

# Local 728

*Weekly Digest*

JANUARY 17, 2025 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 53



*In The Spotlight this week!*

*Notice:*

**General Membership Meeting Saturday, January 25th!**

**A rep. from MPI will be making a short presentation about year-end obligations.**

**They will be available for in-person questions before the meeting and until the meeting's end.**

**RSVP details to follow!**

## **LA Fire Disaster Response Update—How can we help?**

First, I hope you are all well and safe. I want to take a moment to update you as well as thank our members who are out fighting to both secure and power up homes. The Local remains in your service, and a hub for resources. Thank you for being the active distribution points. To our volunteer members, you are exemplary of the spirit of trade unionism and are to be lauded.

There is a lot of info to cover which I will attempt to do briefly.

We have never seen anything like this. Our members need help, and we are there for them in any way we can. Over 8100 IATSE members were identified earlier this week as living in affected areas. That has been revised down to 5300 members of which **430 are IATSE Local 728 members**. Outreach continues to them to this day.

The **IATSE Walsh/DiTolla/Spivak Foundation (WDS)** that we have supported since we lost Spike stands ready to cut checks to members. It is the fastest way to get members vital financial resources. Five of those checks landed in Burbank this morning.

Today, President Loeb made a plea to all IATSE Locals in the Alliance and its

170,000 members to do all they can for us NOW. To date, the WDS has received \$60,000 in donations and has cut 54 checks with 60 more in process.

Vice President Mike Miller of the IATSE West Coast (WC) office together with the WC Locals have been meeting daily to assess the fluid situation, contact members, as well as collect/distribute resources. We worked together to get both **Local 80 and 892 ready to distribute home goods and clothes**. Over 500 volunteers have pitched in to make it happen!

A total of 315 IA West Coast members have lost their homes including **18 IATSE Local 728 members and 41 displaced** that we know of. The Local has been actively reaching out to those members in the affected areas (**over 400**). Once identified, we have been in constant contact sharing the many Federal, State, and Local resources that are available to them. That communication does not go to all members.

Yesterday, we held a **Resource Event** at Local 80 for those affected. 120 IA members got the chance to work with MPI, MPTF, WDS, and many more vendors to get what they need and a hot meal.

Going forward, rather than continue to add resources to the Digest, those links will be sent to: <https://iatse.net/socal-fires/>

This vital and actively updated resource link should be your go-to Union Resource now and in the coming months.

### How can you help?

#### 1. Get the word out

We need to make sure every Local member knows we are here and putting them in touch with the resources they need.

#### 2. Donate your Time and/or Money

See Donate and Volunteer Opportunities below in the IA graphic.

The worst of the fires look to be over. The “long tail” of these events is now in front of us. We will continue to provide mutual aid, as we did in Covid and during the strikes, to reestablish safety and security for you and your family now and in the future.

Lastly, please be mindful of fraud on GoFundMe as there have been a number of fake accounts.

In unity,



Greg Reeves  
Business Representative - Secretary  
Lighting Technicians IATSE Local 728

### **IATSE Local 728 Scholarship Program**

Information for the 2025 IATSE Local 728 Scholarship is now available on the website. The deadline for filing all required materials with the Local 728 Office is **Friday, February 7, 2025**.

[Scholarship Programs | IATSE Local 728](#)

If you would like to contribute to the IATSE Local 728 Scholarship Fund to help educate future generations, you can mail or drop off a check at the Local 728 office. The fund is NOW a 501c3 and your donation is tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to: IATSE Local 728 Scholarship Fund



**IATSE LOCAL 728 SOLIDARITY FRIDAYS!**  
**WEAR YOUR IATSE LOCAL 728 UNION SWAG ON FRIDAYS**





# DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*for those impacted by California Wildfires*

## VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Please fill out the google form at this link: [VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP](#)

## MONETARY DONATIONS

Used to purchase gift cards for those in need: [DONATE HERE](#)

## CLOTHING/SOFT GOODS DONATIONS

*Large gently used rolling suitcases, new packaged mens's & women's underwear (costumer kit items ok), bras, new women's & men's socks (especially athletic crew socks), men's jeans & utility pants, men's & women's work/hiking boots, women's & men's gently used sneakers, work or garden gloves, cozy bathrobes (all ages), Chapstick, hand lotion/Aquaphor*

**Fri 1/17, 9a-4p • Mon 1/20, 10a-4p • Tues-Fri 1/21-1/24, 9a-4p:**  
Drop-offs and Pick-ups at Local 892, 3919 W. Magnolia Blvd, Burbank

