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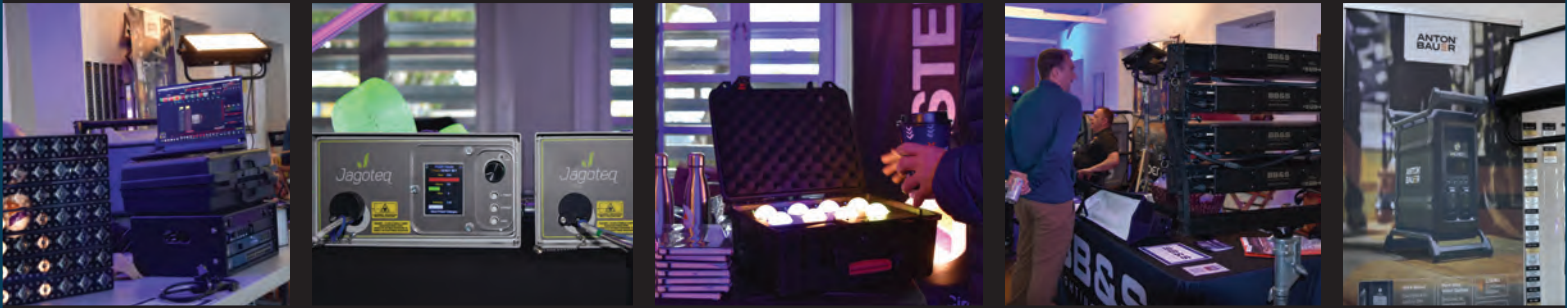
THE BULLETIN

Lighting Technicians IATSE Local 728
The only IATSE Local Dedicated to Set Lighting
www.iatse728.org

HOLLYWOOD,
CALIFORNIA
Vol. 35; No. 5
2025

Stay engaged and informed! Check out the
Local 728 Weekly Digest emailed every Friday.

Techniquity Showcase



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Each convention has a vital role in
how Local unions function

Understanding District 2 and the IATSE Conventions

by Greg Reeves, Business Representative-Secretary

In the interest of continuing education for new members or the uninitiated, I want to share an abbreviated, plain-speech, version of what are the IATSE District 2 and the IATSE Quadrennial Conventions.

The IATSE is divided into 13 districts. These districts meet each year to discuss the issues facing them as members such as work in the industry and the pressures that affect it, the larger union movement, and support for each other and for the IATSE.

IATSE Local 728 belongs to District 2 along with all the other locals in the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii. This year's District conventions are all in Hawaii in conjunction with the IATSE Quadrennial that happens every four years. The "Quad" involves all 13 Districts of the United States and Canada and include their respective local delegates that come together to exchange the ideas and issues that they are facing.

Note: to offset the expense of sending delegates to the Quadrennial, the IATSE pays up to 10 days of per diem, as well as covering coach airfare.

As you can imagine, this year we will be addressing the historic slowdown that has seen Productions leave in droves over the past two decades.

Delegates

D2 Delegates are nominated and voted on by the membership every three years. Next year is the election. Delegates can author resolutions that are then debated by the local delegation. Any resolution that receives a majority of delegate signatures will be submitted to the District Secretary. Delegates can bring resolutions from the membership, but to be debated

the delegate must present it under their name as author.

Resolutions

Resolutions are written directives that are brought to the convention to address issues that are important to a specific local that may be adopted by the District and brought to the Quadrennial for action. One recent result of a resolution is the IATSE survey that was the first of its kind for the union to determine the makeup of the entire membership in a transparent way so that the International may better serve the membership.

Committees

To address the various resolutions that come before the body, Delegates are divided into committee such as finance, constitution and bylaws, pride, etc.. For the Quad, the committees debate resolutions that were received over the last four years from District conventions. One of the rules is that no issues addressing contracts can be brought before the convention. For further rules around that please see the International constitution and bylaws or the Local 728 constitution and bylaws. If you don't have the copy you received during initiation, please notify us at the Local. A new version of our constitution and bylaws will be sent soon.

For more information, please visit <https://www.iadistrict2.org/> or scan the QR Code below.



In Solidarity,

IATSE Local 728 Hollywood, California

PRESIDENT

Martin Weeks

VICE PRESIDENT

Malakhi Simmons

BUSINESS REP-SECRETARY

Greg Reeves

TREASURER-CALL STEWARD

Pascal M. Guillemard

ASSISTANT BUSINESS AGENT

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Union Spotlight

In Memoriam

Brother Kenneth “Buzzy” Burwell, 62 years old, a member since January 4, 2002, passed away on April 14, 2025.

