

Local 728

Weekly Digest

MAY 23, 2025 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 71



In The Spotlight this week!

MEMORIAL DAY

-Remember & Honor-



**The Local 728 office will be closed on Monday, May 26th
in observance of Memorial Day.**

NEW! Production List available on the Local 728 website Dashboard!
Thank you to Local 600 for compiling and sharing this resource.

STRIKE IS OVER: Prodigal Pictures Signs One-Off Videotape Agreement with the IATSE

The IATSE has a contract and the crew is back to work! The company signed a one-off Videotape Agreement with the IATSE covering the crew on ZBS Main Experience shooting in Los Angeles. Congratulations and thanks to the crew for calling it in, sticking together, and holding the picket line.



Behind The Scenes | New Mental Health Survey

Working in this industry is hard – physically and mentally. Behind the Scenes has launched a survey to aid in developing new tools and resources for our industry during these changing times. We want to hear your thoughts on what you need now. If you're in the US or Canada please take this brief survey and share it with your colleagues.

btlink.org/survey



BEHIND THE SCENES

Mental Health Initiative

The entertainment industry has experienced enormous changes.

What tools and resources can support your mental health?

Take the survey today
btsslink.org/survey

Mental Health is... | What does Mental Health Mean to you?

The answer is a personal aspect of our wellbeing and is different for everyone. MPI's Wellness Program has tips, tools, and resources to focus on the importance of self-care mental health, and emotional wellness.

[Mental Health and Wellness \(English\)](#)

[Mental Health and Wellness \(Spanish\)](#)

Mental health is
**DANCING IN
THE KITCHEN
WITH MY KIDS**



What does mental health mean to you?

The answer is different for everyone. How we deal with our own mental health is a deeply personal aspect of our wellbeing. No two people experience it the same way.

Mental Health Awareness

But when we open up and share what works for us, we're empowered to see positive changes beyond ourselves.

Here are some ways to get the good vibes flowing:

- **Find your people** — surround yourself with love
- **Get outside** — fresh air, fresh perspective
- **Listen to music** — find your rhythm, find your joy
- **Grow joy** — cultivate happiness by gardening

Discover helpful articles and videos to help you manage stress, channel positivity and more.

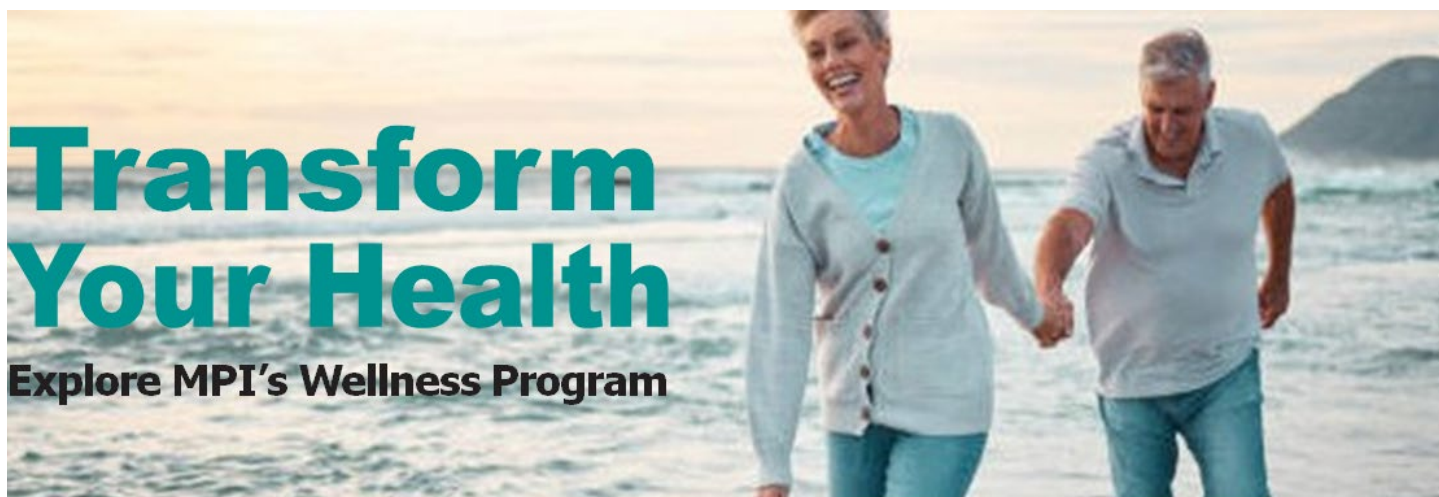
[Explore Now](#)

MPI's Wellness Programs

In support of Mental Health Awareness Month, MPI has provided a list of wellness programs to support you.

- Pelago Alcohol program for Anthem Blue Cross PPO enrollees and their dependents.
- Pelago Tobacco program for all active health plans.
- Calm Premium app. (See how to install and start using Calm [here](#)).
- [One Pass Select](#); a new gym discount program that ALL participants and their dependents are eligible to join if they choose.

Additional details can be found [here](#). For more information, email bweiner@mpiphp.org or call (818) 769-0007 x 2618



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

As reported to the General Membership on Saturday, May 10, 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](#).



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



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



Upcoming Events

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



ICG
INTERNATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHERS GUILD
MAGAZINE

DEEP DIVE

live

The World of
Entertainment Publicity

MPTF Webinar | Building Financial Literacy & Longevity:

Retirement Planning for MPI Pension Plan Participants

Join MPTF and financial advisors from leading wealth management firms for an important discussion about financial literacy and longevity in retirement for participants in the MPI Pension Plan.

