

**ANIMATION GUILD AND AFFILIATED  
OPTICAL ELECTRONIC AND GRAPHIC  
ARTS, LOCAL 839 I.A.T.S.E.**

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Los Angeles, California, November 2013

Vol. 42, Nº. 11

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## **2013 ELECTION RESULTS**

On Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, all of the eligible election ballots returned to the American Arbitration Association were tallied. The Animation Guild had fifteen members, including incumbents vying for eleven open positions. The following members have been elected to the Executive Board:

**BRONWEN BARRY** (incumbent), **RUSSELL CALABRESE**, **DAVE THOMAS**, **NICOLE DUBUC** (incumbent), **BOB FOSTER** (incumbent President), **BILL FLORES**, **JANETTE HULETT** (incumbent), **CATHY JONES** (incumbent), **LARRY SMITH**, **GORDON KENT** (incumbent) and **ROBERT ST. PIERRE**.

These results also brings a change to the Guild Trustees. **RUSSELL CALABRESE** and **DAVE THOMAS** now join **NICOLE DUBUC** as Trustees, as they received the most votes.

As we reported last month, only positions on the Executive Board were in contention, as the positions of President (**NATHAN LOOFBOURROW**), Vice President (**JACK THOMAS**), Business Representative (**STEVE HULETT**), and Seargent-At-Arms (**KC JOHNSON**) were elected through “White Ballot” as the nominees had no opponents. All officers and Executive Board members will be installed at the December Executive Board meeting.

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Mark your calendar for the

### **ANIMATION GUILD IT-ISN'T-A-HOLIDAY PARTY**

Friday, January 3, 2014 \* 7 pm to midnight

The Autry National Center of the American West  
in Griffith Park across from the L.A. Zoo

Free food \* Cash bar \*

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**THE PEG-BOARD** is published monthly by The Animation Guild and Affiliated  
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The Peg-Board is printed  
on recycled paper.



IATSE LOCAL 839



## From the Business Representative

### TV CGI

Problems for the Caped Crusader.

... Cartoon Network abruptly pulled the animated series *Beware the Batman* from its schedule this week with no explanation or announcement. A new episode had been scheduled to air (after a normal three-week break of reruns) on Saturday during the DC Nation block of programming, but now not only is that not happening, but *Beware* won't even get a repeat in its regular slot. (Two episodes of *Teen Titans Go!* will run in the block instead of the usual *Beware/TTG!* pairing.) ...

The problem is, in trying to go in a new direction as the umpteenth Batman cartoon in recent memory ... many of the familiar tropes of the Bat-world aren't present to draw the average would-be viewer in. Instead, possible new audience members just see a sorta funny-looking CGI Batman and an Alfred who doesn't seem like Alfred at all. ...

Even though we don't have an official reason for what has happened to *Beware*, we can take a pretty good guess. ... It probably comes down to numbers at least in part: *Beware the Batman's* ratings lag behind not only *Teen Titans Go!* but also the previous animated Caped Crusader series that ran on the channel, *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*.

— *Deadline*

There could be any number of reasons *BtB* is getting yanked. Like for instance:

(see *FROM THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE*, page 4)

## FROM THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

(continued from page 3)

- 1) Cartoon Network doesn't seem that jazzed with its DC properties. (Face it: Time-Warner -- with some exceptions -- hasn't nurtured its squadron of super heroes in the way Diz Co. has hugged and nuzzled its freshly acquired Marvel roster.)
- 2) The ratings weren't up there.
- 3) CN wanted to shoehorn more repeats of *Teen Titans Go!* into its schedule.

But here's the reality: animated CGI for television doesn't necessarily translate to Big Ratings/Big Money. Animated theatrical features rendered in CG roll up big grosses on a regular basis. But TV computer graphics don't get more eyeballs than hand-drawn images, and often get less. This has been evident since Sony Adelaide spent lots of dollars to produce a small-screen version of *Starship Troopers* entitled *Roughnecks: Starship Troopers Chronicles* (<http://goo.gl/sdo8d6>). The show ended up with a strong cult following ... and lackluster ratings.

TV cartoon execs figured out some time ago that the big cash outlays for CG shows don't translate into gangbuster ratings, so it's safer (also saner?) to go the less expensive hand-drawn route. Much of the time, it means the profit margins are bigger.

I mean, with *Teen Titans Go!* replacing *Beware the Batman*, can we draw any other conclusion?