Brother Steve Blaich, 80 years old, a member since December 10, 1966, passed away on April 12, 2025.

Brother Paul Stockwell, 58 years old, a member since May 24, 1997, passed away on May 1, 2025.

Brother Bret Acquistapace, 64 years old, a member since April 19, 1980, passed away on May 12, 2025.

Congratulations to the following new members

sworn in on

May 10, 2025

Marcos Reyna

Joseph Contreras, Jr.

Tynan Lowrance

General Membership Meeting

The next Local 728

General Membership Meeting

will be held on

Saturday, July 19, 2025

The meeting will be held
at 9:00 a.m. and will also be
available via Zoom

Important Information Regarding Hiring

Any Local 728 member representing an employer by filling calls or who is in need of assistance with such, must contact the Local office during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 818-954-0728.

If you urgently need to fill a crew position outside of regular business hours, you must call the Call Steward at 818-438-0728.

Members seeking weekend work should notify the Call Steward on Friday during business hours.

Anyone who hires off roster or hires any member who is not current with their dues may have charges filed against them and are subject to assessment penalties.

Part III Understanding Bitcoin on Page 6

Part One: Playing by the Book

by Pascal Guillemard, Treasurer-Call Steward



Friends, we are in a new era of government where the agencies charged with oversight of unions may be challenging to work with. I am not being political. It is a simple fact that those that are being appointed into positions of union oversight are not fans of unions.

We have been advised by legal counsel and union leadership that we need to tighten up our processes and ensure that we are playing by our rules and theirs. No room for error.

Our Constitution and By Laws define our rights, obligations and the penalties that can be assessed for violating those rules. Ignorance doesn't cut it.

Some of the rules that have been routinely overlooked include:

1. Removal from the Availability List. Members must remove themselves from the available workbook or "Availability List" once they've accepted employment or notify the Call Steward of having accepted employment. Failure to notify the Call Steward can incur a \$25.00 penalty assessment per occurrence.

2. Delinquent Members working. Members who are delinquent with their quarterly dues may not accept employment without incurring a penalty assessment of \$50.00 per occurrence. A delinquent member could avoid this penalty if they speak with the Treasurer before commencing work and making a dues payment arrangement. In these extraordinarily challenging times, I believe that we all understand that earning a paycheck to pay dues might be necessary, but a delinquent member cannot simply go to work without first having a payment agreement with the

Call Steward.

No member who is suspended from membership (two quarters or more) can accept employment.

3. ACLT's reporting selection of members for employment. Members who are employed as ACLT's and have the responsibility of selecting members for employment must inform the Call Steward of those selections. Failure to do so can incur a \$100.00 penalty assessment per occurrence.

Enforcing our rules is not a pleasant part of the two jobs that I was elected to do, particularly when it involves assessing penalties and particularly when incomes for a large percentage of our membership is suffering. I don't get to choose to do only the parts of my jobs that I like. Every one of us agreed to these rules when we took our oath of obligation.

Paying dues on time is not optional. This Local is a non-profit organization and dues income alone does not pay for all the services our members receive. Fortunately, sound financial investments with income taken in during the years when work was plentiful allowed us to invest wisely, which has permitted us to balance our budget and continue providing our members with all the services and representational activities that we want.

Members have asked me why we cannot have reduced dues based on income or simply lowering dues. Our Local is limited in what it can assess its members, and we have always been able to assess less than the allowable maximum of one day's pay. Our Local, like many of the Locals working under contract

Hollywood's Successful Campaign Brings Financial Improvements to LA Filming

by Malakhi Simmons, Local 728 Vice President and Political Director

On April 29, 2025, members and representatives from Hollywood's entertainment unions showed up in force at the Los Angeles City Council meeting to support Item (45) 25-0345, a motion led by Councilmember Adrin Nazarian and co-authored by Councilmembers Raman and Soto-Martínez.

The motion calls for more competitive fee structures in the City's film and TV permitting process and proposes streamlining requirements to make it easier to film right here in L.A.

The City Council spoke strongly in favor, and voted unanimously to adopt the motion. (Fun fact: LA City Councilmember Park comes from an IATSE household!)