## PERSONAL ITEMS/GIFT CARDS DONATIONS

*Dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, flushable wipes, mouthwash, hydrogen peroxide, Lightning iPhone chargers, eye care (rinse, drops, contact solution), Pedialyte/Liquid IV, small trash cans, small trash bags, condiments, shop rags, new pillows/bedding, kids/baby OTC pain reliever, OTC meds/first aid (not bandaids), antacids/allergy meds, Chapstick, covid tests (check exp date), gift vouchers/merchandise credit for stores or restaurants*

**Fri 1/17, 9a-4p • Mon 1/20, 10a-4p • Tues-Fri 1/21-1/24, 9a-4p:**  
Drop-offs and Pick-ups at Local 80, 2520 W. Olive Ave, Burbank

**Fri 1/17, 9a-4p • Tues-Fri 1/21-1/24, 8:30a-5:30p:**  
Drop-offs at Local 600, 7755 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood

**Fire and Relief  
Resources**

[iatse.net/socal-fires](http://iatse.net/socal-fires)

**DONATE NOW**



## **CA Insurance Support Workshop**

California's Department of Insurance will be holding insurance support workshops at Pasadena City College on Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please see details below.



### **Commissioner Ricardo Lara Insurance Support Workshop**

Schedule a free, confidential appointment with department of insurance experts.

**Date & Time**

Saturday and Sunday,  
January 25-26, 2025  
10 AM - 5 PM on Saturday  
10 AM - 1 PM on Sunday

**Address**

Pasadena City College  
1570 East Colorado Blvd.,  
Pasadena, CA 91106

To schedule an appointment please call **(800) 927-4357**

[insurance.ca.gov](https://insurance.ca.gov)

**1-800-927-4357**

## IATSE

### Honoring Dr. King's Vision Together: A Day of Service and Reflection

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived a life of profound purpose, guided by an unwavering commitment to working people. His final days, much like the years between 1956 and 1968, were devoted to organizing for fair wages and better working conditions.

[Read More](#)

### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

On Monday, January 20th we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In observance of MLK Day the Local 728 office will be closed.

In honor & celebration of  
**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

~Celebrating the dream and continuing the legacy~

January 20, 2025



## *Upcoming Events*

### Kingdom Day Parade Postponed: How You Can Help with Fire Relief Efforts

Due to the ongoing wildfires and the ongoing relief efforts, this year's Kingdom Day Parade has been postponed. While we won't be gathering for the parade, we encourage everyone to use the MLK Weekend as a day of service and get involved with the fire relief efforts happening across the region.

#### **Here's how you can make a difference:**

- If you or someone you know has been affected by the fires, IATSE has compiled a list of resources that may be helpful. You can view the list here: [IATSE SoCal Fire Relief Resources](#).
- **Fire Relief Volunteer Opportunities:** Both IATSE and Labor Community Services are seeking volunteers to assist with relief efforts. If you have the time, consider signing up to help:
  - [IATSE Volunteer Sign-Up](#)
  - [Labor Community Services Fire Relief](#)
- **Donate:** Information can be found at <https://iatse.net/socal-fires/>

Every little bit helps, whether through your time or a financial contribution. Together, we can support those affected by the fires and make a real impact in the community during this difficult time.

**MARCH WITH IATSE LOCAL 728 IN THE**

*40th Annual*

**KINGDOM DAY PARADE**

**POSTPONED**



**DUE TO THE ONGOING FIRES, THE MLK PARADE HAS BEEN POSTPONED. WE SUGGEST TO USE MLK WEEKEND AS A DAY OF SERVICE. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING WITH FIRE RELIEF EFFORTS. IATSE VOLUNTEER LINK:**



# *Union Resources*

## **Disaster Assistance and Emergency Resources**

### **IATSE- Los Angeles Fires Relief and Response**

The IATSE and the Locals of the West Coast have combined resources into this link that will be updated regularly.

<https://iatse.net/socal-fires/>

### **Disaster Assistance Links**

[Fire Insurance Information](#)

[Shelters by Region](#)

[Emergency Resources](#)

**For those who have lost their homes:**

[FEMA](#)

### **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)**

Officially launched this week. Available to independent contractors who are often employed in the entertainment and other LA industries. Check eligibility guidelines for details.

[Disaster Unemployment Assistance \(DUA\) Now Available to Los Angeles County Workers Impacted by California Wildfires and Severe Winds](#)

### **IA 728 Power Drops**

Thanks to member Jake Lyon for organizing a number of members and vendors providing portable power solutions. Please reach out if you have need and feel free to share. [IA 728 Free Power Drops Form](#)



## **IATSE-WDS Disaster Relief**

First, we hope you are all safe. The local stands ready to support you during this trying time. I have resources to share.

President Loeb and the IATSE have activated the Disaster Relief Committee. Attached please find the application for the Walsh, DiTolla, Spivak Foundation (WDS) for members affected by the winds and fires. There are funds available to offset evacuation expenses. Send completed applications to the Business Representative.

