

Local 728

Weekly Digest

MAY 16, 2025 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 70



In The Spotlight this week!

CA Film Tax Incentive Update

The West Coast studio locals are back from Sacramento where we saw the release of the “May Revise” of the Governor’s 2025-2026 budget. This was in conjunction with the CalFed Labor Conference where we also lobbied for larger labor issues such as a bill to protect organizing as well as a support Bill for the LA Convention Center remodel.

calaborconference.org/

I’m happy to report that the \$420 million increase to the current incentive has survived as this essential jobs bill is important for elected officials on both sides of the aisle. Hollywood needs a lifeline. This is but one of the tools to ensure its future.

Please see the full article from CalMatters below.

calmatters.org/politics/2025/05/california-budget-revision-may-2025/

We will know more on June 15 when the balanced budget must be approved.

Stay safe and stay informed.

In solidarity,

Greg Reeves
Business Representative - Secretary
Lighting Technicians IATSE Local 728

California Labor Conference



Sacramento, CA

IATSE Signs Special Ambassador & Coalition Letter to Trump to Support Film & TV Jobs With Congressional Reconciliation Priorities

As I reported to the General Membership last Saturday, the IATSE and Local Unions are in a full legislative press at all levels of government.

Please see attached letter co-signed by President Loeb, Motion Picture Guild Leaders, and Special Ambassadors calling for Federal solution to Hollywood's plight.

Read letter [here](#).

**IATSE**
The Union Behind Entertainment

IATSE Signs Special Ambassador & Coalition Letter to Trump to Support Film & TV Jobs With Congressional Reconciliation Priorities



WASHINGTON, D.C. – The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), alongside entertainment unions, guilds, studios, industry stakeholders, and Hollywood Special Ambassadors Jon Voight and Sylvester Stallone, has urged Congress and President Trump to back critical film and television tax measures in the current budget reconciliation package.



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





Celebrating
Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month





New on IATSE.net

Fighting for U.S. Film & TV Jobs

Fighting for U.S. Film and TV
Jobs Webpage

Keep California Rolling

[Sign and share our pledge](#) to get targeted action items and updates to get involved or go to keepcaliforniarolling.org/



**OVER 200,000 LETTERS SENT
BY YOU**



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

The Unions and Guilds in the Entertainment Union Coalition stand with Governor Newsom's inclusion of an expanded \$750 million annual California Film & Television Jobs Program in the 2025-2026 budget.

Unlike other economic incentives, this program is directly tied to the creation of jobs for California workers, strengthens the economic future of California, and supports a healthy and viable motion picture industry by creating jobs where workers live.

JOIN US TO PROTECT AND CREATE JOBS & SAVE OUR INDUSTRY.



- GET INVOLVED
- SHARE YOUR STORY
- TAKE ACTION



www.KeepCaliforniaRolling.org



California
IATSE
Council



LIUNA LOCAL
524
HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA



WGAW
WRITERS GUILD
OF AMERICA WEST



California
IATSE
Council



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Upcoming Events

MPTF Webinar | Navigating the Healthcare Maze: Your Guide to Medicare Options for MPI Covered Participants

"Please join representatives from Motion Picture Industry Health Plan and Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions for an important webinar on Medicare Coordination of Benefits for MPI covered participants."

When: Tuesday, May 27th

Time: 6PM - 7PM PT

Register: [Here](#) by Monday, May 26th

Location: Via Zoom



The World of Entertainment Publicity “Deep Dive LIVE” Panel

Join Local 600 for a rare look into what goes into the publicity and marketing campaigns that make film and television projects buzzworthy, including *Wicked* and *The Studio* to *The Morning Show*, *Stranger Things*, and more.

