

Local 728

Weekly Digest

OCTOBER 3, 2025 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 90



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- **Events-** RSVP – IATSE “All-In” Mixer | Zoom Locals Caucus- October 13th | Techquity Showcase-October 18th | MPTF Special Screening F1 -October 21 | MPTF-Day at the Ranch
- **Resources** –Financial Assistance and Resources | Mental Health Tools and Resources
- **PAC** – Visit IATSEPAC to contribute online and access resources | [NEW Local 728 PAC Landing Page](#)

In The Spotlight this week!

IATSE Local 728 | 2025 Officer Election Candidates

The following are candidates for the office of: Vice President, Treasurer-Call Steward, Trustee, and Executive Board in order of the ballot. Ballots for the Officer Election will be going in the mail no later than Friday, October 10th.

Vice President: Malakhi Simmons

Treasurer-Call Steward: Pascal M. Guillemard

Trustee: Hector J. Corona, Greg Loebell

Executive Board: Eric Fahy, Michelle LeDoux, Patric Abaravich, Lorne “Lonny” Mac Dougall, Fernando Montes, Max Schwartz, David Thomas Graves, Ashley Bilz, Iain O' Higgins, and Eric M. Davis.

Duplicate Ballots:

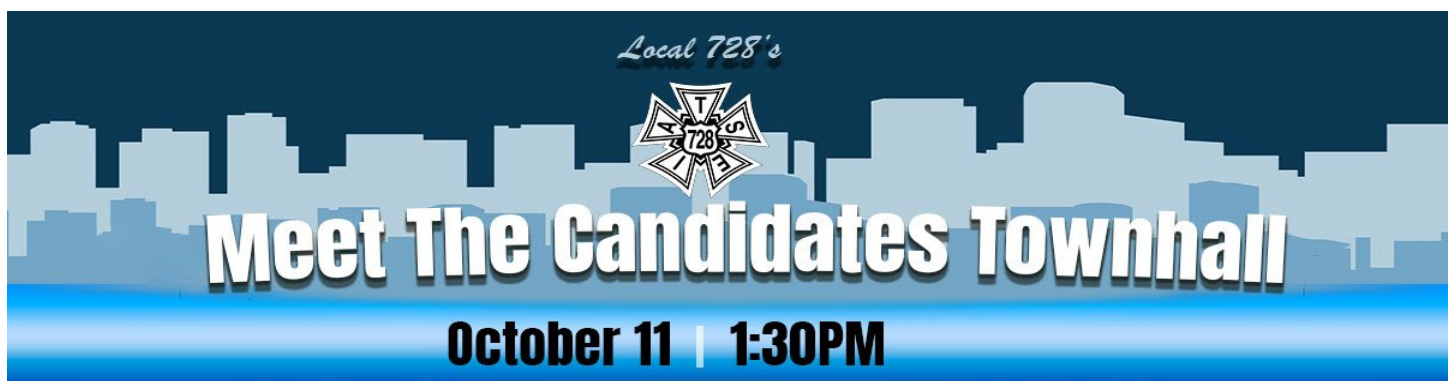
If you do not receive a ballot by October 15, 2025, or if you make a mistake in marking your ballot, please call UniLect Election Services Ballot Request Call Center at 1-866-466-6455 as soon as possible to request a replacement ballot. Operators are standing by 24/7 throughout the election period.



Meet The Candidates Townhall

Local 728's Meet the Candidates Town Hall will be held on Saturday, October 11th at 1:30PM-3:30PM. This is your opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates that want your vote. More details to follow.

[RSVP Here](#) or solidarity@iatse728.org





FOURTH QTR 2025 Dues can be paid by check, ach, debit/credit card or on the website.

Website payments can be made if you log in to your account at www.iatse728.org

Quarterly Due Dates: January 1, April 1, July 1, and **October 1**



*From all of us at the Local, we wish you a meaningful
Yom Kippur*

Evening October 1 - nightfall October 2



Production List now available on the Local 728
website Dashboard! (log-in required)

CSATF New Courses | V3 and V6

Two new course requirements are now available on the CSATF Portal!

V3-Shock and Arc Flash Awareness – 3-hour self-paced online course

V6-Overhead Electrical Rigging Safety – 2-hour self-paced online course

[Visit CSATF Portal](#)



Action Required!