— Steve Hulett

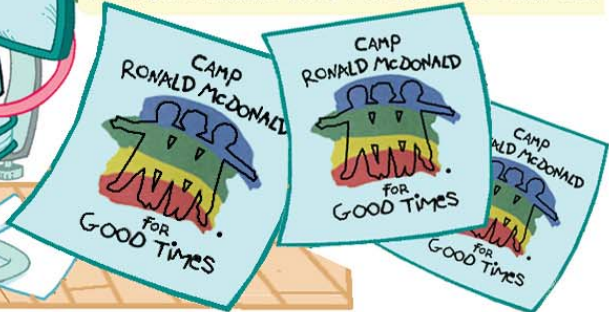
**BOOKMARK**  
**THE TAG BLOG**

[animationguildblog.blogspot.com](http://animationguildblog.blogspot.com)

**We need Artists to Draw cartoons**  
**for the Ronald McDonalds Good Times for Kids!**  
**AT THE WARNER RANCH in BURBANK on DEC. 7th.**  
**12:00 to 3:00 Hollywood Way and Oak St.**  
**Enter Gate on Hollywood Way...Show ID...**  
**Let them know you are one of the Artists!**  
**Bring Model Sheets, Paper, Pens, Markers!**



**LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL THE GREAT ARTISTS THAT HELPED IN THE PAST AND ALL THE NEW ARTISTS THAT I HOPE WILL JOIN US!**



**RSVP [ArtLeonardi@yahoo.com](mailto:ArtLeonardi@yahoo.com) or 310-397-1862 to be on the list!**



## From the President

*Furshlugginers, Veeblefetzers and Potrzebie  
Unite!*

I'm pleased to be passing the presidential gavel of The Animation Guild over to a more qualified gavel-pounder, **Nathan Loofbourrow**.

Starting now, and in the years ahead, we're going to be dealing more and more with technology in animation. This means talking to highly savvy computer experts and brilliant VFX artists, all of whom speak a unique language that includes acronyms, undefined abbreviations and weird-ass terminology that all sounds like a cross between Farsi and Chewbacca to me. I've listened as these people chat away at each other like auctioneers at a Silicon Valley app and computer components warehouse clearance. The best I could do is to grunt and bob my head as if I understood something they said. Anything.

Nathan is joined by a really energetic and passionate executive board whose members are also more tech savvy than I'll ever be, but maybe I can learn something from them in the near future. And with strong support from our organizer, Steve Kaplan, who also speaks the language, we're going to be in good hands. And even I can talk to Nathan and Steve because they both speak "beer."

As the demographics of our membership evolves, I'll be there waving my pencil and representing the remaining members of ye olde school.

(A **pencil** (/ *pensel* /) is a writing instrument comprised of a narrow, solid, noodle-like pigment core inside a protective casing, such as a tubular-shaped piece of wood usually about 1/4" wide. Pencils create marks via physical abrasion, leaving behind a trail of solid core material that adheres to something like a sheet of **paper**.)

(**Paper** (/ *pá-per* /) is a material manufactured in thin sheets from the pulp of wood or other fibrous material.)

Maybe we'll see a bigger and better mix of member attendees at our general membership meetings, too. After all, it's possible that some of what we discuss at those meetings will affect the rest of your life. Come on out and participate.

See you there.

- Bob Foster

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## Upcoming contract holidays:

Thanksgiving and the day after

(November 28 and 29)

Christmas (December 25)

New Year's Day (January 1, 2014)

NOTE: Employers may schedule additional days off during the holiday period, above and beyond the minimums required in the union contract. Consult your HR department about your employer's plans.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

IATSE and MPTF

**DAY AT THE RACES**

A FAMILY EVENT

On **Saturday, January 25, 2014**, IATSE locals from Southern California and the MPTF (Motion Picture & Television Fund) will join together to celebrate the **3rd Annual Day at the Races – A Family Event**. This fun filled event will take place at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia and your ticket price includes valet parking, admission, race program and lunch buffet. All the proceeds from the event will benefit MPTF, a charitable organization that has been synonymous with Hollywood for nearly a century.

For more information and to purchase your tickets contact **Steve Kaplan** at [skaplan@animationguild.org](mailto:skaplan@animationguild.org) or at the Guild office (818) 845-7500.



## Lou Scheimer, RIP

Lou Scheimer, Founder of the 1960's - 1990's Filmation Studios died on Thursday, October 17, 2013 just 2 days shy of his 85th Birthday.

With Lou's passing, an era is now virtually gone when animation studios were run by such as Disney, Hanna, Barbera, Jones, Freleng, Clampett, Bakshi and Lou. Even as management, they were still at heart one of "us" - artists who understood, appreciated and liked animation artists and loved the art form itself.

