



# PITTSBURGH MUSICIAN

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF LOCAL 60-471, AFM  
PITTSBURGH MUSICIANS' UNION

FIRST QUARTER 2026

Everything yields to diligence ~ Antiphones



## Overture

By George Clewer  
President/Secretary

First let me wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As you can see at the top of the other column, "Let's bring it on!" Lots of challenges ahead for musicians and all Unionized workers. We will get into all that later. Right now, let's plan on the best year of our lives!

The results of our Local 60-471 election appear on page 2 of this publication. I want to congratulate the winners and to those who did not win, you are certainly anything but losers. You ran a good race and came up short. You have my undying gratitude for being interested and involved in this Local and its betterment. For that I am eternally grateful. More on the election in the 'BURGSOUNDS column.

The start of a new year is always a time for me to look back on the previous year and see what I could have done better and where I need to focus more attention. Our investments have done extremely well and we have as many dollars as the Local has ever had at our disposal currently. Our MPTF projects have been more than ever and that helps to put some dollars into our members' pockets and work dues into our account here at the Local. We have Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera contract talks coming up quite soon so will be gearing up for that. Hopefully we will have a fruitful negotiation with the folks there.

**Please be aware of our new phone numbers in the 2nd column in blue.**

All in all, I feel energized as we move into yet another year and looking for bigger and better things for all of us. Challenges also present opportunities for progress. Please take a look at the rest of the journal and remember to take good care of yourselves. You're all we've got!

**George**

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Regular Membership	\$175.00 for the year if paid in January. \$45.00 per quarter
Honorary Life	\$100.00 for the year \$25.00 per quarter
A \$2.00 late fee applies for each delinquent month.	



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 2026  
GAETANO'S ON BANKSVILLE RD.

7:00PM	SOCIAL
7:30PM	DINNER
8:15PM	MEETING

Please call 412-855-5137 to make your dinner reservation no later than Wednesday, January 28th. Thank you.

## PHONE #'S FOR THE LOCAL

<b>VOICE MAIL ONLY</b>	412-281-1822
<b>PRESIDENT/SECRETARY</b>	
GEORGE CLEWER	412-855-5137
<b>OFFICE MANAGER</b>	
MIRIAM LESIKIEWICZ	412-215-9545

## 'BURGSOUNDS

The very first thing that I wish to write about is the loss of our Office Manager's mother who passed from a form of brain cancer back on September 27th. Patricia Ann "Pat" Lesikiewicz was 87. I first met Mrs. L. not long after becoming president here in 2003. A wonderful lady who I took an instant liking to. Over the years, I spent quite a bit



(Continued on page 2)

**PMU ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2026-2028 TERM**

**PRESIDENT/SECRETARY AND AFM DELEGATE**

GEORGE CLEWER \*

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

ANDY YALCH 153

BRIAN BUCKLEY 58

**EXECUTIVE BOARD (FIRST 5 ELECTED)**

REBECCA ROTHERMEL 173

MARYBETH SCHOTTING 161

DOUG ROSENTHAL 146

JOE HERNDON 123

TOM EVANS 117

ELLIOTT RATLIFF 92

MARK JOVANOVIICH 54

**DELEGATE TO AFM CONVENTION**

DOUG ROSENTHAL \*

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO AFM CONVENTION**

JOE HERNDON \*

**DIVERSITY DELEGATE TO AFM CONVENTION**

ELLIOTT RATLIFF \*

\* RAN UNOPPOSED

*(Continued from page 1)*

of time in their home and was always made to feel a part of the family. Now and then I would notice something unique in their house and would ask Miriam if her brothers Rich or John, who are both highly skilled remodelers, had done that and the answer would often be, "No, Mother did it!" There didn't seem to be much that she could not accomplish once she set her mind to it. Mrs. L baked and sold cookies for many years helping to provide the funds to make sure the family had a nice annual vacation and made certain that they all

attended parochial school which didn't come cheaply. I never said it to Miriam but Mrs. Lesikiewicz was like a second mom to me. A very special lady to be sure. She is missed by her friends, her children, Miriam, Rich, John, and Sue and her husband Rich who is also one of my favorite folks on the planet. At 97, Mr. L. still hits the casinos and really never lets any grass grow under his feet. I'll tell you what. You can't get between Mr. L and a big steak dinner with all the trimmings! A great story teller and all around good guy!