**V3 - Shock/Arc Flash Awareness and
V6 - Overhead Electrical Rigging Safety**

Click [here](#)
to log into
your Portal

Two new course requirements have been added to your classification

These new courses are now available in your Portal!

The **V3 – Shock and Arc Flash Awareness** is a **3-hour self-paced online course** that covers topics to help workers identify, evaluate, and avoid shock and arc flash hazards related to using a portable power distribution system.

The **V6 – Overhead Electrical Rigging Safety** is a **2-hour self-paced online course** that covers rigging concepts and methods that lighting technicians use to safely lift and support lighting equipment overhead.

Click [here](#) or visit the **Industry Hub (thehub.org)** to log into your Portal

The Bulletin

The IATSE Local 728 Bulletin is now available on the website.

In this issue:

- 728 Service Pins
- Work is Coming Back...Slowly!
- Unions are Essential, Now More than Ever
- Labor Day Parade
- Members Helping Members
- Returning to Set Carries Risks
- Adrin Nazarian Speaks to Members

[Read Bulletin No.9](#)



Local 728 recently awarded service pins honoring long-term members. Congratulations to 25-year Service Pin recipients pictured with (L) Vice President Malakhi Simmons, Business Representative Greg Reeves and (far right) President Martin Weeks: (L-R) Michelle LeDoux, Damon Liebowitz, Florentino Jimenez, Steve Bentley, Joshua Thatcher and Safety & Training Director Alan M. Rowe.

Check out Page 4 for photos of 20, 15 and 10-year recipients.

INSIDE YOUR LOCAL BULLETIN

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Returning to Set Carries Risks
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Hollywood Commission Workshop | Working with Mental Health Coordinators

The Hollywood Commission is hosting a virtual workshop, *Working with Mental Health Coordinators: Safe Set Practices for Crew Members*. “Amanda Edwards, President of the Association of Mental Health Coordinators, will share best practices for addressing mental health considerations on set — both when portraying challenging subject matter and when collaborating with an MHC.”

When: Thursday, October 9th

Time: 10AM -11AM PT

Location: Virtual Workshop

Hosted by: The Hollywood Commission

[Register Here](#)



Riverstreet Production Signs Union Contract

"What started as an attempt to replace union workers ended in victory today for IATSE members. While producing a promo for Disney Channel's second season of Wizards Beyond Waverly Place, Riverstreet Productions initially refused a fair contract and replaced the IATSE workers on the shoot.

The 25-person crew responded with a picket demanding industry-standard wages and benefits. Less than 24 hours later, Riverstreet returned to the table and signed a union contract. This swift win proves the power of collective action: when workers stand together, they get results."

