with age. You are a great vintage! All who know you are truly blessed to have you in their lives

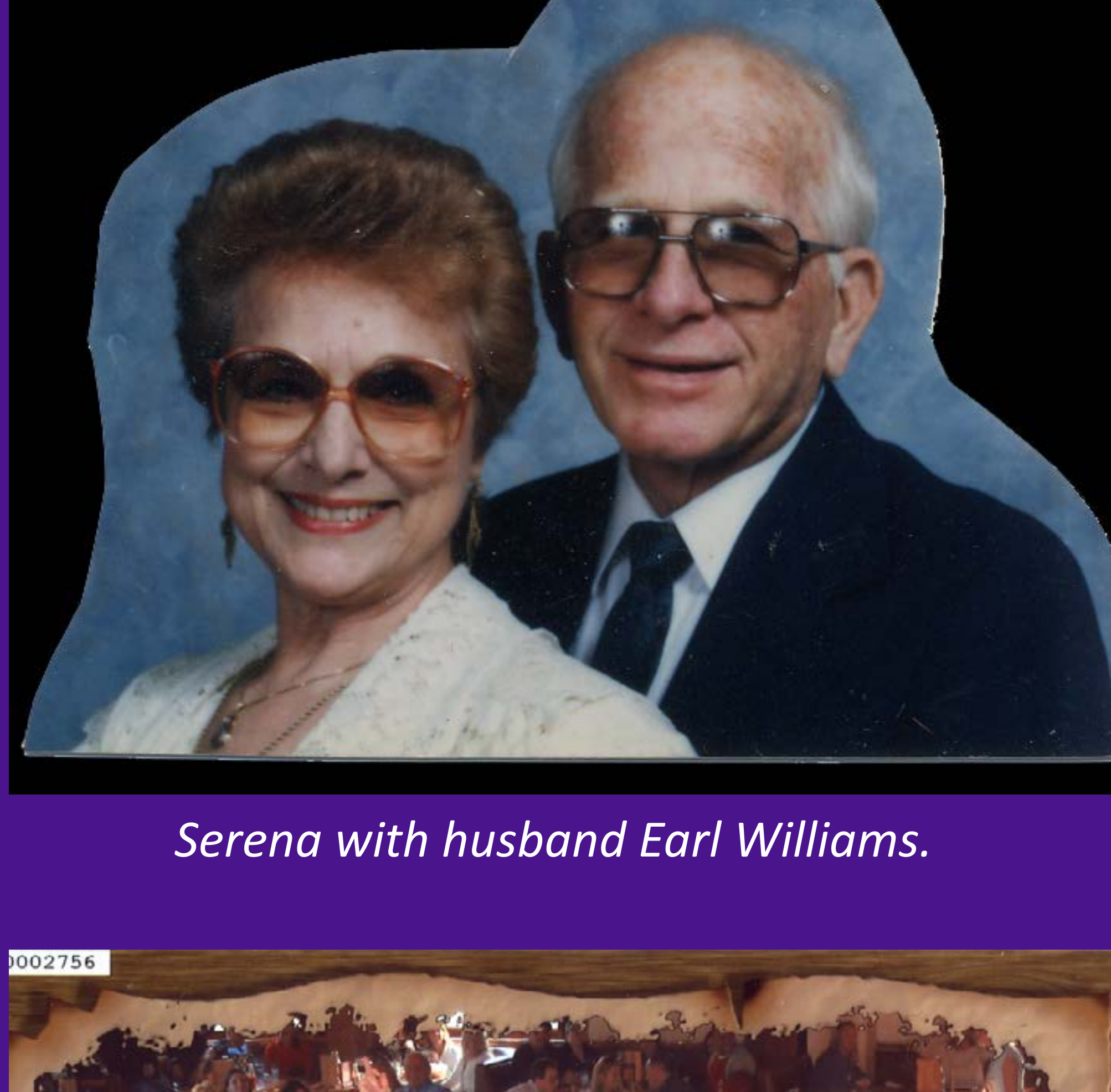
Here is wishing you love, happiness, and health on your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is an incredible milestone, but not nearly as incredible as you.



*Hal Espinosa and Serena Kay Williams, September 2005.*



*Serena, pictured far left, played bass and lead vocals with her trio, the Coquettes, which included Doris Crane and Chickie Fortina).*

