

THE BRANTFORD MUSICIAN



NOVEMBER 2011



Brantford Musicians Association, Local 467, AFM, 105 Wellington Street, Brantford, Ont. N3T 2M1
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LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the November 8th meeting, a Life Membership will be presented to:

GEORGE ROSE

Please come out to the meeting and help us celebrate this milestone.

President Chris Nemeth presented a 50 year pin to Sonny Sinclair at the September General membership Meeting

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ELECTIONS

At the September Nomination meeting, the following members were nominated to the Executive Board: Bill Isherwood, Rusty James, Bob Reading.

They will be officially take office, by acclamation, at the November 8th general membership meeting.

NOTICE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ELECTION MEETING

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

7:30 pm

**Knights of Columbus Hall
12 Catharine Ave., Brantford**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Chris Nemeth
Vice-Pres. - Ken Johnson
Sec./Treas. - Marg Conway
Board Members:

Bill Isherwood
Garry Munn
Paul Newell
Al Newhouse

Pres. Emeritus - Albert Chowhan Office
Hours-1-4:30 pm Mon.-Fri.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Chris Nemeth

WHAT IS RESPONSIBILITY?

Lately I have been asking myself this question each time I go into the office. Here at the office, we all have the Responsibility to ensure that the office and the local are running in accordance with the bylaws of the BMA and the AFM. If anyone is wondering what our specific rolls are, feel free to look them up in our bylaw book. If anyone would like a bylaw book (members only please) fee free to stop by the office and pick one up.

As Members, you also have Responsibilities.....and lately I am seeing less of these Responsibilities being executed. Member are failing to file contracts; Members are failing to provide information and submitting work permits when working with non members; Members failing to pay their dues in a timely manner.

As Members who are leaders, Members who are conveners of events, Members who are side men/woman should all be responsible for paying their dues on time, using and filed AFM contracts, paying for work permits.

It's not Rocket Science folks. Let's start being on the same page here. As Members of the Canadian Federation of Musicians, we are Professional Musicians so let's starts taking care of business as the Professional we are.

2011 SANTA CLAUSE PARADE

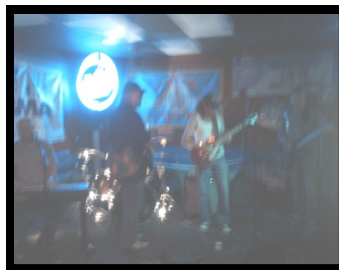


JCI Brantford is pleased to present the 37th Annual JCI Brantford Santa Clause Parade, on Saturday, November 26!

This year's theme is Santa's Workshop. All Parade Entries are invited to use the theme as a basis for their floats, but it is not a requirement. There is an award for the Best Theme entry, which is judged solely on how it incorporates "Santa's Workshop" into the float.

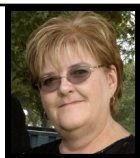
In the past, the BMA has entered a float in the parade and would like to do so again this year.

If there are any groups or individual musicians who would be interested in performing on a float in this year's parade, please contact the office or one of the board members, before our November 8, General Membership meeting. Better yet come out to the meeting and discuss the possibilities for the event.



MUSICIANS JAM 2011

The 2011 Musicians Jam was held on Sunday, September 11th at the Liquid Lounge. Although the turnout was not what we had hoped for, those that attended had a great time performing with "Alter Ego"



SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

by Marg Conway

As I begin to write this issue's column, I would like to take the opportunity to thank departing Board Member Al Newhouse, who did not choose to seek re-election for 2012. Since joining the board in 2008, Al has chaired a couple of very successful musicians picnics and also sits on the Membership Committee which I hope he will continue to do. He has some very innovative ideas but has also played the role of.....on the board.

His contributions will be missed.

However, we now have 2 former board members back on the Executive Board: Rusty James and Robert Reading. Rusty's enthusiasm and innovative ideas will be welcomed and previously, Bob has always been ready, able and willing to help with all activities so I look forward to working with both of them again. Bill Isherwood was re-elected by acclamation and has contributed during his terms as chair of a number of Jam events and chairs the Membership Committee. I'm sure he will continue to participate fully and offer some new ideas to the BMA.