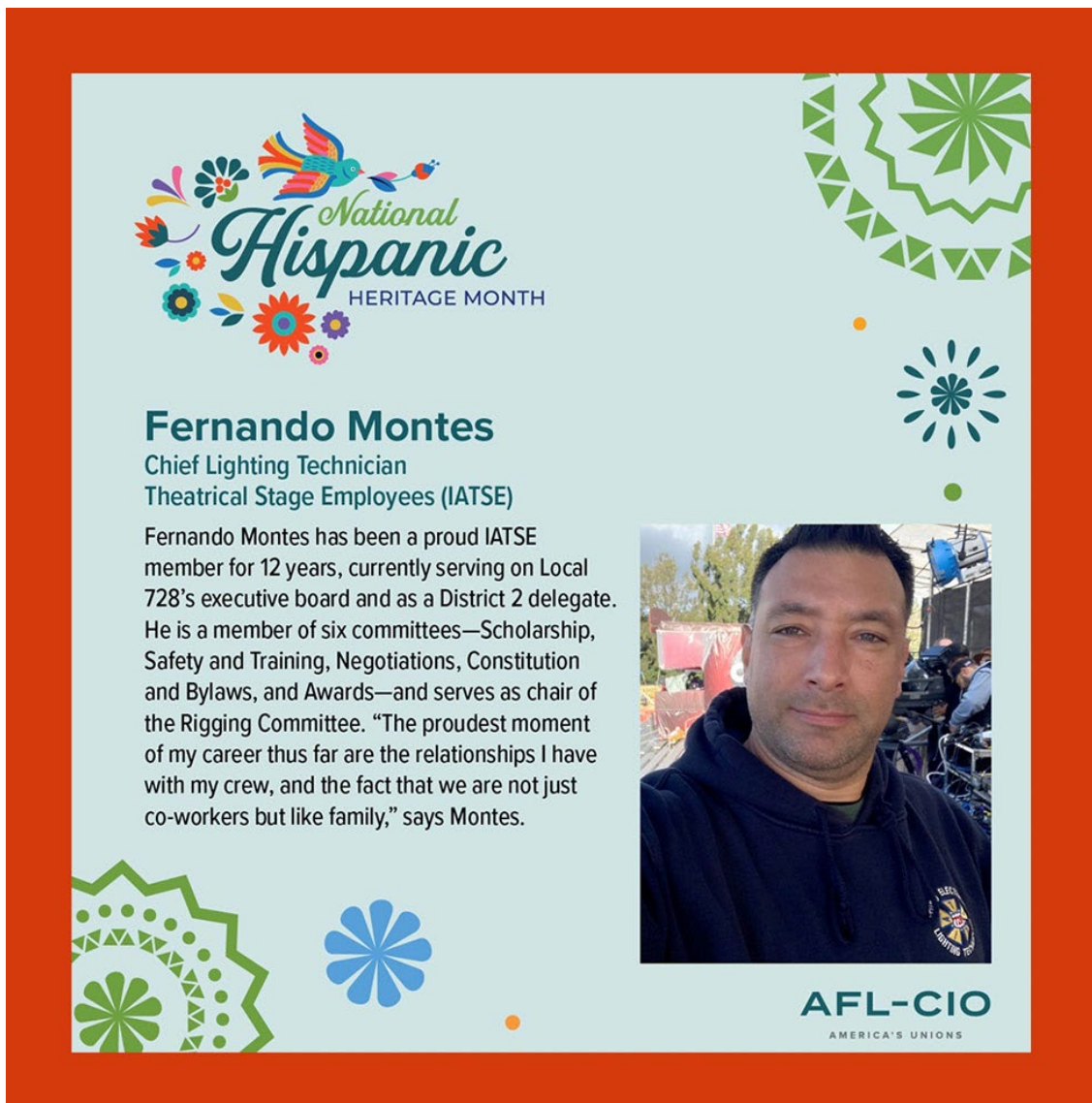


riverstreet

Featured Member Story: Fernando Montes

"Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, the AFL-CIO will be profiling leaders and activists to spotlight the diverse contributions Hispanics and Latinos have made to the labor movement. Today's profile features Fernando Montes of the Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)."

Read More: [Hispanic Heritage Month Profiles](#)



National Hispanic HERITAGE MONTH

Fernando Montes
Chief Lighting Technician
Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)

Fernando Montes has been a proud IATSE member for 12 years, currently serving on Local 728's executive board and as a District 2 delegate. He is a member of six committees—Scholarship, Safety and Training, Negotiations, Constitution and Bylaws, and Awards—and serves as chair of the Rigging Committee. "The proudest moment of my career thus far are the relationships I have with my crew, and the fact that we are not just co-workers but like family," says Montes.

AFL-CIO
AMERICA'S UNIONS



LinkedIn Learning

The Artificial Intelligence 101 LinkedIn Learning Path, developed by the IATSE, provides members with information to better understand how current AI tech could affect the industry and our work.

For more information regarding your free LinkedIn Learning subscription please visit the IATSE Training Trust Fund website at:

<https://www.iatsetrainingtrust.org/lil>

To find the AI courses, simply type “Artificial Intelligence 101” into the LinkedIn Learning search bar. LinkedIn Learning provides many other courses dealing with various facets of AI. This Learning Path is meant to be a starting point.

LinkedIn Learning

FREE SUBSCRIPTION

20,000+ online
courses

Expert
instructors

Desktop or
mobile device

Personalized course
recommendations

Learning Paths from
the IATSE & IATSE TTF

www.iatsetrainingtrust.org/lil



Upcoming Events

October Events Calendar

Join us for the following in-person (unless otherwise noted) events!



UPCOMING EVENTS!