[Walsh, DiTolla, Spivak Foundation Catastrophic Relief](#)

Many members have offered their homes for the evening. If you need a place to crash, call the hall.

### **Resources and support for Members Affected by Southern California Wildfires:**

[California Preparedness Resources](#)

[City of LA Emergency Resources](#)

[CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection](#)

[Los Angeles Region American Red Cross](#)

[California Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#)

[MPTF Financial Assistance](#)

### **For day shelters, please consider:**

IATSE Local 728:

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/yCgrJ4g2WnyKrknMA?g\\_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy](https://maps.app.goo.gl/yCgrJ4g2WnyKrknMA?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy)

Volt Lites:

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/9TNoV5F3H6TGK4WF7?g\\_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy](https://maps.app.goo.gl/9TNoV5F3H6TGK4WF7?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy)

Outpost LA:

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/LVRUjeKsCiXtfHid7?g\\_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy](https://maps.app.goo.gl/LVRUjeKsCiXtfHid7?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy)

Additionally, Local 80 has opened their stage as a relief shelter. Please call Local 80 (818.526.0700) for additional information:

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/yzELQZXeFeKsZnB9A?g\\_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy](https://maps.app.goo.gl/yzELQZXeFeKsZnB9A?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy)

### **Additional Signatory Resource:**

LiteGear is offering their Conference Center for Day Shelter. In addition they're collecting basic needs donations.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/BNaNzhfgE3Udy54QA>

### **New Provider Alert-Alliance Wellness Care**

Barriers to access for in-network psychiatrists continue to be significant; the wait time for a UCLA Behavioral Health Associates psychiatrist is several months.

Alliance Wellness Care, a new MPI in-network outpatient psychiatry practice is now available with locations in Encino, Inglewood, and the MPTF campus. Call 747-264-9202 for details.

### **Entertainment Community Fund-Every Artist Insured Open Enrollment**

From November 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025, the Affordable Care Act will be in open enrollment period and the Entertainment Community Fund can help.

[Every Artist Insured Open Enrollment 2024-2025 | Entertainment Community Fund](#)

### **MPTF/ECF Insurance Services**

For those who may be transitioning off MPI Health coverage, IATSE Local 700 recorded a Zoom Presentation with MPTF/ECF Insurance Services to help explain options beyond paid COBRA. Please check out this informative video.

[Zoom Presentation](#)

## **Mental Health Tools and Resources**

If you are in need of mental health assistance, don't feel ashamed. It's natural. Please utilize some of these tools from our website or call us at the hall.

MPTF Intake Line: (323) 634-3888

[Mental Health Resources \(iatse728.org\)](http://iatse728.org)

[Mental Health Tools and Resources with Behind The Scenes | IATSE Local 728 \(iatse728.org\)](#)

## **IATSE Local 728 Guide to Assistance and Benefits**

Information for IATSE Local 728 members, including: Unemployment/Disability Insurance, Sick Dues, Life Insurance, Honorable Withdrawal, MPI (Motion Picture Pension & Health Plans, Motion Picture & Television Fund, Assistance Information

**Log-in required to view content:** [Assistance | IATSE Local 728 \(iatse728.org\)](#)

# *IATSE PAC*

## **IATSE PAC**

The IATSE PAC is about access to politicians regardless of platform on behalf of ALL members.

While the work stoppage last year impacted you and your colleague's financial wellbeing, the fights we take on with PAC resources continue for our industry, benefiting ALL U.S. members and Local Unions whether they contribute or not. Donate today! <https://L728.co/iatsepac>

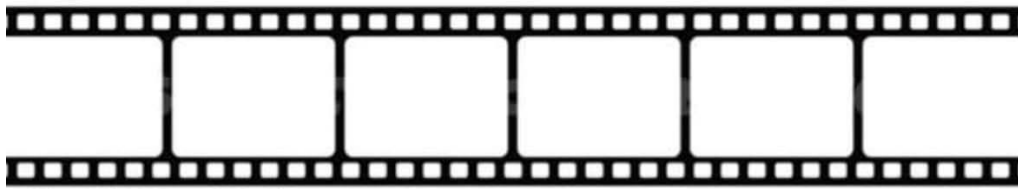
[What is the IATSE PAC? Play Video](#)



# *In Memoriam*

## **Celebration of Life – Brother John Chickanis**

Brother Chickanis passed away on December 4, 2024. Services for John will be held on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 2PM -7PM. Hosted at Redondo Beach Elks Lodge, 315 Esplande, Redondo Beach, CA 90277



## *Celebration of Life*

**Redondo Beach  
Elks Lodge  
Sat 1/18  
2-7pm**



**John Chickanis**

