Member to Member

SUSTAINING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM & ACTIVISM
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General Membership Informational Webinar
Sunday, July 12, 2020
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Join your fellow union kin for this virtual meeting to get updated on important information from Local 871.

Agenda
10:00-10:20 Intros/MPI & MPTF Update
10:20-10:30 Craft panel discussions recap
10:30-10:50 Safe Way Forward / 871 members going back to work
10:50-11:05 Committee updates
11:05-11:30 Business Representative Update
11:30 Q&A We will try to answer as many questions as we can but might be limited based on volume & time constraints. Please submit questions in advance here.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
(Why? Our staff needs time to validate membership status of each registration. Staff strongly recommends you register before Friday, July 10, at 3pm. After that time, our ability to assist you should you encounter technical difficulties will be limited.)

- Who Can Attend: All Members (active and inactive) and Retirees.
- This is not a general membership meeting and no official votes on Union Business will be conducted. We will be scheduling membership meetings later this year, either virtually or in-person (provided we can do so safely).
- This meeting will not be recorded.

Local 871 updates, resources & information:
About this Issue

This is quite possibly the most unique newsletter we have put out. But these are unusual times, so it seems somehow appropriate to step away from our regular format.

When we began prep for this issue, we thought we might do an article on member volunteerism during the shutdown. When we discovered so many members volunteering, marching, serving on virtual panels, and otherwise finding ways to positively impact their community, we decided to devote the entire issue to how our members are keeping their community together, as well as finding personal meaning, though helping others. Leadership opted to take a back seat this issue, and give space and prominence to members' voices.

We want to thank all our contributors, who represent only a sample of what our membership has been able to accomplish.

Best,
Wendy Gough Soroka
Communications Coordinator

Housekeeping Items

All in-person events at the Local are currently postponed. We are starting to set up virtual meetings (watch your email) As soon as we know it is safe, we will begin re-scheduling in-person gatherings.

The Local 871 Staff is currently working remotely, and the Local's offices are closed to visitors. The best way to reach staff is by email (see back page for staff contact info).

Please open emails from the Local. Events are rapidly evolving and we want you to get the information you need.
The Choice We Have

Liz Schindler

I passed a long line of cars on my way to the IATSE West location for the food drive. They were lined up over an hour before the 9:00 AM start.

My station was on the street to help move cars forward, make sure no intersections were blocked, and that no cars tried to cut in line.

We started a half hour earlier. The cars started to make their way past. I saw whole families with their pets, a lone father or mother, and couples. Some would acknowledge me and some would not. I saw some backseats and front seats full of possessions.

I didn't think that I would have seen a Porsche, Mercedes, Land Rover, BMW, or Tesla, but they were all there.

We work in an industry that creates stories. Whether it is a police, legal, or medical drama, a story about roommates, misfits, or even a story about a big box store, they are not real. They are pretend.

I saw people who were scared, embarrassed, and stressed.

We tend to think that someone who drives a fancy car, wears nice clothes, and lives in a nice house, have it made. We think they have no problems. We even produce shows to make you believe that. But, we know that is just pretend.

Later after volunteering, I listened to the David Foster Wallace’s 2004 Kenyon College commencement speech. It was titled, “This is Water.”

Wallace talks about how we just live in our own world, the absolute center of the universe. He talks about having a choice on how we think about a situation.

Maybe you think “Why would someone who drives a Tesla or Land Rover be in a food line or didn’t they save for a rainy day fund?” Why don’t they have several months of living expenses saved up?

We make assumptions, but we all know what that says about us when we do that.

Maybe the person who is driving the fancy car didn’t save enough money. They may be dealing with large medical bills. Maybe they have recently lost the main breadwinner in their home. Maybe their child, sister, brother, or parent has lost their job due to the pandemic and have moved in.

My hope is when we go back to work, the freeways become full again, and we start getting irritated at the person who just cut us off, that we take a moment and give them the benefit of the doubt. They may be going through some hellish situation, that by the grace of God, we have not been through.

So if they do a myriad of irritating actions, don’t yell at them or flip them off. Just let them go on their way. I know it is hard, but we all have a choice on how we respond.

Maybe the pandemic is here to teach us that you just don’t know what someone’s reality is, unless you are living it.