**October
11**

1:30PM

**Local 728's Meet the Candidates
Townhall**

**October
11**

6PM

**IATSE ALL-IN MIXER
at Local 80**



Zoom

**October
13**

12PM

**IATSE Quadrennial
Motion Picture and Television Locals
Caucus Virtual Presentation**

**October
18**

12PM

**Techquity Showcase
New Time!
at Local 728**



RSVP | IATSE “ALL-IN” Mixer

The Hollywood IATSE “ALL-IN” Mixer will be hosted at Local 80. To RSVP, please use the link below.

Volunteers are needed! If you would like to volunteer doing lighting work, please [contact Dan Vetanovetz](#) for all other volunteer work use the link below.

When: Saturday, October 11th

Time: 6PM-12AM

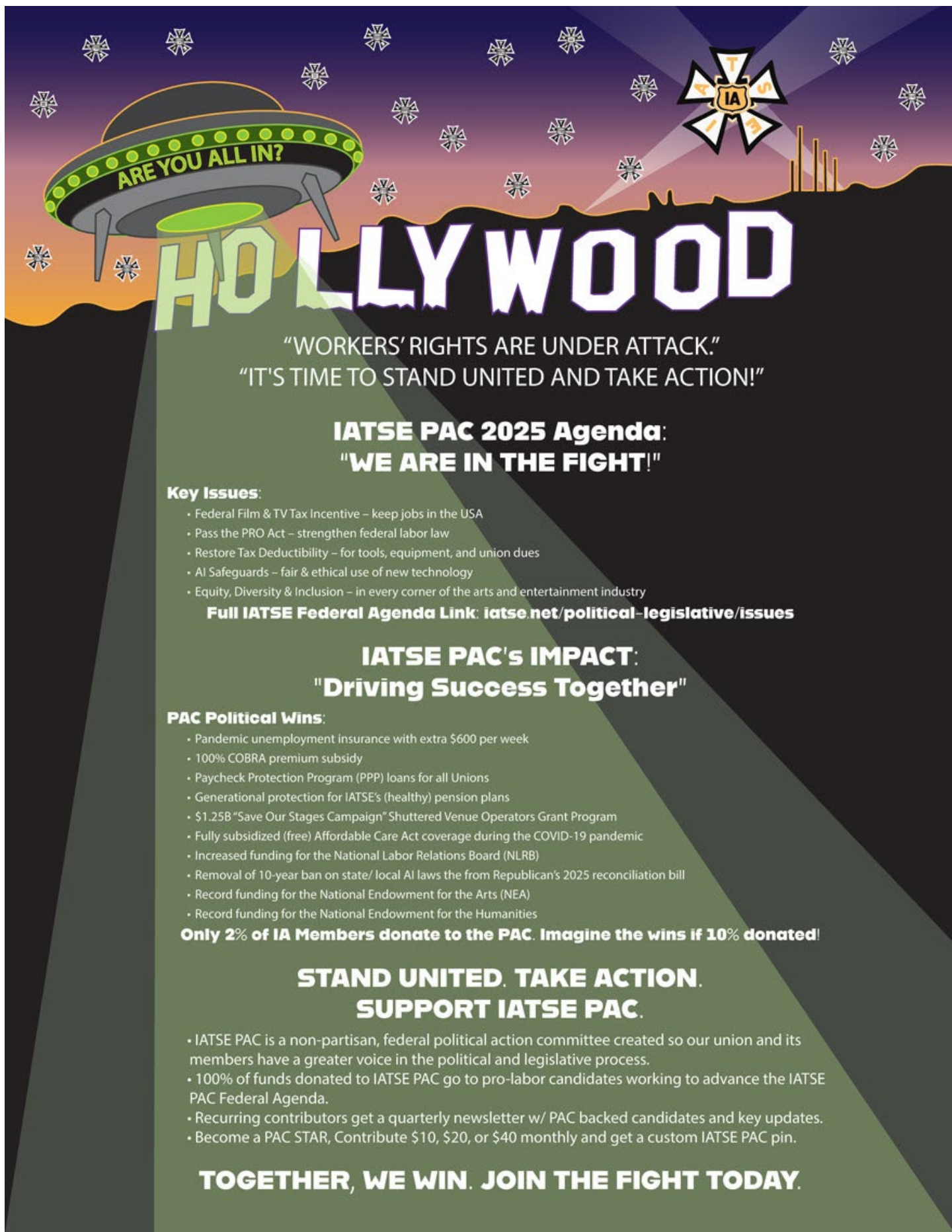
Location: IATSE Local 80

[RSVP Here](#)