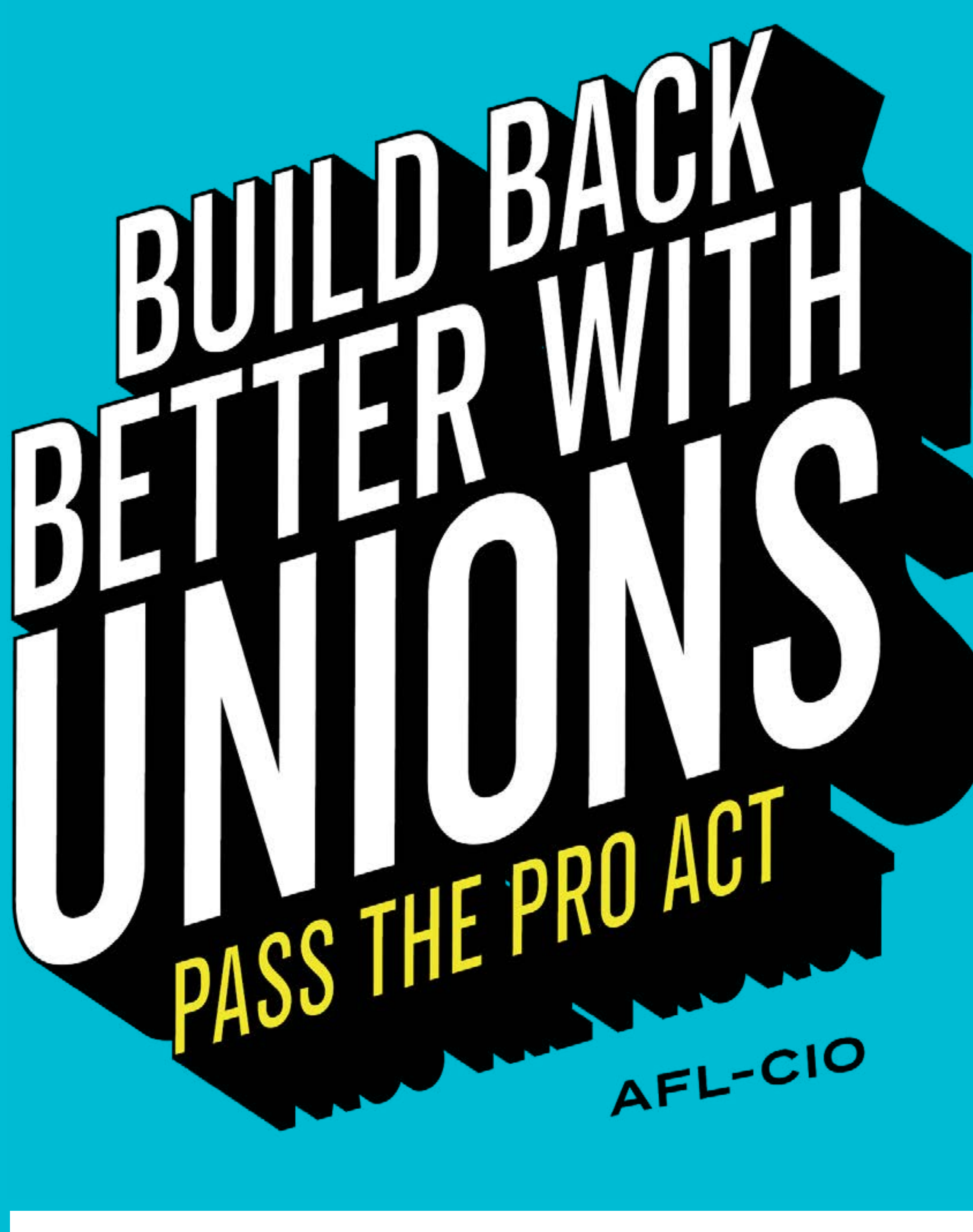


*Serena with husband Earl Williams.*



*Serena riding a mechanical bull at Hollywood's Saddle Ranch restaurant in celebration of her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2006.*





## What the PRO Act Means for Creative Professionals

by AFL-CIO

Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act opponents are waging a misinformation campaign around freelance work and the ABC test. The PRO Act doesn't stop anyone from doing freelance work; it protects freelancers' rights to organize and collectively bargain, if they choose to. Learn more about what the ABC test is and how the PRO Act affects freelancers with the following FAQ:

### **I hear that the PRO Act is just like A.B. 5 in California and would cause creative professionals and freelance journalists to lose work. Is this true?**

No. Corporate interests are waging a misinformation campaign against the PRO Act. The only way the PRO Act could possibly affect creative professionals or freelance journalists is that it might allow them to join a union and engage in collective bargaining, but only if they choose to. Those not wanting to organize a union or engage in collective action would be unaffected. The PRO Act would not stop creative professionals or freelance journalists from continuing to do freelance work.

### **So what does the PRO Act's ABC test do, then?**

The "ABC test" in the PRO Act is used to determine who qualifies for protection under federal law if and when they choose to engage in collective action, organize a union or bargain collectively.

### **So is the PRO Act the same as AB 5 in California?**

No. AB 5 in California redefines who is an "employee" under a broad range of state employment laws. The PRO Act does not touch any of those laws. The PRO Act only affects the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), which is the federal law that governs private sector unions.

### **Would the PRO Act force the company for which I freelance to hire me as a W-2 employee?**

No. The PRO Act does not affect any of the laws that typically determine whether someone is hired as a W-2 employee, most notably tax law, but also minimum wage, overtime, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, etc.

### **Would the PRO Act outlaw independent contracting, gig work or freelancing, or make freelancing work contracts illegal?**

Absolutely not. Nothing in the PRO Act outlaws any kind of work arrangement. The PRO Act's "ABC test" only determines who qualifies for NLRA protection if and when they try to engage in collective action, organize a union or bargain collectively.