Liz Schindler
Art Department Coordinator
Regarding Dues

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, all of us at Local 871 — the members, the staff, and the Local’s leaders — are in this together. We are all acutely aware of the financial strain the membership is under while production is shutdown. To provide some additional relief, on Friday, June 5 a majority of the Board of Directors of Local 871 voted to waive all dues for the 3rd Quarter.

There is no action required on your part.* You will not be invoiced for the third quarter. We hope that this dues waiver will help ease some of the financial anxiety you may be experiencing.

This waiver amounts to an impact of $235,000 to our Local's treasury.

Since our productions went dark in March, our Local’s staff went into high gear by providing you all support in filing for unemployment, dealing with production pay issues, ensuring hours were reported to MPI, and linking members to assistance programs such as food banks and the financial assistance programs at MPTF and the Actors Fund. We have been intimately involved in helping to craft the White Paper on Proposed Health and Safety Guidelines so that we can be ready to return to work in the coming weeks. Although a specific reopening date has not yet been set, we will continue to prepare for all of you to return safely to work, and to navigate the new working conditions we are now facing.

If you are in a position to pay this quarter, and would like to do so, please consider making a voluntary dues contribution to the Local. Contact billing clerk Sara Nichols (billing@ialocal871.org) to let her know you want to support Local 871, and she will assist you.

Our union office is here for you — and we depend on dues to keep on protecting our rights and enforcing our contracts. Because of past dependence on initiation payments (which have significantly slowed, since we have had very few new members join us over the last three months), we’ve had to make some adjustments to our budget, just as you all have, too. And like you — we will make it, and even thrive, once production comes back on line. And as you know, every little bit of help helps. Consider supporting your Local.

*If you have already paid your 3rd quarter dues, (or have paid the entire year) your payment will be applied as a credit towards future dues. If you would like this payment to be considered a “Voluntary 3rd quarter dues contribution,” or have other questions, please email billing clerk Sara Nichols (billing@ialocal871.org).
Volunteerism 101
Lesli Lytle

How I spent my Summer During the Coronavirus Emergency

The current pandemic has most of us confined, confused, and cranky. Not knowing when we will be able to resume our lives has us all anxious. How we deal with the uncertainty is the key to staying sane.

Our employment is sporadic by nature. In the entertainment business, we are used to the gig economy. We are usually looking for our next job, sending out feelers, making contacts, all while we are doing our current show. But when the paycheck stops completely, and there is no new job to look forward to, the uncertainty and the fear hits home more than it does for most. It seems that Unions are a little more plugged in when it comes to community mainly because we are a collective bunch. And naturally, we have access to contact information and can reach out to them.

We also have connections like the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. I have served Local 871 as a delegate with the LA Fed for over seven years. I have enjoyed being active in their contributions to Labor, including job actions, educational seminars, community support and outreach. One of the most rewarding activities was assisting the U.S. Postal Service with the Letter Carriers’ Stamp Out Hunger food drive. In 2019, I was asked to captain a team at the Post Office in West L.A. and I had 32 amazing IATSE volunteers come out to help. We were there to unload bags of food from the Postal trucks as they returned from their routes. They were delivering bags of food donated by people on their route.

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In our post office, we palletized the bags as they came off the trucks. We collected 36 pallets of food. That equates THREE truck loads FULL of palleted boxes with multiple bags of food in each. We collected so much that we beat the record. (That record still holds today.) The collected food, in excess of one ton, was sorted and boxed by other union members and held for situations like the one we are facing now. The food collected and sorted at the Bell city warehouse is directly the source of the food being distributed to families in need.

So when the LA Fed recently said that they needed volunteers to help distribute the food to Union brothers and sisters, I jumped at the chance to be part of the solution.

The first distribution was scheduled at the IBEW Local 11 Warehouse in Bell. It is just up the street from the USPS sorting facility. We anticipated around 2,000 cars and they were scheduled to start lining up at 9:00am. At 7:30am, the cars were...

IATSE Team members Jake DeWilde (Local 33) and Lesli Lytle (Locals 44 & 871). Over 7,300 Carloads served!

The IATSE Team at the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in 2019.

Continued next page...
Volunteering at the IATSE Food Drive was an amazing experience. We arrived early in the morning, masks and gloves ready to go, and began the process of loading boxes of frozen chicken and canned goods into cars. I worked alongside other lovely IATSE members who’s positivity and enthusiasm was contagious. As I loaded food into people’s trunks, their sincere gratitude made my experience beyond rewarding. While exhausting, I also got workout loading those heavy boxes for 6 hours. I truly can’t wait to volunteer again and continue helping my community in any way I can.