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Miriam wishes to express her thanks to those who knew of her mom's passing and expressed their condolences. Mrs. L, rest in peace!

#### **LOCAL60-471 ELECTION**

As mentioned in the Overture column, our election was held with votes being counted on Tuesday, December 2nd. This was done according to our by-laws which call for votes to be counted the first Tuesday of December. As you should know, American Arbitration Association located in Philadelphia, PA ran the election for our Local. Now, the question was raised as to why we didn't use Election Buddy or a similar platform for the election. The answer is that Election Buddy and many similar platforms are not approved by the US Department of Labor for Union elections. There are a number of entities like AAA that do this work and AAA has been our choice for decades now. They are above reproach and you may rest assured that the election was run on the "up and up". If you voted, you know that the ballots came to your mailbox from AAA and were then returned there by you after your ballot was marked. Our Local had nothing to do with the process except to provide AAA with the eligible voters names and their address labels and we thank Miriam for all her work on that. FYI-There were 540 members at the time of the election and we had 225 ballots returned to AAA. This was a bit over 41% in terms of voter participation which is much better than we have seen here in a while. Very happy to report that to you. I do thank all those members who took the time to cast your votes. As an aside, we had a number of newsletters returned to us so it appears that we still do not have all correct addresses for some members. Not certain how many members failed to receive a ballot because of a bad address. My congratulations to all who won a position in this election be it on the Executive Board, office of the Vice-President, or Delegate to the AFM Convention. **As for myself, I do thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued confidence in me.** To those who were not in the winners circle, I would encourage you to continue to support the Local any way possible and to stay involved by attending General Meetings, reading our newsletter, the IM, and visiting both the AFM and Local 60-471 websites. Don't forget there is another election coming in 3 years. Please don't forget about us!

#### **LA BOHEME**

In November, I attended the Pittsburgh Opera's production of La boheme at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts. La boheme was composed by Giacomo Puccini between 1893 and 1895 to an Italian libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa. No doubt about the Italian origins of this one! La boheme premiered in Turin, Italy in 1896 at the Teatro Regio and was conducted by the 28 year old Arturo Toscanini.

#### **LATSHAW PRODUCTIONS**

Latshaw Productions put together a Christmas holiday program performed at both the Oaks Theater in Oakmont and the Palace Theater in Greensburg. The show fea-

Since then, the opera has become one of the most frequently performed operas in the world according to Wikipedia. In 1946, 50 years after the opera's premiere, Toscanini conducted a commemorative performance of it on radio featuring the NBC Symphony. Those were the days! As for the opera, as is often the case, the female lead dies. Her name was Mimi. The end! What I do wish to further say is that the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra did itself proud once again as the musicians traversed some very difficult music on the way to Mimi's death! It's always thrilling for me to hear this orchestra perform some of the world's great operas.

As I've said here many times before, I was never really a fan of this music until I became president here and began to attend various performances featuring our members around our town. Sometimes you just have to give something a chance to be liked!

#### **LATSHAW PRODUCTIONS**

Latshaw productions put together a Christmas holiday program performed at both the Oaks Theater in Oakmont and the Palace Theater in Greensburg. The show featured all the favorite holiday songs that we expect to hear during the holiday season. While this is one of the Local's more modest CBA's, it is one that we are very happy to have in the fold. Gary Latshaw has been doing these types of shows for over 40 years and we negotiated our first agreement with Gary back in 2005 if memory serves. The vast majority of the musical arrangements played by the 17 piece orchestra which accompanied a myriad of singers are from the pen of trumpeter **Ralph Guzzi** and are beautifully crafted to capture the holiday spirit. The orchestra is conducted by Maestro Bruce Lauffer with Ralph acting as musical contractor along with **Paula Tuttle** who contracts the strings. A very family oriented and entertaining show with something for everyone.