That may have been even truest of Pittsburg born Lou. From his start as an artist for General MacArthur in post war Japan and his early job at Harmon Studios. Lou was a lifelong cartoon man.

Lou was a pivotal figure in late 20th Century animation and it is not an understatement to say that without him the Industry as we know it today might not exist. With cartoons being hammered by early 1970's anti-animation advocacy groups, Lou responded with the socially relevant "Fat Albert." When domestic TV animation was virtually moribund in the 1982 strike's aftermath, Lou introduced the first syndicated series, "He-Man," which breathed new life into the field and opened the floodgates for a golden age of animation employment. Lou's foray into Feature Animation provided opportunities for workers to develop quality skills which became a foundation of crews for the excellent 1990's Feature studios.

Long after the other studios had downsized to outsource work overseas, and despite ever mounting financial hurdles, Lou put his all into trying to preserve the medium he loved by keeping the work in the USA. Ultimately it led to Filmation's closure, but Lou fought the good fight to the end.



As a consequence of Lou's firmly held principles, Filmation provided years of employment for animation veterans who were no longer needed at the other studios. Filmation was an invaluable entry point; virtually a "school" for people entering the field. That sort of ground up, actual hands-on production training is sorely missed these days and the Industry is unquestionably poorer for it.

As a person, Lou was tall, convivial and beloved by his fans. Often described as Jimmy Stewart with an extremely colorful vocabulary, he was a man of conviction. I remember Lou walking the picket lines with his workers during the 1982 Strike to stem overseas production. I remember sharing a somber drink in his office in 1988 when a heartbroken Lou was forced to send Ink and Paint overseas in an effort to keep the remainder of the work here. I remember when, even as Filmation's Line Producer in the late 1980's, I sat across from him during intense Union negotiations without Lou bearing any grudge.

Shows and films come and go. Quality rises and falls. The newest hit soon becomes just another re-run. But in the end, one of the most important legacies is how one took care of the field and the people that supported him - in being a true friend to the Industry. Of this, Lou can be proud. Adieu, Lou Scheimer. You did well.

— Tom Tataranowicz

## In memoriam

Cell Painter **SHIRLEY MAPES** died on September 15. Between 1966 and 1985, she worked at various studios which included Hanna Barbera, Filmation, Don Bluth Productions and Kurtz & Friends.



Story Writer **DON NELSON**, who worked at Hanna Barbera from 1985 to 1994, died on September 10 at the age of eighty-six. Don was the brother of Ozzie Nelson, of "Ozzie and Harriet" fame.



## The New Editor

With the retirement of Brother Massie, the editorial task of our Pegboard was offered to me, and I gladly accepted. As the Guild's Organizer, one of the most challenging tasks I face isn't convincing non-members to become members. It's actually convincing members that their membership is something valuable.

We call this "*Internal Organizing*", which can be best defined as building value of union membership among a union's members. We're at a place in history when unions aren't very well regarded. For as long as I can remember (*in my short-lived 42 years*), there has been a consistent campaign waged against the notion of the working class banding together to use their combined leverage to secure the best working conditions possible. The best defense against this campaign is the truth about unions, delivered consistently and in digestible forms.

That's what I'd like to accomplish in this role. I hope to bring value to our group by making this publication something you care about. Fun news, personal news and important news. Through that, I hope to instill the solidarity that has always been there, but isn't thought of regularly.

At a recent Membership Meeting, a fellow member claimed that our newsletter isn't well read. I believe what he said was "**Nobody Reads The Pegboard!!**". If you think that's so, and are interested in changing that, let me know by emailing me ([skaplan@animationguild.org](mailto:skaplan@animationguild.org)). I'd love your help in my efforts here.

- Steve Kaplan

## Getting your health benefits started

**Q: I got the information packet from the Health Plan saying I was covered, but now they say I can't use my benefits.**

**A:** Here's some common problems people have had with their health benefits after they've received their enrollment package:

- You are automatically covered for health benefits on midnight on the first day of the coverage period for which you have qualified. You will be covered under Anthem Blue Cross and Delta Dental by default. When you start your participation for the first time, or after having been completely removed from the plans due to lack of qualifying hours, you can choose either the HMO or PPO plans.
- Even though you may have received your health plan paperwork and cards, you will not be able to file claims until and unless the Plan has received your beneficiary designation card and the coordination-of-benefits form. (Remember that if your spouse has a job that offers health insurance, and you're choosing to participate in the PPO health plan, they must take that insurance and use it as their primary carrier.)
- When you receive your Health Plan paperwork, make yourself sit down and read it! The Plan assumes you have! A majority of problems are the result of members who haven't familiarized themselves with the Plan's rules and restrictions.