Nicole Binnall
Script Supervisor
actors. Some clients are SAG/AFTRA members, who were sponsoring their own food distributions, but non-Union people suffer the most in instances like this pandemic. They don't have as many of the resources available to them to seek help and it can be devastating. They are an integral part of our industry, but they are often overlooked.

The agents at Central said they would send information about the food drives to their members. Sande Alessi herself returned my call and was grateful that we would include her members. She went above and beyond to post notices. At the IA food drive, I spoke to several attendees who said they had been notified by Sande. A few days later she contacted me, stating that her members were so touched that we would reach out, that they in turn wanted to volunteer to serve others. One good turn does certainly deserve another.

Speaking of deserving, the sisters and brothers at Locals 892 and 705 have been especially active in their endeavors to create and bag up mask-making kits. They include the material, elastic and instructions to make and sew cloth face coverings. These will then be donated to first responders and those on the front lines of healthcare, to help offset the shortages of PPE materials.

(I once had a Barbie sewing machine. So, I thought I was qualified for the task. Not so much. But I digress.) I actually have a “real” sewing machine and even some thread, so I gave it a go. I am now on my fifth kit from the Locals, having sewn 107 masks so far. (I have no idea why it is an odd number.) I am just happy I still have all ten fingers. My sewing skills are not up to professional standards, but I do feel that I am doing something to give forth and be productive.

May 9th was the first Labor Community Services Food Distribution at The LA Fed. Check out the donations behind us. Loads of oranges, milk, and steak. In the early part of the day it was easy to keep that 6 foot distance but as the day went on it was more of a challenge. A walk-up for folks lined down the street outside the gated parking lot. At the end of the day, Lead Organizer, Claudia Magaña told us we provided provisions for over 1500 households.

Ran into my friend Laura Stewart of IA local 728. Felt like early Mothers Day with so many happy eyes peeking out from behind their masks.

Rebecca Young, Art Department Coordinator & Board Member

Lesli: One batch (of five) of masks I have sewn for front line / first responders!

Board Members at Work: Local 871 Board member Rebecca Young with Local 728 Board Member Laura Stewart.
Armando Olivas, who is the Labor Community Services head at the LA Fed said that to date, the food drive has helped 39,878 families and 159,000 individuals who were facing food uncertainty. If that isn’t a good deal of good deeds, I don’t know what is. The outpouring of people wanting to help, to the point that the IA had to turn away volunteers (for safety reasons) just warms my heart.

As the saying goes: ‘It is through giving that we receive’. I believe that. Through service to others, we nurture our own hearts. And I know that during this time of turmoil, it creates a feeling of purpose and stability. I am exceedingly grateful to all the Union sisters and brothers I have had the privilege to volunteer with during this critical and stressful time, and for the opportunity that I, as a labor Union member, have been given to help my fellow Union workers and their families.

In Solidarity,
Lesli Lytle
IATSE Local 44 & 871

Background: The Food Distribution with Maria Elena Durazo in South Los Angeles.
Black Lives Matter:  
*Labor for Black Lives*

Shocked and horrified at the brutal death of George Floyd while in police custody, IATSE members took to the streets to demonstrate their support of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, while Union leadership at all levels expressed their unequivocal support of BLM, as well as recognized the link between the Labor Movement and the fight for Civil Rights. IATSE Leadership further pledged to do better in the fight against systemic racism within the entertainment industry.

*#BlackLivesMatter*

"*We all must learn from the past and ensure the injustice is never repeated. The future is ours, and moving forward we all must be the change we want to see in the world.*"

*Matthew D. Loeb  
International President*

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*IATSE members at the June 7 Black Lives Matter Protests in Hollywood.  
Credit: Alexander Hill*

*Local 871 President Crystal Hopkins with the IATSE contingent at the June 7 Black Lives Matter Protests in Hollywood.*

*Drone footage over the June 7, 2020 LA Black Lives Matter protest on Hollywood Blvd*
From Your Seats to the Streets: Documentaries as a Force for Social Change

I want to highlight the work of incredible documentary filmmakers who tell stories that focus on systemic injustices faced by African Americans as a result of white supremacy. These filmmakers seek not only to educate us but to inspire us to take action to make real change. So rather than rewatching the entire run of *Friends* or *The Office*, queue up one of these documentaries and then figure out how you want to be involved in creating systemic change for justice. Many of these documentaries provide the names of organizations already doing great work that you can join and support.

