

RECORDING MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER



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RMA General Conference 2005

by Phil Ayling, RMA President

The Recording Musicians Association held its 2005 Conference in Nashville this past December 10-11. The voting Delegates arrived from many different corners of the AFM; Wieslaw Pogorzelski, *San Francisco*; Roger Blanc, *New York*; Dave Pomeroy and Bruce Bouton, *Nashville*; Lee Levin and Dan Warner, *South Florida* and Greg Jamrok and Liane Mautner, *Los Angeles*. They joined presiding (but non-voting) Conference Delegates; President Phil Ayling, Treasurer Antony Cooke and Secretary Marc Sazer, and RMA Publisher Jay Rosen.

AFM President Tom Lee designated Federation Vice President Harold Bradley (also President of Nashville Local 257 and a Pension Fund Trustee) as the Federation's official representative to our Conference. Local 257 was also represented by Secretary-Treasurer Billy Linneman, and Board member Bobby Ogdin and Laura Ross (who, as ICSOM Secretary, served as their representative as well.) Pension Fund Trustee Phil Yao joined us, as did EMSD Executive Administrator Carol Sato and AFM Contract Administrator Pat Variale.

RMA Nashville Officers Bobby Ogdin, Tom Wild, B.J. Lowry, Jimmy Nichols, Spady Brannan and dropped by at various times. Together with Bruce Bouton and Chapter President Dave Pomeroy, our Nashville colleagues' help with Conference preparations made it a most successful event. It's little wonder that with such great leadership, RMA Nashville has seen tremendous growth during the last two years. Special thanks to their Chapter for hosting a great evening mixer with Southern barbecue and live music.

The Conference heard Chapter Reports from each of the represented cities. Local 655 (Miami) President Steve Roitstein, who was also in attendance, joined our delegates in speaking about recording activity in South Florida, where we have our newest Chapter.

A central function of every RMA General Conference includes reports on the state of the AFM Media Agreements. The Sound Recording Labor Agreement is facing serious challenges, and the Delegates engaged in wide-ranging discussions of how best to support this core AFM Agreement, as well as problems stemming from non-union film and video game recording which occur throughout the Federation.

AFM-AFTRA Fund and Film Secondary Markets Fund Administrator Dennis Dreith gave a highly informative PowerPoint presentation on the AFM-AFTRA Fund. The AFM-AFTRA Fund is a joint project of the two unions, formed for the purpose of distributing royalties collected from various foreign territories and collected under US law which are earmarked for non-featured performers (i.e. background singers and session musicians). Dennis spoke about the Fund's ongoing activities and its' projected future growth.

The delegates voted to amend the by-laws and change the Conference from an annual event to a biennial one in order to devote more of our financial resources to employment and contract issues. The next RMA General Conference will occur in 2007 and each odd-numbered year thereafter. As a result of that by-law amendment, our Election Committee of Jay Rosen and Billy Linneman supervised our first 2 year term elections. Billy also administered the RMA Oath of Office. Election results are as follows:

President: Phil Ayling *Secretary:* Marc Sazer *Treasurer:* Antony Cooke *1st VP:* Bruce Bouton
2nd VP: Roger Blanc *Executive Officers:* Dave Pomeroy; Lee Levin
AFM Convention Delegate: Dave Pomeroy *Alternate:* Neil Stubenhaus

In consultation with the Conference, President Ayling made the following appointments with regards to Executive Positions, Rank and File Appointments and Committee Chairs:

Editor and Executive Publisher: Jay Rosen
Advisor for Intellectual Property Issues: Bruce Bouton
Advisor for Latin Recording: Lee Levin
Sound Recordings: Neil Stubenhaus; Dave Pomeroy
Motion Picture/TV Film/Other: Phil Ayling

Webmaster: Marc Sazer
Videogames: Marc Sazer
Legislative: Dave Pomeroy
Jingles: Roger Blanc
Live TV/Videotape: Phil Ayling, Neil Stubenhaus

Thanks to all Delegates and Officers, past and present, for your efforts in keeping the RMA a strong and effective voice for recording musicians. See you in 2007!

Secondary Markets Fund Update

The Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund is actively preparing for the upcoming July 1, 2006 disbursement.

During the last year, Administrator Dennis Dreith and his staff have been hard at work collecting funds on behalf of musicians and now they need our help.

If you have had a change of address, marital status, withholding information or would like to start or terminate direct deposit status you need to inform the Fund soon. The Fund now has a GO PAPERLESS option which should also appeal to many participants.

There are two "Information Update" deadlines approaching with regards to your Secondary Markets Fund distribution.

- Changes regarding TAX WITHHOLDING, MARITAL STATUS and/or DIRECT DEPOSIT must be completed by MAY19TH.
- The ADDRESS CHANGES deadline is JUNE 2nd.

If you are registered, many of these changes can be made online in the Private Area Members Section, at www.fmsmf.org

If you are not registered, RMA recommends that you take the time to do so. In addition to being able to update your personal info, you can print current and prior statements, make duplicate tax forms and access other proprietary information online.

Some changes require back-up, which must be done either by post, fax, or in person. That information is also available at the website. Please contact Christopher Kuhrt, the Fund's Operations Manager at 818-755-7777 x 828, for additional assistance.

Doing this now saves administrative costs which we all pay for. Reviewing your status is the best way to insure that your disbursement arrives on time and in the manner most secure and convenient for you!

Sound Recording Special Payments Fund

The Sound Recording Special Payments Fund is preparing for its' annual distribution, which will occur on or about August 1, 2006.

RMA wants to share the following information with our members about this year's distribution and the Fund:

- Address or beneficiary changes - Deadline for this years distribution is July 12, 2006
- Direct Deposit Applications - Deadline for application to be received at the Fund for this year's distribution is June 15, 2006.

Direct Deposit insures that Special Payments Fund distributions reach musicians virtually wherever they are. Electing to use Direct Deposit also represents a substantial savings over individual check preparation for the Fund, and that reduces administrative costs for all of us!!

- Website: www.sound-recording.org

Robert DiPaola, the Fund's Administrator, encourages all participants to become registered users at the Fund's website, where you can arrange for direct deposit, designate a beneficiary and get the latest news regarding Fund activities.

- Toll-Free Number: (866) 711-FUND
- Fax: (212) 310-9481
- Sound Recording Special Payments Fund
570 Lexington Ave., 21st Floor
New York, NY 10022

The AFM has just negotiated a new Sound Recording Labor Agreement. The new terms and conditions will go into effect June 1, 2006. Stay tuned for updates!