

Providence Federation of Musicians  
General Membership Meeting

Lymansville VFW Post  
North Providence, RI  
July 12, 2005

**Call to Order:** 7:05 P.M.

Roll Call: President Artie Cabral; Vice-President Al DeAndrade;  
Secretary-Treasurer Ed Plunkett -- All Present

Executive Board Members Richard Salzillo and John Worsley not in attendance – excused.

26 members (including officers) in attendance, constituting a quorum to conduct business.

**In Memoriam:**

S/T Plunkett read the names of eight (8) members deceased since the last membership meeting

**Secretary's Report:**

S/T read the minutes of the meetings of June 14, 2005 (no quorum) and November 16, 2004. A motion was made from the floor to accept the secretary's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

S/T presented a summary of income and expenses for the first six months of 2005. There were several questions from the floor regarding particular details. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.

**President's Report:**

President Cabral discussed the upcoming AFM convention and the resolutions to be presented at the convention. He explained that some of the resolutions could adversely affect small locals. He noted an effort by the recording musicians in major cities to take control of the AFM. Some of the resolutions would have a negative effect on small locals, possibly driving rank and file members out of the AFM. He discussed the pressure that local 198-457's delegates will be under at the convention to maintain the status quo.

VP DeAndrade asked if opponents of AFM President Tom Lee were trying to take recording and symphonic control of the AFM.

Pres. stated that Local 198-457's delegates are uncommitted with respect to the office of AFM President. He mentioned that AFM Secretary-Treasurer Florence Nelson had just announced her opposition to President Lee.

**Announcements:**

VP reported that the Hi-Lo Jack tournament held on June 26 was a success. He is planning another tournament for Tuesday, August 2.

He announced that a benefit dinner for life member James Berry will be held on Sunday, July 24, and that he had tickets available for members wishing to attend.

He mentioned that the Glenn Miller Band will appear at Rhodes on Friday, July 22. Local 198-457 member Duke Belaire made the booking arrangements. Bob Tasca sponsors the event.

He announced that the recent membership drive, which he chaired, brought in fourteen (14) new members. He is seeking permission from the AFM to extend the drive through September 30.

**Committee Reports:**

VP, as Co-Chair of the Golf Committee, reported that the annual Golf Tournament will be held at Montaup Country Club on August 22. Tickets are \$100.00 for the tournament and dinner (\$25.00 for dinner only).

Committee member Alex Monsour spoke of the high quality of the Montaup course.

Committee member Arthur Medeiros spoke of the need for Tee sponsors.

**Old Business:**

VP presented a report on the recent Cavalcade of Bands held on May 24. Between 1200 and 1300 people attended. Over 1,100 tickets were sold. The net proceeds of the event were approximately \$8,400.00. He acknowledged all the groups who performed at the Cavalcade and the members who provided musical instruments for the evening. A "Musicians Appreciation Dinner" will be held after the next Cavalcade, to be held on Tuesday, November 1.

Alex Mansour extended the thanks of the membership to VP for his efforts in running the Cavalcade. A round of applause ensued.

**New Business:**

None of the new members were in attendance, so that induction ceremonies could not be held.

Pres. read his resolution to amend Article XVII of the by-laws to allow the Executive Board to extend dues payment relief beyond two quarters. He explained that the purpose of the resolution was to provide assistance to members suffering from extended illnesses or incapacity.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. Member Lee Bernardo collected and counted the ballots. The measure was approved 24 to 0. (2 members arrived after the voting and did not participate.)

S/T read the resolution of Executive Board Member John Worsley to create a "Blues" wage scale of \$25.00 for "Blues" bands performing in "Blues" clubs on off

nights. S/T informed the members in attendance that the Executive Board endorsed the resolution.

A discussion ensued. There was concern over people abusing the definition of “Blues” in order to avoid paying a fair wage. A question was raised as to whether dancing would be allowed. It was noted that dancing does take place in blues clubs. There was also concern that the special scale might end up lowering what players are already earning.

A motion was made by member Art Medeiros to table the resolution for further study by a committee. Member Richard McGuinn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Several members noted that non-union players feel that they do not need to belong to the union because they only play with the same band. It was also noted that because contributions to the AFM-EPF pension plan are not mandatory, some non-union players feel that there is little or no incentive for them to join the union.

VP displayed the Tee signs for sale at the Golf Tournament.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.. The motion carried

**Adjournment:**        8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Plunkett  
Secretary-Treasurer