In Solidarity,
Heather Williams, Field Representative
heather@ialocal871.org | (818) 468-1530

African Americans and the deadly effects of racist policing

*13th* (Netflix)
*Time: The Kalief Browder Story* (Netflix)
*Who’s Streets* (Hulu)
*Say Her Name: The Life and Death of Sandra Bland* (HBO)
*True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality* (HBO)

LGBTQA+ African American Advocates

*The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* (Netflix)
*Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin* (Canopy; Sundance NOW)
*Major!* (Amazon Prime)
*Jewel’s Catch One* (Netflix)
*Free Cece* (Amazon)
The Blood Drive
Emma Danoff

I was part of the team put together by the 871 Community Service Committee to participate in the Red Cross Blood Drive on May 3, 2020. I volunteered last year and had such a great time that when the opportunity came up to volunteer again this year, I jumped at the chance. I committed to the event April 3, 2020, and honestly I believed we would be finished with the quarantine by then and it would be a nice transition. I was wrong.

Since we were very clearly still in the middle of the shutdown with no end in sight, I was actually a bit nervous to participate. What would it be like? Would we have any donors? Would it be safe? Would I be safe? Should I stay home?

Then I thought to myself, the Red Cross deals with worse than this, so if there is anyone to trust knows what they’re doing, it’s them, and the front line workers help us everyday, so this was the least I could do.

I am so grateful that I let my reason override my worry.

Upon arrival, I learned we had even more donors than last year, and were completely full with no space for any walk-ins—which was great! People really wanted to help during a pandemic however they could.

The first thing the Red Cross Rep did was explain to us the protocols for safety, including sanitizer, gloves (we went through so many gloves—one per pre-check), masks, temperature checks, etc. We all felt very safe, which I did not expect, but that was mostly my own nerves at being in the world.

We set up our stations, including a pre-check-in outside station to make sure people qualified (no fever, mask on), so if people did not pass they would not even be allowed in the inside/donation area to contaminate others. Fortunately everyone passed and was able to donate!

The team of volunteers did not get to ‘hang out’ as much as last year, and the donors were properly socially distanced in the waiting room and donation room, but I think we were all grateful for some human contact outside of our homes!

This was the first time many of us had even left the house since the quarantine had been put into place, so it felt great to be around our sisters and brothers for a great cause. I heard conversations about missing work, new recipes, pets, family, everything, just reconnecting to strangers and coworkers. One union sister brought masks for the volunteers—I was gifted one with cats that I wear regularly now! Thank you again!

With the new protocols in place, everything took a bit longer than normal, but the donors were very patient (and probably grateful to be not in the same space they had be quarantining in.)

This year I actually felt more camaraderie even though we were farther apart! Last year it was quieter as people waited, everyone on their devices, in their own little worlds, but this year we all were present and together though 6 feet apart.

I cannot wait to see what next year brings!

Emma Danoff
Script Supervisor

The Red Cross desperately needs donations, so if you were unable to attend this drive for any reason, please look at their website (redcrossblood.org) and schedule something near you. Know that it is safe and you may just save a life! All types welcome and needed.
The Lily La Cava Scholarship is available to members, a child, grandchild, or an immediate niece/nephew of members. Applicants must demonstrate commitment to self-development through advanced education or training, a capacity to benefit from enhanced educational opportunities, and an appreciation of the importance of organized labor to their families and American society in general. Scholarships are awarded to individuals pursuing a course of study beyond high school in a junior college, a four-year university, graduate school, or vocational school.

To learn more about the fund or to apply, please login to our website (www.ialocal871.org) and navigate to the Lily La Cava Scholarship Page, under the MY 871 Tab.

Missed an Email?

The Local has been sending out email updates as information becomes available to us. If you think you've missed one, be sure to check our ARCHIVE.

The Local archives all Eblasts, Bulletins, and Newsletters on our website, back to 2015. If you think you missed something, please login at www.ialocal871.org and navigate to the ARCHIVE (on the My 871 tab). (Direct Link: https://www.ialocal871.org/My-871/Union-Business/Archive). Most emails are posted within a few days of being sent out.