### **How is it possible that the ABC test in the PRO Act would only apply to the NLRA and not to all the other laws that determine whether a worker is hired as a W-2 employee?**

This is not unusual. A number of states use the ABC test for some purposes but not others. About half the states use some form of the ABC test to determine who qualifies for unemployment benefits. A few states use the ABC test to determine who qualifies for minimum wage and overtime protection. Some states use the ABC test only in specific sectors of the economy, such as construction.

### **Shouldn't we just drop the ABC test from the PRO Act to avoid potential problems?**

No. The ABC test is an absolutely essential part of the PRO Act. It is critical because employers often try to stop their workers from organizing a union by falsely claiming that the workers are independent contractors. The ABC test protects the rights of those workers to engage in collective action and organize a union.

### **So why are critics of the PRO Act focusing on the ABC test?**

Those critics do not want more workers to have their rights protected because they do not want more workers to be able to organize unions. It's that simple. It's very hard to argue that journalists or anyone else should not have their rights protected if and when they choose to engage in collective action, so the other side comes up with all sorts of distractions to confuse people.

### **What else would happen if freelance journalists did choose to organize a union?**

Organizing a union might allow writers to address issues that are important to them so they can make their jobs and their lives better. This would be a good thing. They would be free to negotiate any kind of work rules that would make it easier for them to earn a living, such as a requirement of timely payment. It is hard to argue that journalists or creative professionals should not have their bargaining rights protected.

### **Will the PRO Act hurt the bottom line of media companies and lead them to stop hiring freelancers?**

No. The only way the bottom line of media companies could possibly be affected is if freelance journalists qualified for NLRA protection, which is not a given, and subsequently organized unions and reached bargaining agreements with the companies, which also is not a given. If this did happen, these journalists would presumably bargain for a result that would make them better off in the end with regard to both compensation and job opportunities.

In short, this is the same scaremongering we always hear from the richest few whenever we speak up for the 99% of Americans who work for a living. When regular people are empowered on the job and earn a fair wage, we spend more, we bolster the economy, and we create more jobs for everyone.

**Show your support with a [phone call](#) and/or a [letter](#) directly to your Senators and tell them to vote YES on the PRO Act!**





AFM Local 47  
@AFMLocal47



AFM Local 47 condemns the horrific acts of hate and violence targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Our union was founded on the core principles of dignity, respect & equality, and we stand together in supporting our AAPI communities. [#StopAsianHate](#) 🌸



The AFM is saddened and angered about the racism and pain Asian/Asian Pacific Islanders and other minority communities experience. Recent events have once again shown the need for gun reform in this country. The AFM abhors intolerance, hate, racism, and violence of any kind. We urge our Brothers and Sisters to look out for one another, to be thoughtful about the language they use, and to embrace inclusivity.

#stopasianhate

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS



4:11 PM · Mar 24, 2021 · Twitter Web App

## Labor Movement Fighting Anti-Asian Racism in All Forms

by AFL-CIO

The continued anti-Asian racism that has skyrocketed during the coronavirus pandemic is a stain on our nation. The labor movement again condemns this vile behavior and will continue to fight these injustices.

“The entire labor movement is appalled by the continued rise in anti-Asian racism across the country. Acts of physical violence, yelling of racial slurs and intimidation tactics used against our Asian American friends, family and communities must be called out and stopped,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “Anti-Asian rhetoric is only hurting our nation more during this pandemic, and we all must stand up and condemn in the strongest terms possible that racism in any form is unacceptable.”

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance National President Monica Thammarath stated, “It is not right that Asian Americans are afraid to be alone in public, especially our elders who live in poverty and depend on access to community services, and our young people who live in places where there are few community spaces to turn to. We grieve for the elders who have been assaulted in Chinatowns across the nation. We grieve for Vicha Ratanapakdee, an 84-year-old Thai man who was attacked on one of his daily walks in San Francisco. We send our love to Noel Quintana, a 61-year-old Filipino American who was attacked on a Manhattan subway car, and to the 52-year-old Chinese American woman who was attacked outside of a Flushing bakery. We grieve for Christian Hall, a Chinese American teenager who was murdered by the Pennsylvania State Police. We grieve for Angelo Quinto, a 30-year-old Filipino American who was murdered by Antioch, California, police. Our communities are hurting, and we are more agitated than ever to create change.

“This is part of a long history of violence against Asian Americans that includes the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, lynchings and white mob violence on Asian ethnic communities, denaturalization of Indian American citizens, and Islamophobia against Muslim, Arab and Middle Eastern communities. Last year’s June uprisings for Black Lives Matter showed just how important it is for social justice movements to forefront building community safety. Securing this ability for people to move around or stay where they are safely, requires all of us to ensure that everyone has adequate access to housing, food, health care and other basic necessities to live. By working to ensure we meet each other’s needs, we learn valuable lessons on how we can keep each other safe and take community safety back in our hands.”