Featured Panelist: Ryleigh Blachley, Senior Publicist, Universal Pictures | Sovonto Green, BTS Operator | Matt Kennedy, SMPSP, Unit Still Photographer | Charlie Pinto, Unit Publicist | Erin Simkin, Unit Still Photographer

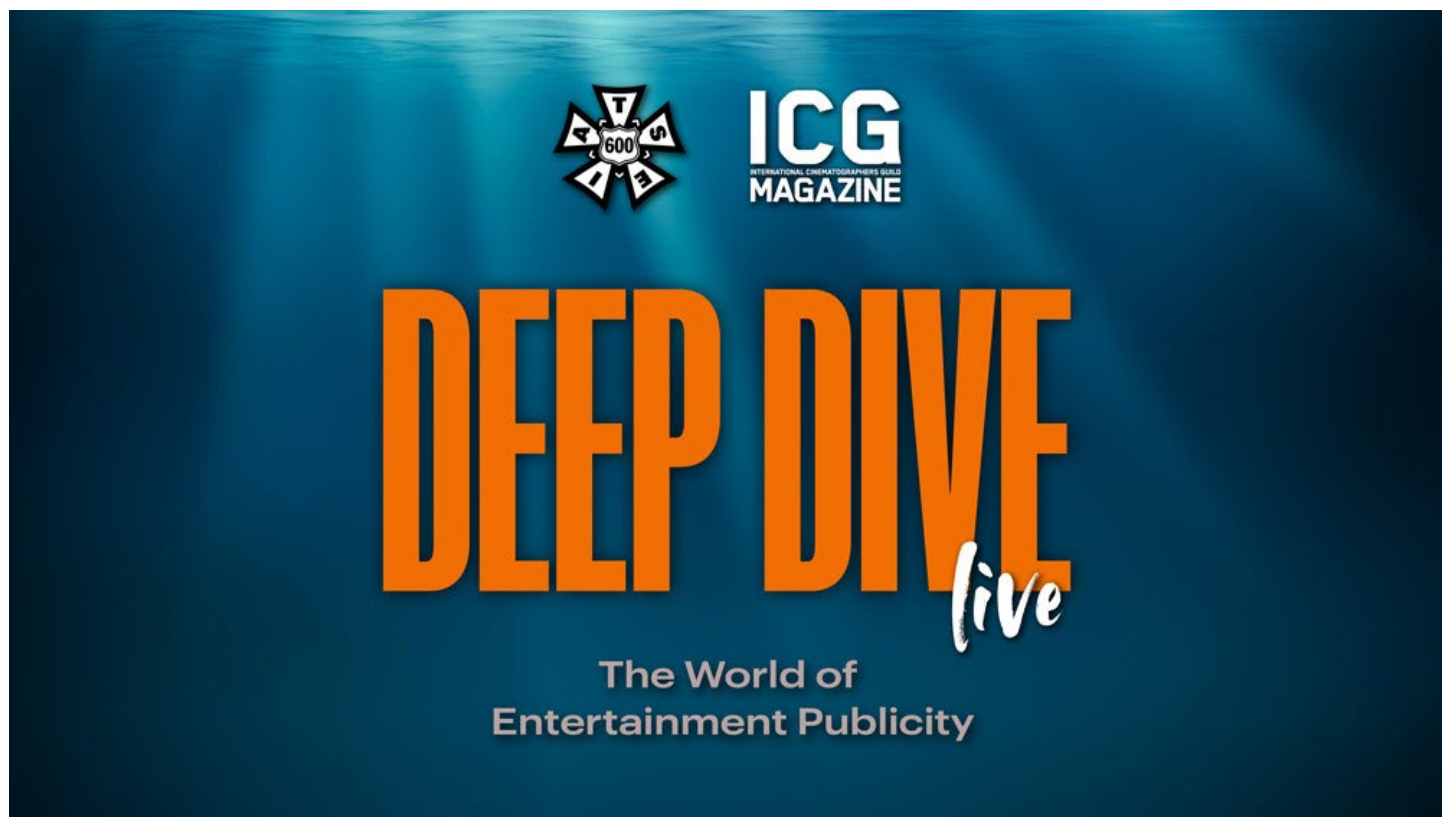
Moderator: Sheryl Main, Unit Publicist

When: Wednesday, May 28th

Time: 7PM (PDT)

RSVP: [Here](#) by no later than 12 PM (PDT) Friday, May 23.