If you have any questions, contact:

**Motion Picture Industry Pension And Health Plan**  
POB 1999  
Studio City, CA 91614-0999  
(818) 769-0007 or (310) 769-0007  
toll-free: (855) 275-4674  
<http://www.mpiphp.org>  
Email: [service@mpiphp.org](mailto:service@mpiphp.org)

# Have you done your annual 401k review?

As the year draws to a close, now is the best time to review your 401k statement and make sure your retirement account is performing at its best. Here are a few things you may want to check ..

## **ARE YOU INVESTING WHERE YOU WANT? - RISK/ RETURNS ASSESSMENT**

The third quarter statements are ready to view through the Mass Mutual website (<https://wwwr.massmutual.com/journey/login.aspx>). Did you get the returns on your investments that you wanted? Are you too heavy in stocks? You can make adjustments to your account through the site as well.

## **ARE YOU SPENDING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE? - COST ANALYSIS**

The current statement will also show you what you spent in expenses based on which funds you're participating in. It's a good idea to manage your costs by selecting funds whose costs are as low. Our 401k trustees have worked hard this year to reduce costs in most of our funds.

## **ARE YOU STILL PARTICIPATING?? – RESTART AT EACH UNION JOB!**

Have you worked at multiple union shops during the year? Are you sure your 401k contributions have continued with you? The 401k is not like the MPI Pension Plan whose contributions are automatic. You have to restart contributions to this plan each time you go to another union studio or are switched from one production to another within the same studio (including new seasons). Be sure to check your latest paystub and verify that there is a pre-tax withdrawal to the TAG 401k Plan.

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**PEG-BOARD SUBSCRIPTION POLICY:** Active members automatically receive The Peg-Board free of charge. Members on honorable withdrawal may continue to receive the newsletter without charge by sending an annual written request on or before the expiration date on the mailing label. The subscription rate for suspended members and non-members is \$10.00 per year (\$15.00 foreign, check in U. S. funds), checks made out to the Animation Guild and sent to 1105 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505-2528, U.S.A.  
.....

Contact Steve Hulett ([shulett@animationguild.org](mailto:shulett@animationguild.org)) or Marta Strohl-Rowand ([marta@animationguild.org](mailto:marta@animationguild.org)) through email or by calling the Guild (818-845-7500) to ask any questions on the plan. You can also visit the 401k Plan page on the TAG website:

<http://animationguild.org/benefits/#401kPlan>

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## Do You Remember “The Watercooler”?

For a while, the Pegboard had a recurring section called “The Watercooler” where members shared fun life events and happenings. Things like children’s birth announcements or news of other accolades that could be shared with our community. These postings helped to bring our membership closer and foster a sense of community.

Would you be interested in bringing it back? Send your contributions to [skaplan@animationguild.org](mailto:skaplan@animationguild.org) in order to create a new recurring column in the Pegboard!

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## *DISPLAY YOUR ART at GALLERY 839!*

We are always interesting in hearing from members who wish to display their work at the Guild’s art gallery. If you would like to put on an individual or group show, contact Lyn Mantta at the Guild office.



See us on Facebook ...  
[facebook.com/animationguild](https://www.facebook.com/animationguild)

Twitter ... [@animguild](https://twitter.com/animguild)

and the TAG Blog ...  
[animationguildblog.blogspot.com](http://animationguildblog.blogspot.com)



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



**TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 26, 2013**

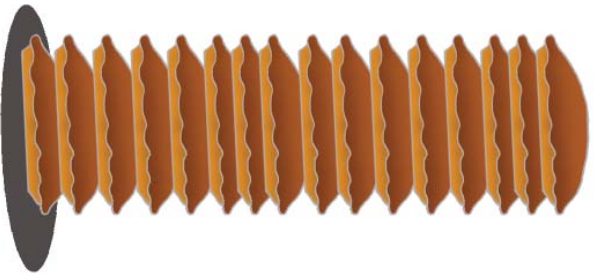
**PIZZA &  
REFRESHMENTS,  
6:30 PM  
MEETING, 7 PM**

**1105 N. HOLLYWOOD  
WAY, BURBANK**

Between Chandler and Magnolia  
[tinyurl.com/new-tag-hq](http://tinyurl.com/new-tag-hq)

**AGENDA:  
INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW  
ANIMATION GUILD OFFICERS**

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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