“Racism in any form is wrong. Plain and simple. I have been so incensed to see the attacks on our Asian brothers and sisters that I could just scream,” said Clayola Brown, AFL-CIO civil rights director and A. Philip Randolph Institute president. “For those of us of color who have endured systemic racism for 400 years, it is scary to see this unrelenting targeting and denigration happening to another group. The kind of ugliness we’ve seen happening to members of the Asian community as they simply go to the store or gather in a park to visit is disgusting and must be stopped. To watch elderly people come under attack and no one come to their aid shows we still have so much more work to do. Humanity must prevail. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, ‘The time is always right to do what is right.’ We must all take responsibility to make sure that no one is targeted, tormented or harassed because of their ethnicity. Until we learn that lesson, we all pay the price for racism.”



# General Membership Meeting

Monday | Apr 26 | 7:30pm  
Zoom Virtual Meeting



Open to members  
in good standing

On the agenda  
(subject to change):

- Presentation of 50-year Pins
- Nominations to fill Vacancy on Election Board
  - Officer Reports
- Old and New Business

Open to all members in good standing.  
Please review meeting policies [here](#).

In accordance with COVID safety guidelines, we will again be holding our next General Membership Meeting via Zoom. This meeting is open to all Local 47 members in good standing. Registration is required. Once your membership is verified, you will receive an email link with the virtual access code. Local 47 members may register for the meeting at [afm47.org/gmm](https://afm47.org/gmm). (Members will also receive this registration link via email.) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a unique link and information about joining the Zoom Membership Meeting.



## Office Closures

Friday, April 2 - Closing at 1 p.m. (Good Friday)

## Next General Membership Meeting

Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

Open to all members in good standing

## Executive Board Meetings

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Members welcome as observers

## New Member Orientation

Third Thursdays, 2 p.m.

*Please Note: While our offices remain closed due to COVID, meetings are currently held via Zoom*

View our full calender @ [afm47.org/calendar](https://afm47.org/calendar)





# Local 47 Musicians Relief Fund

[afm47.org/relief](http://afm47.org/relief)

The Local 47 Musicians Relief Fund offers up to \$500 per member based on need. Applicants will need to provide bank statements and bills to receive payment. Please visit [afm47.org/relief](http://afm47.org/relief) to review eligibility guidelines and to apply.

## Claim Your Money!

The musicians listed here have not responded to notices of checks in escrow at Local 47. If your name is listed or you know the whereabouts of these musicians or their beneficiaries, please contact our Finance Department: 323.993.3146, [bookkeeping@afm47.org](mailto:bookkeeping@afm47.org)

## Member Directory Book Notice

Due to pandemic cost-saving measures, AFM Local 47 has suspended publication of the annual print Member Directory Book. Our Online Directory Search remains available to members 24/7 at [afm47.org/search.php](http://afm47.org/search.php).

# Coronavirus COVID-19

## Resources for Musicians

[afm47.org/covid19](http://afm47.org/covid19)

Find information about the Local 47 Relief Fund and other grants available for musicians, unemployment/PUA news, community services, and more.

[afm47.org/covid19](http://afm47.org/covid19)

## Update Your Beneficiary Card

Your beneficiary card designates the recipient of the Local 47 \$1,000 death benefit. If you need to change your beneficiary, update beneficiary information, or if you just can't remember who you have listed, please contact our Benefits Department for a new card:

**(323) 993-3159** | [benefits@afm47.org](mailto:benefits@afm47.org)

If you have any change of beneficiary or contact info updates, be sure to also to report them to:

AFM Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) – (800) 833-8065

Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund –  
(818) 755-7777

Sound Recording Special Payments Fund:  
(212) 310-9100

AFM & SAG-AFTRA Intellectual Property Rights  
Fund: 818-255-7985

*Please note: The Local 47 Death Benefit is not payable to a beneficiary if the member was suspended, expelled or had resigned at the time of passing.*