[IATSE "ALL-IN" MIXER Information](#)

[All-In Mixer Volunteer Sign Up](#)





**"WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK."
"IT'S TIME TO STAND UNITED AND TAKE ACTION!"**

**IATSE PAC 2025 Agenda:
"WE ARE IN THE FIGHT!"**

Key Issues:

- Federal Film & TV Tax Incentive – keep jobs in the USA
- Pass the PRO Act – strengthen federal labor law
- Restore Tax Deductibility – for tools, equipment, and union dues
- AI Safeguards – fair & ethical use of new technology
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – in every corner of the arts and entertainment industry

Full IATSE Federal Agenda Link: iatse.net/political-legislative/issues

**IATSE PAC's IMPACT:
"Driving Success Together"**

PAC Political Wins:

- Pandemic unemployment insurance with extra \$600 per week
- 100% COBRA premium subsidy
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for all Unions
- Generational protection for IATSE's (healthy) pension plans
- \$1.25B "Save Our Stages Campaign" Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program
- Fully subsidized (free) Affordable Care Act coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Increased funding for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)
- Removal of 10-year ban on state/ local AI laws from Republican's 2025 reconciliation bill
- Record funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- Record funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities

Only 2% of IA Members donate to the PAC. Imagine the wins if 10% donated!

**STAND UNITED. TAKE ACTION.
SUPPORT IATSE PAC.**

- IATSE PAC is a non-partisan, federal political action committee created so our union and its members have a greater voice in the political and legislative process.
- 100% of funds donated to IATSE PAC go to pro-labor candidates working to advance the IATSE PAC Federal Agenda.
- Recurring contributors get a quarterly newsletter w/ PAC backed candidates and key updates.
- Become a PAC STAR, Contribute \$10, \$20, or \$40 monthly and get a custom IATSE PAC pin.

TOGETHER, WE WIN. JOIN THE FIGHT TODAY.

Zoom | IATSE Quadrennial Motion Picture & Television Locals Caucus Virtual Presentation

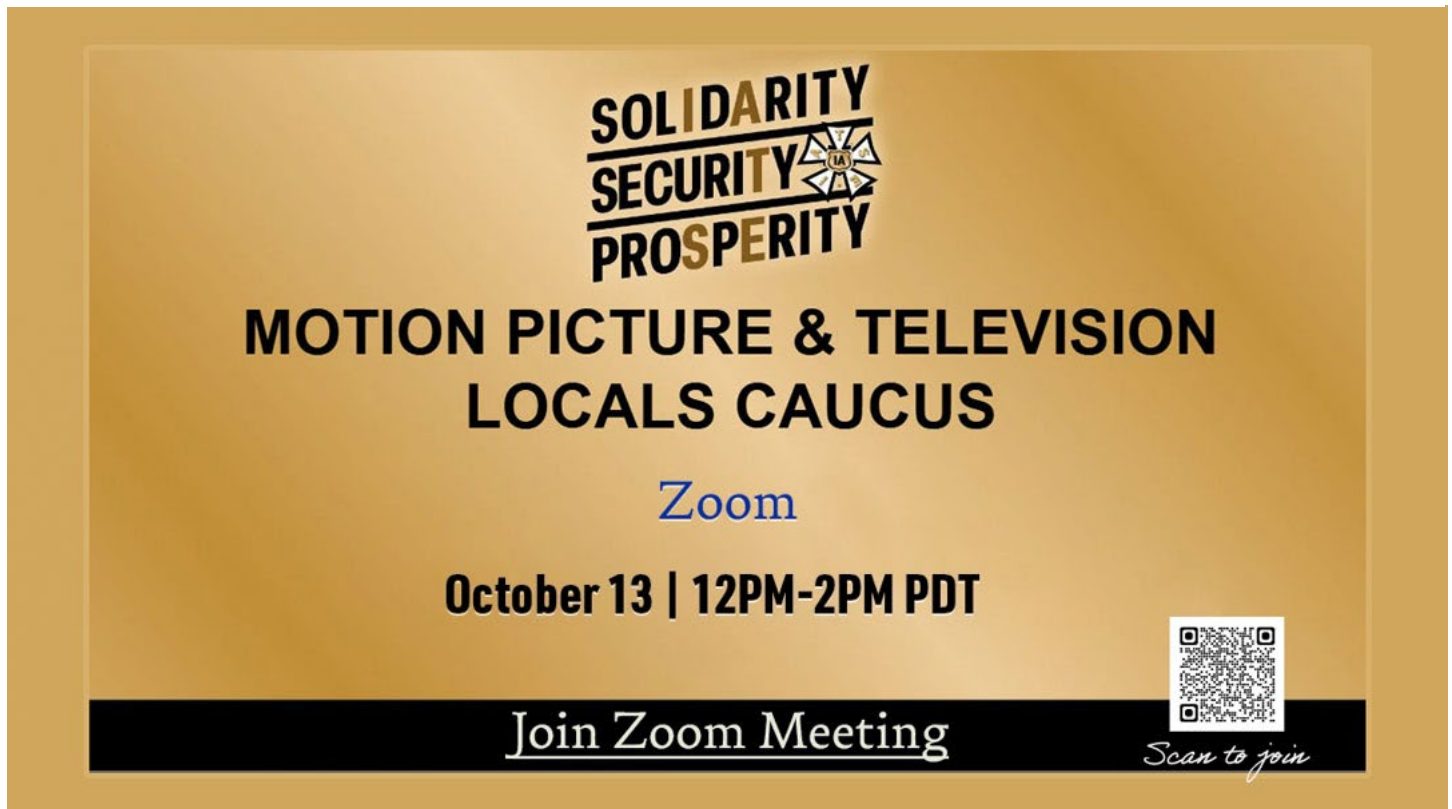
Join us for a deep dive into the last four years of work done by the IATSE as presented at the 70th Quadrennial.