Recently, the Canadian Federation of Musicians and the Canadian Ad Industry reached a historic tentative agreement on the Commercial Announcements Recording Contract. This is the industry standard collective agreement governing the production of music and audio tracks for commercials in Canada. Members will vote on the terms of this new agreement in the upcoming weeks.

"The future of compensation for all music, rests in digital distribution," explains Bill Skolnik, AFM Vice President from Canada & CFM Chief Executive Officer. "It is encouraging to see the advertising industry enthusiastically embrace our evolving relationship and do the right thing by looking after the needs of professional musicians living and working in Canada."

Over the past year, a caucus of rank and file musicians worked together to carve out the terms of this ground breaking new agreement. Building on AFM Canada's long and successful legacy, the CFM will continue furthering the interests and needs of professional musicians who earn their living in this country.

P2 VISA PROCESSING UPDATES

- ◆ Approximately 3 months ago US Immigration implemented a new requirement with respect to the work evidence portion of the P2 petition. It is now required on all multi venue/city tours, that you submit BOTH signed contracts AND a detailed itinerary. We have updated our informational documents to reflect this new filing requirement.
- ◆ The AFM will process and send to US Immigration, all completed applications within 72 hours of receipt (weekends & holidays excepted). This 72 hour turn around time is already figured into the minimum 36 day processing time requirement on applications processed through the Regular Processing Unit. It is strongly recommended on applications received with less than 35 days to process, that the US Immigration Premium Processing Fee (of an additional \$1225. US) be paid.
- ◆ The Canadian office has moved to 150 Ferrand Drive, Suite 202, Toronto, ON M3C 3E5. Inquiries and concerns on any of the above information may be emailed to Liana White (lwhite@afm.org).

THE IRS HAS CHANGED THE CENTRAL WITHOLDING AGREEMENT PROCEDURES....AGAIN!!

The IRS has revised its procedures and increased its requirements for non-resident foreign artists who wish to obtain a Central Withholding Agreement.

A CWA can greatly reduce and in some cases eliminate, the dreaded 30% tax withholding that applies to all gross income earned by non-resident foreign artists performing in the US. However, in recent months, the IRS has imposed stricter requirements to obtain a CWA. These heightened requirements apparently are in response to certain "loopholes" in the previous CWA procedure, including those that could allow certain individuals, side musicians and non performing personnel, to escape the requirement to file US tax returns and pay US taxes.

For more information on obtaining a CWA, contact Liana White at lwhite@afm.org.

NEW MEMBER

Monika Kuzma
(cello)

SUSPENDED

The following members were suspended for non-payment of dues as of October 1, 2011:

Mark Arbour
Andrew Ayerhart
Michael Davis

EXPELLED

The following musicians were expelled from the AFM/CFM as of October 1, 2011:

Daniel Anderson
Matt Christie
Tom Ion

**DUES**

If you are paying your dues quarterly, your 4th quarter (\$36.00) is now due. Please remember that it must be paid before the end of December.

BAND DISCOUNT
Save \$\$\$ if you all join together

Musicians performing in self-contained bands or musical groups of two or more, can save the \$85.00 initiation fee each if they apply together and join the BMA at the same time.

***Spread the word
"Bands who join together save together"***

SPOTLIGHT COLUMN

The writer of The Expositor's Spotlight Column wants to promote you and your gigs. Please contact Glen Silverthorn at glenandnola@hotmail.com to get your upcoming gigs listed in the column.

This is a wonderful free service so when you are performing in town, send off an e-mail and get it in the newspaper.

He is always looking for groups and singles to feature in the column as well. If you would like Glen to come out to one of your performances and write it up, contact him and he will be happy to write a column on you or your group.

American Income Life (AIL)

Did you know that active BMA members now have a \$3000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit at no cost to members or to the union? This benefit is being provided by American Income Life Insurance Company, a 100% union company. Letters were sent out a couple of weeks ago telling our members of this benefit increase. If you didn't already return the enrollment card through the mail or online you can do so by visiting: www.mail.aillife.com/benefits/SGFPG.

Members that choose to return a card are eligible for the family eye discount and child safe kits also at no cost. An AIL representative will contact you to set up an appointment to deliver and explain these benefits to you as well as offer you the opportunity to consider other benefits available through AIL.

Questions? Contact Jenny Hearn at 1-866-864-0955 or 519-788-4352 or by e-mail at jchearns@aillife.com

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