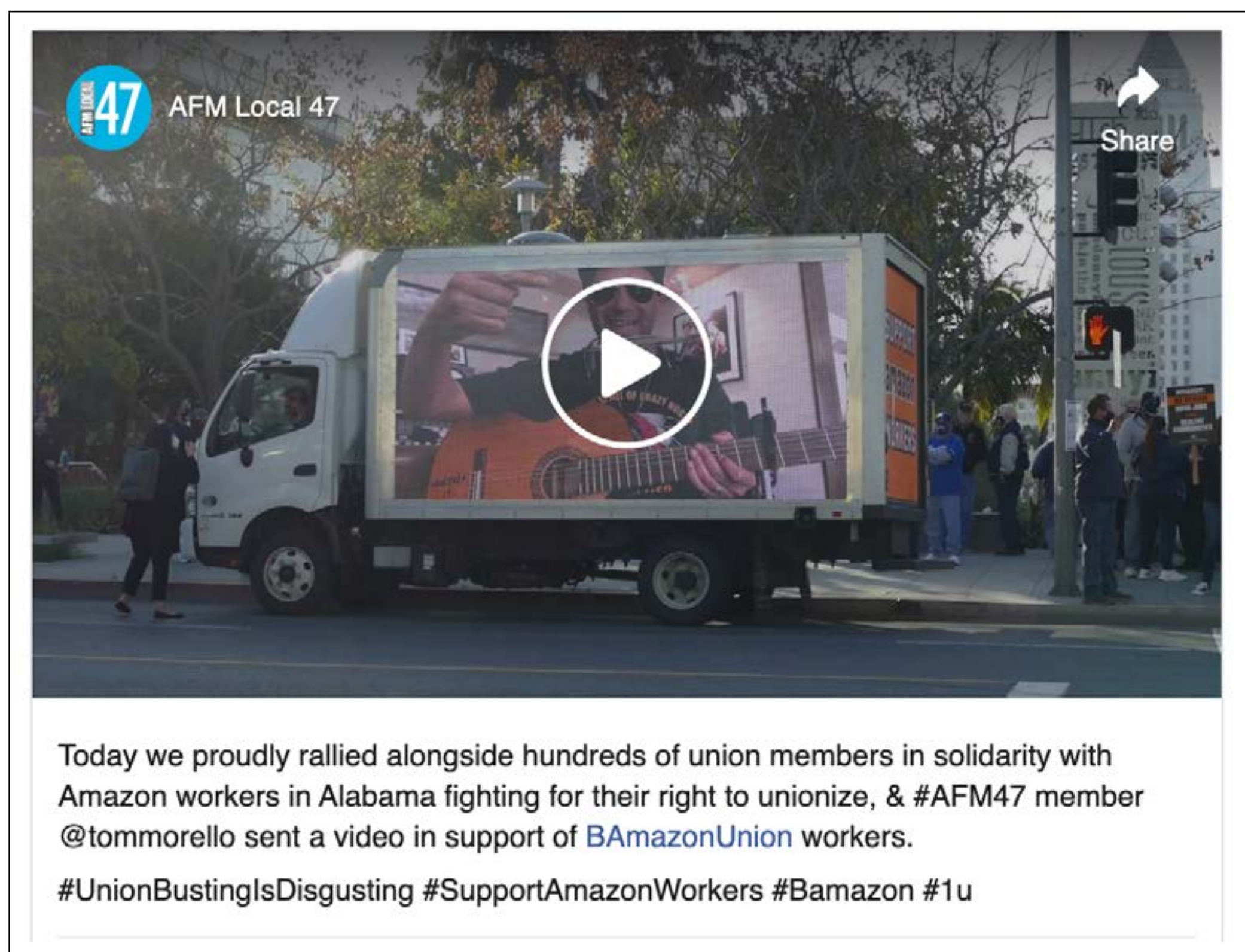




All photos/video by Linda A. Rapka

## Angelenos Stand With Amazon Workers in Alabama Voting to Unionize

Nearly 5,800 workers in Bessemer, Alabama cast their ballots in a historic election last month to decide whether to form Amazon's first warehouse union in America while faced with the company blanketing anti-union propaganda across their workplace. In solidarity, hundreds of union members from across Los Angeles turned out for a march and rally on the morning of March 22 to show wholehearted support.



*Above: video of Local 47 member Tom Morello's message of support for Bessemer Amazon workers.*

Local labor union members, elected officials, clergy, and community members held the rally to call attention to the ever growing union busting industry and culture used to suppress workers rights across the nation.



The rally began at Grand Park and marched past Walt Disney Concert Hall to 1 Cal Plaza, the headquarters of Morgan Lewis, a law firm used by Amazon and some of the largest corporations in the world. Every year, corporations spend billions of dollars on union-busting consultants to suppress the voice of workers.



The union election in Bessemer, Alabama has received national attention over the last few months as workers fight to join Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union/UFCW, potentially establishing the first unionized facility in the company's history.



## In the Studio



*Photo courtesy of Angel Velez*

## In the Studio With Los Angeles Film Conducting Intensive

On Saturday, March 6, Angel Velez led a 37-piece orchestra in a session on the Newman Scoring Stage at Fox Studios for the Los Angeles Film Conducting Intensive (LAFCI), a conducting workshop co-founded with composer/conductor David Newman.

“Thanks to the support of Local 47, Newman Scoring Stage staff, LA County Department of Public Health, Encompass Music Partners, and the tireless efforts of the LAFCI staff and faculty, we were able to safely return to the studios with a mixed ensemble, the first time in almost a year,” Velez said. Thanks to the composition guidance from Bill Ross and Conrad Pope, the orchestra of 37 musicians “sounded twice the size.”

LAFCI’s professional development workshops are designed specifically for media composers to provide conductor training under the tutelage of some of the industry’s finest teachers.



On the Town



# LAYO LIVE IN THE 2 BACKYARD

*VIRTUAL CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT*

**Sunday, May 23, 2021**  
**at 2:00pm**

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# Union Member EDD Forum



California LABOR Federation

*Share tips on filing for  
unemployment insurance &  
PUA for Musicians and  
Entertainment Workers*

**Zoom meetups every  
other Wednesday**

**To sign up, contact:  
[nctanaka@calaborfed.org](mailto:nctanaka@calaborfed.org)**

The California Labor Federation has been hosting a series of Member-to-Member web forums for musicians and entertainment workers via Zoom.