#### **NEW PHONE NUMBERS**

Please be aware of our new phone numbers here at the office. These have been printed in previous journals but we are still trying to get these out to the membership. **To reach Office Manager, Miriam Lesikiewicz, please dial 412-215-9545.**

**To reach President/Secretary George Clewer, please dial 412-855-5137.**

**To leave a message in our office voice mail, Please dial 412-281-1822. We will return your call.**

#### **AFL-CIO MATTERS**

Amalgamated transit Union (ATU) Local 689 members walked off the job over repeated bad-faith bargaining by their employer, Battle's transportation/RHG Group. The transportation company has a major presence in the Washington, D.C. metro area holding contracts with several federal agencies and the city's public schools. Despite the essential role these workers play in keeping the nation's capital moving, they're some of the lowest paid transit workers in the region. Management at battle's RHG has refused to negotiate a contract with fair wages, so the Union is fighting

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# 'BURG SCENES



The Diamante Orchestra led by Paula Tuttle and featuring George Pirelli, Brian Stahurski, Kevin Clark, Juan Jaramillo, Ralph Guzzi, MaryBeth Malek, Lilly Abreau, and Paula. Kevin McManus and Rick Daller at the Memorial Day parade in Sewickley, PA. Donna Groom and Rick Purcell performing a duo gig for seniors.

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back against harassment and intimidation with a powerful unfair labor practice (ULP) strike. ATU International President John Acosta was quoted as saying, “Our more than 200,000 members across the United States and Canada stand with our Battle’s/RGH members. Our Union uses a strike only as a last resort since we don’t want to abandon our riders who depend on us. But the Company has left us with no other option. We will stand together in solidarity until these workers get the contract they deserve.”

Minnesota Unions have condemned President

Trump’s targeting of Somali working families. Following threats made by Trump against Minnesota’s Somali immigrants, unions and local allies held a demonstration at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport recently to rally around their targeted community members and call out the Metropolitan Airports Commission and some airlines for cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for deportation flights. Members of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 26 and Unite here Local 17 marched with faith

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**Pittsburgh Musicians' Union  
Executive Board Meeting  
Via Zoom  
7 /21/25**

Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm.

Attendance-All members were present.

Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept as amended by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Elliott Ratliff. Motion carried unanimous.

Financials were reviewed.

New Members-There were two new members. Motion to accept by Tom Evans and seconded by Joe Herndon.-Motion carried unanimous.

Rebecca Mack (Student) -07/15/2025, Oboe, English Horn, Flute  
Glen G. Quarrie-07/15/2025, Saxes, Piccolo, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, English Horn, Recorder

Resignations-There were no resignations.

Deaths-There were no deaths to report.

Pittsburgh Opera-Contract negotiations are still in progress.

Kevin Case-Kevin addressed the board regarding current legal issues.

Next board meeting will be on 8/12/25 at 5:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Elliott Ratliff and seconded by MaryBeth Schotting. Motion carried unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch, Vice President.

“Music is the shorthand of emotion.” ~ Leo Tolstoy

**Pittsburgh Musicians' Union  
Executive Board Meeting  
Via Zoom  
8 /12/25**

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm.

Attendance-All members were present.

Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Tom Evans. Motion carried unanimous.

Financials were reviewed.

New Members-There were four new members. Motion to accept by Tom Evans and seconded by Stephanie Tretick-Motion carried unanimous.

Michael A. Banks-07/31/2025, String Bass

Johann D. Diaz Ramirez-07/31/2025, Viola, Violin

Dina R. Fedosenko-07/31/2025, Violin

Emma J. Locarnini (Student)-07/31/2025, Clarinet

Reinstatement-There was one reinstatement. Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by MarytBeth Schotting.Motion carried unanimous.  
Anne Schneller

Resignations-There were no resignations.

Deaths-There were no deaths to report.

Pittsburgh Opera-Contract negotiations are still in progress.

Old Timers Party-The party will be held at Geatano's Restaurant on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Cocktails and music start at 6:30-Dinner at 7:30.

Next Board meeting will be on 9/8/25 at 5:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn by MaryBeth Schotting and seconded by Stephanie Tretick. Motion carried unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch, Vice President.

Pittsburgh Musicians' Union  
Board Meeting  
September 10, 2025, 3:30pm, via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 3:32pm.

In attendance: President/Secretary Clewer, Board members Evans, Herndon, Ratliff, Tretick, Schotting. Vice President Yalch was excused. Notes were taken by Tretick.

Minutes from previous Board meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve as amended made by Ratliff, seconded by Herndon. Unanimous approval.

Financials: will be reviewed at next Board meeting.

President/Secretary's report:

Several new Members expected to be enrolled in October.

Pittsburgh Opera: Contract negotiations may be concluding soon.