After the vote, Councilmember Adrin Nazarian held a press conference joined by guest speakers Alex Aguilar, LiUNA, Brigitta Romanov, IATSE Local 892, a representative from Stay in LA, Councilmember Soto-Martínez, and SAG-AFTRA member Yvette Nicole Brown.



Local 728 President Martin Weeks, Executive Board Member Lorne MacDougall, Business Representative Greg Reeves and VP/Political Director Malakhi Simmons celebrate the council's decision with SAG-AFTRA member Yvette Nicole Brown.



Techquity Showcase



The Local's second Techquity Showcase was held on April 26th and featured some great products.

We want to thank our sponsors and vendors for the April Event:

AC Lighting

Anton Bauer

BB&S

InnerCircle Distributors

Instagrid

Jagoteq



Save the Dates! Our next showcases are scheduled for August 16 and October 18, 2025

This isn't a One-and-Done Effort

Pushing for Stronger California Film Tax Credits

by Martin Weeks, Local 728 President



We're not just talking – we're doing. Local 728 has sent delegations to Sacramento as part of the Entertainment Union Coalition multiple times this year to testify before State Assembly and House Committees in support of increasing California's film tax credits. Through outreach and direct conversations with legislators, including Assembly Member McKinnor during the MLK parade and other events, we've made our voices heard.

This isn't a one-and-done effort - another delegation is headed to Sacramento in May to continue building momentum. Showing up is how we win these fights.

Big Win at L.A. City Hall

We also showed up in force at a recent L.A. City Council meeting, where Council Member Nazarian introduced a motion to make film permitting more competitive with other

cities. Thanks to our presence and support, the motion passed unanimously and is now in the hands of city staff for further drafting and analysis.

Special thanks to Business Representative Reeves, Political Director Simmons, Trustee Schwartz, and Executive Board Officer MacDougall for standing strong for Local 728 at City Hall.

The Fight for Jobs is Real

Whether it's state-level legislation or local policy, the fight to keep jobs in California is happening on all fronts. Every officer in our union is actively engaged in this critical battle – and we need every member aware and engaged in this push.

Know the Rules, Protect the Work

We're also keeping an eye on developments out of Washington, D.C. With certain De-

partment of Labor appointees showing clear hostility to unions, it's more important than ever to follow our Policies and the Constitution & By-Laws (C&BLs) to the letter. Officers are encouraging all members to take the time to familiarize themselves with the C&BLs. All members ensure that all Set Lighting departments they work with are reporting both the shows and new hires to the Local, as required.

Let's all do our part to make sure we stay compliant and strong.

Final Thoughts

When we show up, we get results. Whether it's at City Hall, the State Capitol, or at your job site, your voice matters. Your presence matters. Let's stay united, informed, and active.

In unity,
Martin Weeks
President, IATSE Local 728

Treasurer's Column *Continued from Page 3*

in the Hollywood Basic Agreement and the Commercial Agreement, does not have a "dues check off" as do most Locals elsewhere, where dues are minimal and a percentage of a members' gross earnings, usually 2%-4%, is withheld for payment to the union. It is both a Constitutional and a contractual issue.

Also, reducing our expenses would not bring any substantive reduction to dues. This year we slashed discretionary spending as much as we could.

"Local 728 hasn't given me a job in months!" Unfortunately, Local 728 is not an employer. We are a service organization. Studio employment levels are lower than in past years and this may be the new normal for the foreseeable future. Studios employ members directly. When they cannot find members to employ, they call

the Local. When there are more members than there are studio jobs, they don't need help from the Hall.

Your entire elected leadership is doing all that we can to help our membership through these extraordinarily challenging times. We have not and will never forget what it is like to have to scrap for work. We are laser focused on what we can do for our members and to protect the abilities of this Local to serve its members' needs. "We are banded together for a laudable purpose"

Part III: Understanding Bitcoin

Holding Bitcoin

There are two basic ways to hold Bitcoin, in digital wallets and on Bitcoin Exchanges.

Exchanges

- Cryptocurrencies are bought on "exchanges" where you exchange a fiat currency such as dollars for a crypto currency such as Bitcoin. Transactions occur on a direct peer-to-peer level with no banking intermediary.

- There are fees to be paid when buying or selling cryptocurrencies, however those fees are lower than traditional banking fees.

- Bitcoin wallets held by Exchanges are known as custodial wallets.