These meetings, which take place every other Wednesday, are an opportunity to ask questions and share helpful tips about filing EDD claims directly with your colleagues about this often confusing process.

### **Upcoming Member-to-Member Zoom Forums\*:**

Wednesday, April 14, 1-2 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28, 1-2 p.m.

*(\* Dates/times subject to change)*

All union members and community members who have questions on UI may join these Zoom forums. Learn more at [afm47.org/ui](https://afm47.org/ui).





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## U.S. SENATE CONFIRMS



## MARTY WALSH

SECRETARY OF LABOR

AFL-CIO

### #UnionStrong: Marty Walsh Confirmed as Secretary of Labor

For the first time in nearly 50 years, the U.S. Secretary of Labor is a union member. Boston's former mayor Marty Walsh was sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris on March 23, giving workers one of the most pro-union heads to ever serve at the Department of Labor.

Walsh first joined the Laborers' Union Local 223 at age 21. By 2011, he had risen to lead the Boston Trades Council, a group that represents ironworker and electrician unions, among others.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka released the following statement after the Senate's vote confirming Walsh as our new Secretary of Labor:

*"Congratulations to Secretary Walsh. It's difficult to overstate the importance of this moment. For four years, working families have lived with a Labor Department devoted to serving a handful of elite interests. Now, the power to enforce safety and equity in our workplaces has been handed from a ruthless corporate lawyer to a proud union brother."*

*"Working people organized, mobilized and voted to deliver that victory. But we aren't finished yet. It's time to build a truly just recovery that hands power back to the workers who have borne the brunt of this crisis."*

*"That means delivering unprecedented funding to create a 21<sup>st</sup>-century infrastructure alongside a new generation of good-paying union jobs. It means raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. And most of all, it means strengthening working people's right to organize together by finally passing the PRO Act. Our work has only just begun, and we will be stronger with Secretary Walsh in the fight ahead."*

Up next, California Labor Secretary Julie Su heads to a confirmation vote to become Walsh's deputy at the DOL. Stay tuned for more news on the #DOLDream-Team of Walsh and Su.





## Hasan Minawi Shares Unique Skills on ‘Britain’s Got Talent’

AFM Local 47 member Hasan Minawi, a musician and music teacher hailing from Jordan, surprised the audience of “Britain’s Got Talent” during its Series 14 run in 2020 when he revealed the unique musical instrument he brought along to play.

To stunned gasps, he revealed his “Minawi straw,” a drinking straw with flute-like holes, which he invented himself and has a patent for. He has been playing the straw for 10 years, having been inspired by one of his students who forgot to bring an instrument to class, before he then told the student to use his drinking straw as an instrument.

Before his audition, he stated he was a musician, but did not reveal his instrument until the music began, at which point he removed it from his jacket pocket. He then proceeded to perform “My Heart Will Go On” by Celine Dion, a traditional Scottish song, and “La Bamba” by Los Lobos, by blowing into the straw. Show judge Simon Cowell shared, “This is something we weren’t expecting, or have seen before!”

Minawi advanced onward to the following round, but ultimately did not reach the semi-finals. Congratulations for showing the world that music can, indeed, be found everywhere!

Watch the “Minawi straw” performance here:



share YOUR story  
with  
the Overture  
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## Got a Story to Tell?

Let us know! Overture welcomes submissions from our members. Share about your latest union recording, performance or event by sending us your story (and photos!) using our online submission form at [afm47.org/overture](https://afm47.org/overture).



## Final Notes



### In Memoriam

**Leo Anthony**

Life Member. Clarinet  
8/19/1925 - 2/11/2021  
Survived by brother

**Edward Bordenave**

Life Member. Trumpet  
4/27/1935 - 12/21/2020  
Survived by spouse

**Vanessa E. Meyerson**

Life Member. Piano  
8/7/1935 - 2/19/2021  
Survived by spouse

Send your Final Notes remembrances using our online submissions form at [afm47.org/overture](https://afm47.org/overture)

or you may send to:

[overture@afm47.org](mailto:overture@afm47.org)

Local 47 Overture Online

3220 Winona Ave.

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# Letters



*We want to hear from you!*

*Send in your Letters to the Editor:*

*[overture@afm47.org](mailto:overture@afm47.org)*

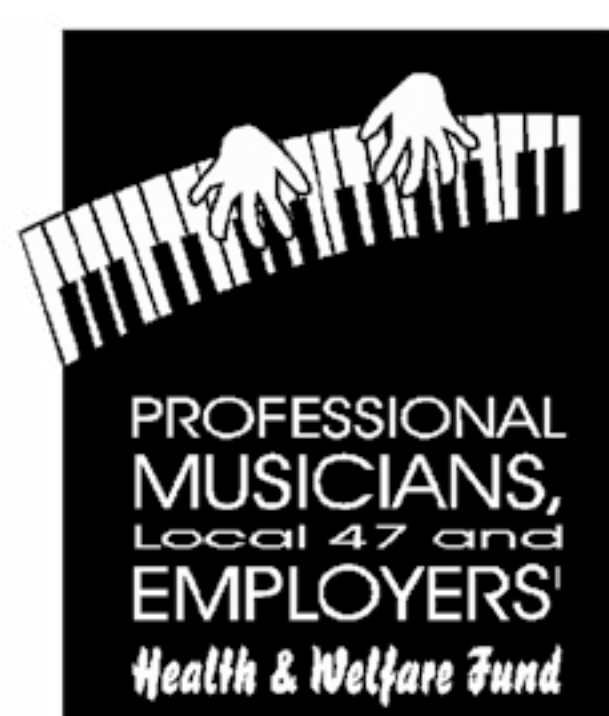
*3220 Winona Ave.*

*Burbank CA 91504*

*Please keep within a maximum of 400 words.  
For full submission guidelines, please [click here](#).*



