LOCAL 400
CT VALLEY MUSICIANS
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

The Score

August 2025

News and Updates:
Kirsten Lipkens appointed as Acting Secretary



Kirsten Lipkens has been appointed to serve as Acting Secretary of Local 400. Kirsten is an accomplished oboist and educator, currently teaching at Amherst College. To learn more about her, follow the link to our Officers page below.

Learn More

Nominations/Bylaws Meeting for elections of vacant positions: October 6, 7pm



As both President and Secretary officer positions are currently vacant, Local 400 will be holding elections in November to fill both positions for the duration of the 2024-2026 term. A nominations meeting, directly followed by a membership meeting for discussion and vote on proposed bylaws changes, will be held on Zoom on October 6, 2025 at 7:00pm. Meeting link and further information will be distributed closer to the date.

In Memoriam



Susan Powell

1952–2025

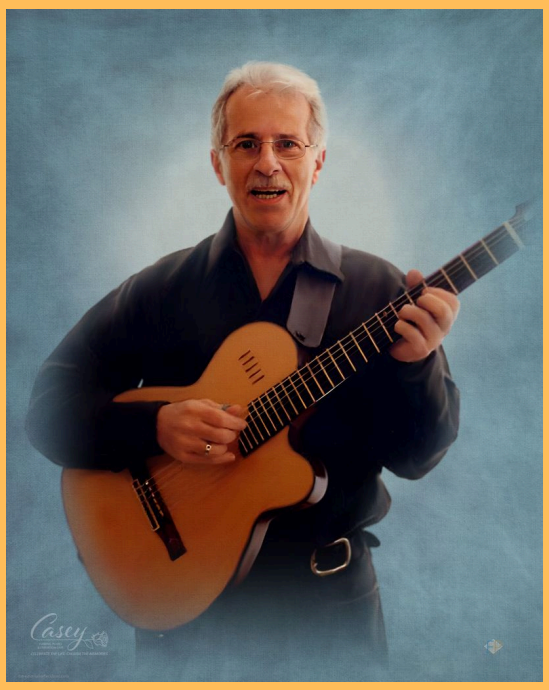
A celebrated bassist and music educator, Susan Hall Powell passed away on July 11th after a brief battle with lung cancer. A Juilliard graduate, she served as Principal Bassist of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and later as Personnel Manager for the Buffalo Philharmonic. She relocated to Hartford in 2001 where she performed with multiple Connecticut orchestras and taught bass at The Hartt School, Choate Rosemary Hall, and Loomis Chaffee. Beloved by students and colleagues, she also ran an ensemble contracting

business and was an active union member and volunteer. Her full obituary can be found here.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Susan on **Saturday, August 16th** at **10:30 am.** The celebration will be in **Wilde Hall** at **The Hartt School, University of Hartford Campus**.

Joseph Ricciardi

1942–2025



Joseph J. Ricciardi, 83, of Waterbury, passed away on June 28, 2025. A passionate musician, he played lead guitar in the country band The Backwoods Band and performed with artists like Jessie Evon, sharing his love of music with friends and family. When not on stage, he enjoyed riding his Harley, cheering for NASCAR, and tinkering with mechanics—but music remained a lifelong joy. He leaves behind his wife Kathleen, children, grandchildren, and countless memories of songs played and shared. His full obituary can be found here.

Email Communications Problem Solver

We have received multiple reports of folks having trouble with emails from Local 400 going to their spam folders. To solve this issue, we recommend "whitelisting" the domain our emails come from, and have provided links below to instructions for completing this for a variety of email providers. For each of these options, the domain you will use is **@afmlocal400.org**.

Instructions for Gmail

[Instructions for Outlook]

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[Instructions for Windows 365 Desktop]

Please feel free to contact us at **it@afmlocal400.org** if you have any issues.

Have any events you'd like to advertise? Let us know!

Is there an upcoming performance or event you want people to know about? Want to contribute an article for a future issue? Think of something you'd like included as a regular addition to *The Score*? We love sharing the stories and successes of our Local 400 members, so if you have anything you'd like to include in a future issue of this newsletter please reach out!

Contact us!

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