Location: Harmony Gold Theater | 7655 W Sunset Blvd | Los Angeles, CA 90046



Join IATSE for the WeHo Pride Parade

Join us on Sunday, June 1st as Locals 700, 728, and 839 march in the WeHo Pride Parade. This event is open to West Coast IATSE Union Members. Please ask to invite partner before doing so (email andy.flexner@gmail.com)

When: Sunday, June 1st

Time: 12PM

RSVP: tinyurl.com/WeHoParade2025 by **EOD Monday May 26th**

Location: West Hollywood, CA (exact meeting location will be emailed on May 27th)

[WeHo Pride Parade](#)

A vibrant poster for the WeHo Pride Parade. The background is a rainbow gradient. At the top, there are two IATSE logos (a Maltese cross with 'IATSE' inside) flanking the text 'ATTN: IATSE UNION MEMBER' and 'Join Locals 700, 728, and 839 as we march in the'. Below this, the words 'WEHO PRIDE' and 'PARADE' are written in large, bold, white letters with thick purple and pink outlines. The date 'Sunday, June 1, 2025' and start time 'Start Time: 12:00pm' are also in white with purple outlines. The location 'West Hollywood, California' is in white with a purple outline. A section titled 'Parade Route:' in black text describes the route. Below that, a red text box states: 'Exact meeting location and necessary details will be sent via email the day after RSVP ends.' Another red text box says 'RSVP ends EOD Monday, May 26th!'. At the bottom, it says 'Fill out the google form to sign up! tinyurl.com/WehoParade2025' and 'or scan the qr code!' next to a QR code.

ATTN: IATSE UNION MEMBER
Join Locals 700, 728, and 839 as we march in the

WEHO PRIDE PARADE

Sunday, June 1, 2025
Start Time: 12:00pm
West Hollywood, California

Parade Route:
The parade route is approximately 1.3 miles - Official start is at Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Boulevard. The parade proceeds on Santa Monica Boulevard and officially ends at North Robertson Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Exact meeting location and necessary details will be sent via email the day after RSVP ends.

RSVP ends EOD Monday, May 26th!

Fill out the google form to sign up!
tinyurl.com/WehoParade2025
or scan the qr code!



Kino Flo X Lite Gear Open House

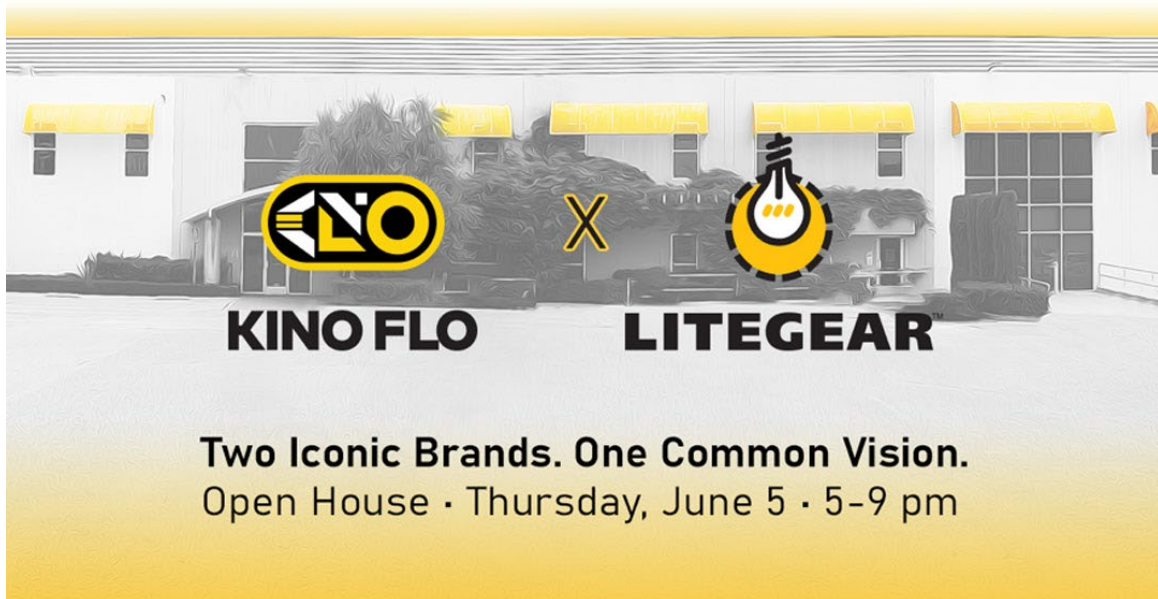
Get an exclusive tour of the new shared facility, engineering, rental and service areas, and latest product developments along with great food and drinks.