Digital Wallets

- When you own Bitcoin (or portions of bitcoin called Satoshi's) you can also store what you own in your own "non-custodial wallet," which can be software or a physical device that plugs into a computer port.

Continued on the next page

Symptoms of HPS resemble the flu: fever, headache & muscle aches,

A Rare but Serious Health Hazard is on the Rise in California

Alan M. Rowe, Local 728 Safety & Training Director



Since the pandemic, I have been attending regular online meetings regarding public health trends in California. During COVID it was useful for getting through the hype and hearing on the ground reporting from the medical community. Recently, a health hazard is on the rise in California and while there is a very low risk of exposure, it exists in areas where we might find ourselves both at work and at play.

Since we often work in buildings and structures in rural areas where deer mice – the primary carriers of Hantavirus – can be found, it is important to recognize that while rare (only 93 cases have been identified since 1980) there is no cure for Hantavirus and it can be fatal if not treated promptly. An unprecedented uptick of four cases were identified in one month (this past February) and it was enough for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to put out a notice that people should take precautions against exposure to this virus.

Hantavirus is spread through rodent urine, droppings, or saliva. People can become infected by breathing in dust that contains these particles, especially in enclosed spaces like crawlspaces, attics, or sheds. It is typically not found in urban areas but it can exist anywhere and has been identified in Los Angeles County, though Mono County has seen the highest number of cases.

Symptoms of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) resemble the flu with fever, muscle aches, headache, dizziness, and nausea. If you've had possible exposure to rodents and develop flu-like symptoms that get worse quickly, seek medical care immediately — and tell your doctor about the potential hantavirus risk. Early diagnosis is the key to survival since HPS has a mortality rate of 35-40%.

Rural spaces that have suspected rodent activity should be cleaned before the crew starts work and it is important that people do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up as they just put dust into the area

where it can be breathed into the lungs. Wet processes using a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) are effective methods for cleaning and areas should be ventilated for at least 30 minutes before entering. Wearing an N95 mask or equivalent (remember those) and gloves are also effective means of protection but are not a substitution for cleaning the affected area.

It is important that spaces where rodent activity can introduce a health hazard are identified during location scouts and are cleaned before the crew arrives to work. It is not our job to clean locations, such work needs to be performed by people who are trained in the correct methods and have the appropriate material and PPE to do the job safely.

Again, I need to stress that the risk of Hantavirus is low, and exposure is unlikely, but it is possible in the areas where we work, and knowledge is power.

Be well and stay safe.

Treasurer's Column *Continued from the previous page*

Your wallet, regardless of it being custodial or non-custodial, has an address, like a school locker number. If you self-custody your wallet, you own a "key" to your wallet which only you have. That is the custody part. If you lose your key or code, you lose access to your wallet and the bitcoin within it.

Wallets that are in self-custody are either "hot" (connected to a computer and logged on to the internet) or warm (plugged in but not logged on) or cold (disconnected from a physical computer).

Participants in the Bitcoin network have a unique "wallet" address.

To access your Bitcoin for a transaction you use a device with an internet connection. The address of the wallet is public, like a school locker. This personal digital address mathematically proves that money sent or received to this wallet is going to the right person. A wallet can be checked for accuracy but cannot be tampered with. An owner connects with another Bitcoin user using an internet connection to send portions of bitcoin to them, or vice versa,

for goods or services. For example, paying a bill or buying a good with Bitcoin can be as simple as launching an app, scanning a QR code and you've made your payment peer-to-peer, no transaction fees.

I'll wrap up this series by discussing the difference between investment volatility vs. risk, Bitcoin Halving, Mining Energy Usage, E-Waste, the challenges Bitcoin presents to the world's governments and their central banks and the societal benefits of Bitcoin.

Pascal

Lighting Technicians

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Members Gather, Network at NAB Las Vegas

A number of Local 728 members headed to Las Vegas in April to attend NAB, a global event featuring the latest in media and entertainment technology.

While there, members gathered with industry professionals at the Pro Lighting Meetup held at the APEX Aputure Experience at Vu Studios. Local 728 was proud to co-host the event with Gaffers Salon.

The NAB Show features technology focused in the broadcast, media and entertainment industries. The show lets professionals from around the world explore the latest innovations, network, and learn about the future of storytelling. The annual event is organized by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and is typically held in Las Vegas.