# How and When to Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine



Good news is on the way. Starting April 1, 2021, individuals age 50-64 years old will be eligible to be vaccinated, and on April 15, everyone age 16 or older will be eligible.

## How to Sign Up for a Vaccination

Visit the Los Angeles County public health website to find out what you will need in order to schedule and obtain your vaccination.

- ✓ Check to see if you are eligible for a vaccine
- ✓ Check the type of vaccine needed
  - *If you are age 16 or 17 and are eligible to be vaccinated, look for a vaccination site that offers the Pfizer vaccine (the Moderna and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccines can only be given to people age 18 years and older)*
- ✓ You will need to show proof of who you are, that you live or work in Los Angeles County, and that you are in an eligible group
  - *Note: You do not need to show government-issued ID, and you do not need to be a U.S. citizen, to get a vaccine*
  - *Minors (age 16 and 17) must be accompanied by an adult that can provide consent to inoculate*

## How to Make an Appointment

There are several ways and places to schedule and obtain your vaccination:

- ✓ Vaccinations are by appointment only. Remember to bring documentation as noted here, and for your safety and that of others, don't arrive too early. Arriving 10-minutes before your appointment is recommended. Schedule adequate time. It is recommended that you plan to be there at least one hour. This includes 15-30 minutes for you to be observed after you receive your vaccination.
- ✓ After your vaccination there may be side effects. Some common side effects are:
  - Fever, chills, and muscle aches
  - Headache
  - Feeling tired
  - Sore or red arm
- ✓ Will you need a second vaccination? Before you leave the vaccination site, obtain information about your second dose should one be necessary.





# COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

Good news for union members, especially those on the front lines. Multiple safe and highly effective vaccines are becoming available to more phase tiers at clinics around Los Angeles, and are a big part of the solution to getting our country back on track.

To help members make an informed decision about the vaccine or discuss it with friends and family, we took a look at the science behind the medicines that are now available. With so much misinformation about vaccines floating around, some may be skeptical about taking the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccines, concerned about their effectiveness or safety.

To set the record straight, the LA Fed has gathered information from the medical experts. [Click here to see what they have to say.](#)



## Membership Dues Policy

### Membership Dues Fees

#### Regular Member

Annual Dues: \$210

Semi-Annual Dues: \$110

#### Life Member

Annual Dues: \$110

#### Inactive Life Member

Annual Dues: \$90

### Make checks or money orders payable to:

AFM Local 47,  
3220 Winona Ave.  
Burbank CA 91504

You may also make payments with VISA, MasterCard, Discover, AmEx by phone at 323.993.3116 or at [afm47.org/dues](http://afm47.org/dues)

## Dues Schedule

Annual and Semi-Annual Membership Dues for Regular, Life and Inactive Life Members are due **Jan. 1** of each year. Payment must be received by **March 31** (three-month grace period) to avoid suspension. If not paid by this date, a \$75 reinstatement fee will be assessed. **Both dues and reinstatement fee must be paid by June 30 to avoid expulsion.**

Likewise, Semi-Annual Membership Dues for Regular Members are due **July 1** and must be received by **Sept. 30** (three-month grace period) to avoid suspension. If not paid by this date, a \$75 reinstatement fee will be assessed. **Both dues and reinstatement fee must be paid by Dec. 31 to avoid expulsion.**

*Please note: Inactive Life Members do not have all of the same rights as privileges as Regular and Life Members, such as the right to vote in Local elections. Please review the AFM Local 47 Bylaws for complete information.*

## Work Dues Notices

At its Dec. 9, 2014 meeting, the Local 47 Executive Board passed the following motion:

“As a matter of policy, Local 47 will no longer mail checks to members or non-members whose delinquent work dues liability is in excess of \$1,000. When the Local receives a payroll check for anyone who has such a delinquency, the member or non-member shall be contacted by the Secretary/Treasurer’s office. Checks within 14 days of expiration will be deposited in the Escrow Fund.”

If you fall into that category, you will receive a postcard informing you that your check is in the office. You can call the Secretary/Treasurer’s office at (323) 993-3159 to discuss your work dues delinquency and to make arrangements to pick up your check.

### Notice From the Executive Board: Work Dues Delinquency and Suspension

1) Local 47 members whose work dues delinquency exceeds \$500 shall be suspended; and

2) Non-Local 47 members whose work dues delinquency exceeds \$500 shall be referred to the IEB as provided in the AFM Bylaws.