When: Thursday, June 5

Time: 5-9PM PDT

Location: 2840 N Hollywood Way | Burbank, CA 91505

RSVP: [Here](#)



CineGear EXPO LA

Registration for Cine Gear Expo LA is now open! Due to popular demand, the Early-Bird registration has been extended through May 31!

When: Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7, 2025

Location: Universal Studios Lot | 3900 Lankershim Blvd., Universal City, CA 91608

Check the [Venue Parking and Map](#) section for attendee and Rideshare Drop-Off Information.

Registration: [Register Here for LA EXPO](#)



IATSE Local 728 Retiree Luncheon

Join us for the Retiree Luncheon on June 18th at the Local. RSVP today and don't miss out on a fun-filled time, catch up with friends, and enjoy a fantastic lunch.

New- Ride Share Possibility

The Retiree Affairs Committee is going to try to coordinate rides for retirees that are unable to get to the luncheon. If you are in need of a ride, please include your location in your RSVP (*ride is not guaranteed and you must rsvp by June 11th*).

When: Wednesday, June 18th

Time: 12PM

Location: IATSE Local 728 | 1001 W Magnolia Blvd | Burbank, CA 91506

RSVP: community@iatse728.org | **Call** (818) 954-0728 | **Online** [Here](#)



SAVE THE DATE **Day at the Ranch 2025**

November 16, 2025

Calamigos Ranch | Malibu, CA



Union Resources



May is Mental Health Awareness Month



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 First Aid Resources](#)

[Mental Health Tools and Resources with Behind The Scenes Video](#)

[Behind the Scenes - Supporting Mental Health and Wellness](#)

Log-in for access to the following:

[MPI's Mental Health and Wellness Resources](#)

[Wondr Health- Cope Better, Stress Less](#)

[CALM Subscription Information](#)

[Optum- Tools and Videos related to Mental Health](#)

Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions- EHISCA

While we at the Local are hopeful that 2025 will bring an uptick in work for the members of the Local we are aware that this uptick might not be enough for all members to be able to maintain their MPI health insurance.

If you are in need of alternative to employer provided health insurance, please reach out to Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions at MPTF. Their staff is trained to assist members of the entertainment community navigate the complex California health insurance marketplace.

ehisca.com

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.

iatse.net/socal-fires/

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

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](#)

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](#)

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 \(iatse728.org\)](#)

First Entertainment Credit Union Promotion

You can receive up to \$500 by joining First Entertainment Credit Union. Details below.

[First Entertainment Promotion](#)

**PROMOTIONS: RECEIVE UP TO \$500
BY JOINING FIRST ENTERTAINMENT CREDIT UNION**

- Obtain **\$400** by opening a Value Checking account with a direct deposit of at least \$1,000 per month within the first 90 days
- Receive another **\$100** when you open a First Entertainment Credit Card and spend \$500 within the first 90 days



**FIRST ENTERTAINMENT[®]
CREDIT UNION**

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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! L728.co/iatsepac

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



In Memoriam

Brother Bret Acquistapace

A 45-year member of Local 728, Brother Acquistapace passed away on May 12, 2025.

[Notice of member passing: Bret Acquistapace](#)



**The SUPER SOFT LAUNCH of the website continues.
If you notice a bug, or other issue, here's where to send it:**

[!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\) forms.gle/EaprTnGAARSDRcKk8](https://forms.gle/EaprTnGAARSDRcKk8)