If you think you've been unsubscribed from the Local's email list, members can resubscribe here: http://eepurl.com/bFF1Oj. Your email must match what we have on file for you. (For the EDUCATION email list - resubscribe here: http://eepurl.com/gOAM45.)
Mentorship During COVID
Robert Moon

Children, through no fault of their own, sometimes find themselves removed from the only homes they have ever known. These precious and vulnerable souls often end up in foster care or group homes, desperately awaiting new parents who will swoop in, adopt them, and provide stable, loving places to live, grow, and prosper. Even in the best of times, many of these children will never know that storybook outcome. The babies and toddlers—especially the white ones—will almost certainly find new homes, often within days if not hours of landing in the system. The older ones, though—especially the children of color—will not be so fortunate and will bounce from foster home to group home, never having a sense of permanence or place.

With COVID-19 shutting down courthouses and impacting desperately needed services, while the nation grieves over black lives needlessly lost, these frightened and confused children are at their most vulnerable. KidSave is a non-profit that champions such children and tries to find them permanent homes by pairing them with adult mentors who tap personal and professional networks to find the perfect parents. Events are held where children can meet prospective parents and mentors through fun activities, such as hiking, candle-making, and carnival games.

The pandemic has thrown a monkey wrench into such plans, but KidSave has remained undeterred. Events have moved onto Zoom, with activities shifting to the likes of trivia games, Scattergories, and scavenger hunts, and they remain just as fun. The events are always lively, so conducting them on Zoom might seem like it would be a challenge, but it works! We recently held a scavenger hunt, where the kids ran off looking for things that could be found in their home. Already bursting with pent-up energy, the kids had no problems racing around their homes to find the various objects. There were easy objects, like a stuffed animal, as well as more challenging objects, like a ticket stub, allowing for the kids and adults to work together to finish the entire list.

If you’d like to get involved as a mentor or prospective parent, visit KidSave.org. Mentors of color are especially needed.

Robert Moon
Script Supervisor & Board Member
When Things are Not so Normal
Toby Forlenza

Just wanted to share how I’ve tried to stay busy and help in a few small ways. After trying to make some face masks on my own to donate to the hospitals in early March I found the best “how to” videos were coming out of foreign countries. They had no words, just a step by step with some fast forwarding. As I gathered the materials I needed, I, along with everyone else found that elastic was going to be the challenge. I managed to find a few packages among my craft room supplies but most were either too thick or had long ago lost their will to stretch. I cobbled together a couple masks for my son and I, but lost interest when the internet informed me the earliest I could hope to get some elastic was two weeks. Surely this whole PPE shortage would be figured out by then and I would be stuck with 100 yards of skinny elastic that would expire on my shelf.

But then, through the 871 newsletter, I found out about the Costumers Guild putting together kits with all the supplies!!! They made this great video starring Augusta Avalone that not only talked you through every step, but gave you permission to cuss up a storm while working with the fussy knit fabric. The knit was being used along with the woven fabric because it was the best mask to be made outside of a factory, so well worth the effort. I zipped into their drive-thru and began sewing the kits at home and dropping them back in exchange for another. It was a great way to feel connected and rediscover a love for sewing I had pushed aside long ago in favor of staring at my iPad. I must say I hope Augusta will make more videos, teaching just about anything, she is a hoot. That being said I was still feeling house bound and like I had so much more to contribute in gratitude for my good health and that’s when I found the Food Bank opportunity.

The Food Bank has a great program partnering with the schools Grab-n-Go program. They bring pallets of boxed nonperishable food and set up adjacent to the Grab-n-Go to offer a box of food to any family that is there for the school meals. Wearing gloves and masks and without touching the car we place a 20lb box in the trunk or back seat of the family vehicle as it progresses from our station to the other. We give away every box way before the end of the shift and there are always people that get turned away. The Grab-n-Go works similarly putting together the meals inside the schools and they keep going until the very last minute. It’s easy to find a school near me and I can book a couple weeks in advance.

I know I’m doing a good thing and it’s really gratifying during this time, but truthfully, who am I kidding? At least for the first six weeks or so, I felt like I won the lottery to be outside my house among other people sharing our stories and getting a front row seat to what the community looks like during this extraordinary time. When things are so not normal, it is reassuring to be among others, even strangers, who are all struggling with the same unknowns.

We all walk through life everyday not knowing what our coworkers or grocery store clerks are going through, but we are all going through this pandemic. We are all witnessing what I hope is historic change in inequality and my hope is that we come out of this better, stronger, more connected, more educated, more aware.

Be well, Be helpful, Be kind.