When: Friday, May 30

Time: 5PM - 6PM PT

Register: [Here](#) by Monday, May 29th

Location: Via Zoom



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 bold white with purple outlines. The location 'West Hollywood, California' is in the same style. A section titled 'Parade Route:' in bold black text describes the 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.' Below this, 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.

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



Union Plus | Health Discounts for Union Members

Check out the list of Union Plus Health Discounts for Union Members and their families.

unionplus.org/benefits/health



Working hard for union
families since 1966

Health | Dental | Vision | Hearing | Prescriptions

HEALTH Dental Vision Hearing Prescriptions

Health

Find the health savings plan that's right for you

We offer health savings for every family and budget.

A red circular badge with white text that reads "LIMITED TIME HEALTH SAVINGS".

Unlock a healthier you

Looking for smart choices for a healthier you? LiveWell = feeling good + saving money! For a limited time, you can save on these essential health services:

- **Hearing:** Receive a \$150 rebate on a pair of hearing aids¹
- **Vision:** Get up to \$40 extra off select frame brands²
- **Dental:** Enjoy an extra 20% off a dental savings plan³

¹Terms apply. Offer available from May 1, 2025 - July 2025.

²Frame brands and offer subject to change. Only available to VSP members with applicable plan benefits. Only available at in-network locations.

³THIS PLAN IS NOT INSURANCE and is not intended to replace health insurance.

OFFER ENDS 7/31

A photograph of a smiling family (a man, a woman, and a child) standing outdoors near a body of water. The "LiveWell" logo is overlaid on the bottom right of the photo, with the tagline "HEALTHY LIVING - SMART SAVINGS" below it.

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

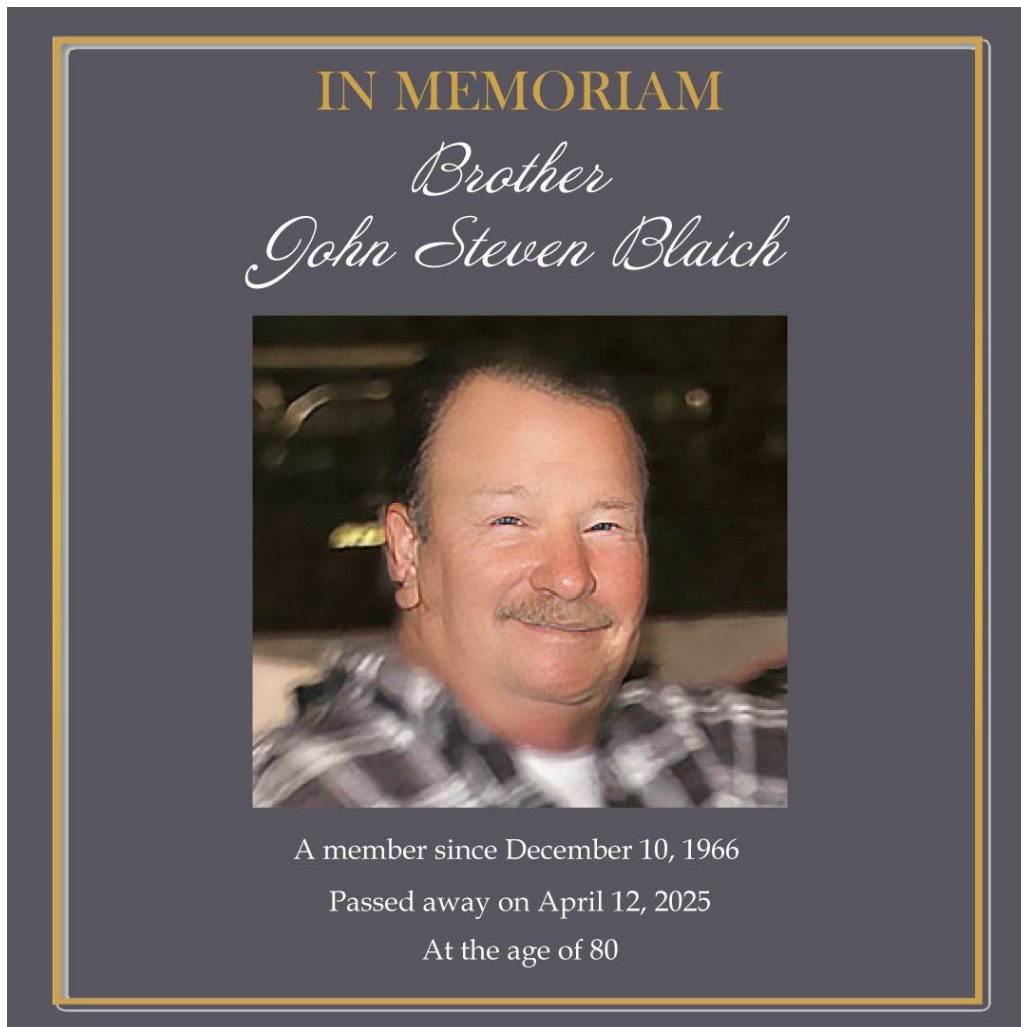
Celebration of Life for John Steven Blaich

A Celebration of Life in honor of Steve Blaich will be hosted on Saturday, May 24 in Sunland, CA.

[Notice of passing: Steve Blaich](#)

Time: 11AM

Location: Shadow Hills Presbyterian | 10158 Johanna Ave | Sunland, CA 91040



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

forms.gle/EaprTnGAARSDRcKk8