When: Monday, October 13th

Time: 12PM-2PM

Location: via Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



Techquity Showcase | October 18th

Join us for our last Techquity of the year and it'll be 100% Clean Energy, with full sponsorship by the Sustainable Entertainment Alliance.

When: Saturday, October 18th

Time: 12PM-4PM (NEW TIME!)

Location: IATSE Local 728

[RSVP Here](#)

techniquity showcase

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH



12PM-4PM
📍 IATSE LOCAL 728

SPONSORED BY



MPTF Special Screening | F1

A special screening of F1 will be hosted at the MPTF Louis B. Mayer Theater on October 21st. Following the reception, award-winning producer Jerry Bruckheimer will have a conversation with the audience.

When: Tuesday, October 21st

Time: 6PM Outdoor Reception | 7PM Conversation and Screening

Location: MPTF Louis B. Mayer Theater | 23388 Mulholland Dr. | Woodland Hills, CA 91364

[RSVP Here](#)



MPTF Day at The Ranch

Join us for the MPTF- IATSE fundraiser Day at the Ranch on Sunday, November 16 at Calamigos Ranch in Malibu, CA.

When: Sunday, November 16

Time: 11AM-3:30PM PT

Location: Calamigos Ranch

[MPTF.com/DayAtTheRanch](https://mptf.com/DayAtTheRanch)

Purchase Tickets [Here](#)

Paper Registration available [here](#)



MPTF & IATSE PRESENT

DAY AT THE RANCH

FAMILY PICNIC AT CALAMIGOS RANCH

MPTF | IATSE



Sunday, November 16, 2025

Calamigos Ranch

11:00am - 3:00pm • Lunch from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Join us for a fun family picnic as we raise funds to sustain MPTF's legacy of supporting industry members and their families.

[MPTF.com/DayAtTheRanch](https://mptf.com/DayAtTheRanch)



Scan Here

Presenting Sponsors



Contact events@mptf.com
with any questions or for more information

Union Resources

Information and tools for financial, mental health and wellness, assistance, food banks, alternative health insurance, discounts and more can be found at the following:

[Financial Assistance and Resources](#)

[Resources | Assistance](#)

[Mental Health Tools and Resources](#)



IATSE PAC

IATSE Local 728 Fundraiser to support IATSE PAC

Local 728 now has its own personalized PAC Donation Landing Page. Donating is a 2-step process. First you must fill out a PAC Form and then make a donation using the links or QR provided.

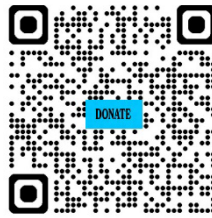
[Please give today!](#)

[Fillable PAC Form](#)

PAC FORM



DONATE



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!

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