In order to reinstate membership, a \$75 reinstatement fee will be assessed.

## Resignation Policy

In order to resign in good standing, you must email, mail or fax your written request to Local 47 before your membership is suspended. Though dues are due Jan. 1 and July 1, current grace periods extend to March 31 and Sept. 30, respectively; suspensions are posted April 1 and Oct. 1. The reinstatement fee is \$75.

In addition to membership dues, all other financial obligations, Local and International, must be paid prior to resignation. Your letter of resignation will be presented at the following Executive Board meeting and a written response will be mailed to you. Don’t wait! If you wait, you will be required to pay another half year’s dues and/or clearance fee.



## AFM Local 47 Refund/Return Policy

Unless otherwise specified, Membership and Work dues payments made to AFM Local 47 are not refundable. Merchandise or other items purchased directly from AFM Local 47 may be returned within fourteen days of purchase upon return of the item(s) in the condition in which you received said item(s). To request a refund and return content, please contact AFM Local 47, Attn: Vice President's Office, 323.993.3172, [merchandise@afm47.org](mailto:merchandise@afm47.org), 3220 Winona Ave. Burbank CA 91504, to receive instructions on returning your product(s).

## HELP A MUSICIAN IN NEED

Be an anonymous donor to the Local 47 Musicians Relief Fund. Send contributions to the Secretary's office or call (323) 993-3159 for more information.

## Multiple-Card AFM Member Rebate

Did you know? If you hold membership in three or more Locals throughout a full calendar year, you are entitled to a rebate from the AFM.

Under the rebate program, membership in a base of two Locals must be established in order for a member to qualify for a rebate. The International Secretary/Treasurer's office has determined that a musician's membership in his or her "Home Local" and the subsequent Local of longest tenure shall be designated as the two base Locals. The Secretary/Treasurer's office will then rebate the appropriate per capita dues for membership in the third Local and any other Local(s) beyond three to which a member belonged for the entire previous calendar year.

To petition for a Multiple-Card Member Rebate, members should fill out the form and return it to the Secretary/Treasurer's office together with copies of all their paid-up membership cards, receipts of canceled checks for annual dues from all Locals, or a letter from each Local stating that the petitioner was a member in good standing of the Locals for the full year prior. Rebates will be issued after Jan. 1.

Members may download the rebate form from the international AFM website [here](http://afm.org) (afm.org login required; locate the rebate form under "Miscellaneous" in the Document Library).

## Notice to All Persons Entering or Utilizing the Property of the Musicians' Club\* of Los Angeles:

The premises of the Musicians' Club of Los Angeles are reserved for the exclusive use by the officers, employees, and Full, Youth, Life or Inactive Life Members in good standing of AFM Local 47 and the American Federation of Musicians. All other persons must receive written permission from the office of Local 47's president to enter or utilize these premises. Local 47 reserves the right to remove and to cite for trespass any party found on these premises who does not fulfill the above conditions of occupancy. (Note: This notice is not applicable to those making deliveries to AFM Local 47, or customers of and those making deliveries to tenants of the Local 47 headquarters.)

*\* The Musicians' Club of Los Angeles, Inc., is a California Non-Profit Corporation incorporated in 1926. It owns all land and improvements where AFM Local 47 conducts its business. The Corporation rents space to other tenants, mainly industry related. All members of AFM Local 47 are also members of the Musicians' Club of Los Angeles.*

## Do Not Work For...

The list published at [afm47.org/donotworkfor.html](http://afm47.org/donotworkfor.html) contains the names of employers with whom Local 47 currently has disputes.



*If you have any questions about this list please contact*

*the President's Office: 323.993.3181*

## Notice of Strike Sanctions

On June 24, 2015, strike sanctions were approved by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor against:

**Cinema Scoring**  
**CMG Music Recording**  
**Peter Rotter Music Services**

If and when any of the aforementioned parties calls a non-union engagement, other labor unions have agreed to stand in solidarity with Local 47 and not cross our line.

If you are being pressured to participate in non-union work or take financial-core status and quit the union, know that it is illegal for employers or employers' representatives to coerce, pressure or otherwise influence any employee to take fi-core status under the National Labor Relations Act. Should this happen to you, call 323.993.3181.

Your Union will take action — with legal counsel if necessary — on your behalf to ensure your rights as a union worker are protected.



# Auditions



Announces Auditions for:

**Section Baroque Violin**  
(one position, tenure-track)

**Co-Principal Baroque Viola**  
(one position, tenure-track)

Auditions will be held on April 12, 2021  
at the Long Beach Convention Center.

To apply, please submit your PDF resumé emphasizing Baroque training and experience by April 2, 2021 to the Personnel Manager: Denise Briesé <denisebriese@yahoo.com> After the resumé is accepted, you will receive further information about the audition including what music to prepare. No deposit is necessary to apply.

Musicians must audition with baroque-style bow and instrument(s), pitch = A415. All musicians performing with Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra must be members in good standing at AFM Local 47 in Los Angeles, CA. Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra is an equal opportunity employer.



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