CLO contract negotiations will begin later this year.

MPTF has been well-utilized by PMU members this fiscal year, around \$37,500 in total disbursed to members.

Old Timers' party will occur on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Around 30 members are expected to attend.

Next Board meeting will be on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30pm.

Motion made to adjourn made by Schotting, seconded by Herndon. Unanimous approval.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Tretick, Board Member



Pittsburgh Musicians Union  
Executive Board Meeting  
10/21/25  
Called to order 3:13 pm  
Via Zoom Internet

Attendance-All board members were present.

Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept as amended by Elliott Ratliff and seconded by MaryBeth Schotting. Motion carried-unanimous.

Financial statements were reviewed.

New Members-There were 6 new member. Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by Stephanie Tretick. Motion carried unanimous.

Julie A. Boehler-10/01/2025, Timpani, Percussion

Carrie A. Erdely-09/16/2025, Violin, Viola

Nicole M. Lennartz-10/01/2025, Violin

Shannon E. Lock-10/01/2025, Violin, Viola

Wesley J. Madge (Student)-10/01/2025, P[ercussion, Violin

John R. Parroccini-10/01/2025, Bass Guita

Resignations-There were 5 resignations. Motion to accept with regrets by Joe Herndon and seconded by Elliott Ratliff. Motion carried unanimous.

Joshua S. Carr-effective September 30, 2025

Molly Fkanagan-effective Sep[tember 30, 2025

Jacob Lisak-effective March 31, 2025

Daniel K. Ryan-effective June 30, 2025

Levee B. Stadel-effective June 30. 2025

Deaths-There was one death to report. A moment of silence was held in memoriam.

Ronald V. Sarazen-Died-String Bass July 4th, 2025

Pittsburgh Opera-A new CBA was negotiated for a 2 year period featuring increases in pay each year.

Local Election-Triple "A" Elections is handling the entire process.

Motion to adjourn by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Elliott Ratliff- Motion carried-unanimous

Meeting adjourned 4:11 pm

Next meeting 11/18/25-3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President



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leaders and local lawmakers, sending a message that working people in the state will not be divided. "These are private companies that are profiting off of deporting our brothers and sisters out of this very airport, which is paid for with our tax dollars," SEIU Local 26 President Greg Nammacher said. "These deportations are ripping families apart and are doing nothing but sowing fear and anxiety in our community," said Geof Paquette, UNITE HERE Local 17's internal organizing director. "We've got to demand better from our local government leaders, from the MAC who runs the airport who knows these deportation flights are taking place."

"In the Labor Movement, an injury to one is an injury to all. By vilifying our Somali American co-workers and neighbors and threatening military-style raids in Minnesota's communities, president Trump is attacking our State's entire Labor Movement," said Minnesota AFL-CIO President Bernie Burnham. "President Trump and his cronies are hoping that working people will forget that immigrants aren't standing between us and a better life---billionaires are. We refuse to let them break our solidarity."

Some reading these stories may argue that they have no bearing on the music business and the AFM. I would beg to differ with you. As mentioned in the column, AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL! This is a famous Union mantra that is possibly more relevant today than ever before. We need to keep abreast of all that is happening in all work places to better appreciate how dangerous the climate in which we live really is. There is a war in progress between the wealthy and the working class. We cannot see the working class stripped of what they have to further feather the beds of the wealthy! Trickle down doesn't work and never did! Greed is the reason why!

That's going to be it for the first quarter 2026 edition of the PM. I wanted to get the election results out to you as early as possible so I have made this version just a bit shorter but have included lots of Executive Board minutes for you to catch up on. Please have a great 2026. HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

**George**



FROM: MIRIAM  
STEPHANIE  
MARYBETH  
TOM  
JOE  
ELLIOTT  
ANDY  
GEORGE

Pittsburgh Musicians Union  
Local 60-471, A.F. of M., AFL-CIO  
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George A. Clewer.....Editor

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**Office Hours:**  
Monday Through Friday 9AM to 5PM  
Closed Weekends & Holidays

Officers for 2026-2028

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*Vice President — Andrew P. Yalch*

*Executive Board*  
*Thomas E. Evans Joe Hernon*  
*Douglas Rosenthal Rebecca Rothermel*  
*MaryBeth Schottling*

*Office Manager Miriam Leskiewicz*

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