Toby Forlenza
Script Supervisor & Board Member
N95 Mask Donations
Jason Mesias

It was reported in March that ABC Studios donated supplies needed by hospitals and first responders amongst the Covid 19 pandemic. In this most unusual time, I am thankful that I work for a studio, Production Executives and Producers that see beyond the make believe we create to donate scarce supplies needed to save real lives. As a Production Coordinator, I don't have the authority to give away company assets. I was merely responsible for facilitating the Producer’s request to donate our unopened stock of N95 masks to fire departments that the show has relationships with as well as finding these masks in the first place.

Station 19 is a show about fire fighters, and we are not all VFX. There are times where the smoke effects on stage are heavy enough to set off smoke detectors on the shooting set and the adjoining stages as well. On these days, we hire an FSO and supply the cast and crew with N95 particle masks for the cast and crew as a safety precaution.

In November, N95 masks were easily ordered online. In a pinch, I could send a Production Assistant to Home Depot or Lowes to pick up a hundred. No problem. However, in January, as the show approached the final two episodes of our season, hardware supply stores didn’t have the quantity we needed, the prices on Amazon nearly tripled and wouldn’t ship until March, and Uline was canceling our orders, reserving them for medical professionals. I was fortunate enough to have a relentless Office PA, who found a nautical supply company back east that had stock of them, and like a good Coordinator, I had her order more than we needed.

Fast-forward to March, Station 19 donated directly to two fire departments. I had an Office PA drop off masks to Station 35, our local fire department, whom we have a research relationship with. A Production Executive at Shondaland has a relationship with the Emergency Manager for the fire department in City of Ontario. I personally handed them over to him, and he was beyond gracious saying to me, “these masks are going to save lives.” I didn’t realize the weight of these words until much later.

At the time, I was naive. As a production office, we used the term “Corona Virus Scare.” It was annoying to not be able to find the masks we needed. We didn’t know that our industry was going to get shut down. We had no clue that three months later we would all be at home and need similar masks just to go to the grocery store. Now, as we are approaching starting back up after this pandemic, we will see how much our industry has been affected.

Jason Mesias
Production Coordinator
STATION 19: SEASON 3
On behalf of the community service committee, we just want to give an enormous THANK YOU to everyone in 871 who donated virtually and physically to help feed families in Los Angeles. We exceeded our fundraising goal of $871, and raised $1,165! The LA Food Bank directed our 2 SUVs full of much needed dried goods to a local food bank in Burbank. The local food bank was overjoyed when we pulled up; they said they feed over 1,000 families each month, and with our donations they’ll be able to meet the increased demands that were putting a strain on some of their resources. They said the food we donated was the ideal type of donation: good for families, the homeless, and anyone in need. So again, we want to say thank you and give a huge shout out to 871 for coming together in what is a turbulent time for all of us.

Amanda Griswold
Script Supervisor
Marisa Shipley Represents 871 on National Stage

On May 22, Local 871 Vice President Marisa Shipley appeared as a guest on a “Brunch with Andrew Yang.” The subject of the event was a discussion of the economic impact of COVID-19, and emphasized the additional burden the shutdowns were placing on workers who were already struggling.

Marisa’s Remarks

Thanks so much for the introduction. I am a freelance art department coordinator in the film industry and currently serve as the Vice President of my union, IATSE 871, who represents a lot of majority and historically female crafts in the industry. I was working on Season 7 of Grace and Frankie in Los Angeles when we got shut down. We were told on Thursday, March 12 that was the last day of shooting for the foreseeable future and I had the next day to wrap up everything for the department. Between the shock of the whole world changing and the sheer amount of work I had to get through that day I spent several hours of it crying silently at my desk, alone in a normally crowded office trying to finish as much work as I could.

IATSE as a whole covers about 150,000 workers, almost 34,000 of whom are under 35, across the film industry, live events and trade shows, and about 95% of our total membership have been affected by COVID related shut-downs. We were some of the first out of work and will be some of the last to resume because of the nature of our work. Getting back to work for all of us will depend on negotiating health and safety measures and changing the way we do our work on a daily basis.

My job is one of the lowest paid union positions in the film industry in Los Angeles. I make less than half what the other male dominated positions in my department make, and that’s the rate I have negotiated myself up to individually. The base rate in our contract is closer to 1/3. In the past our industry has worked very long days and the pay from that means that a lot of crew are able to take breaks fully off of work between jobs. But I, and many others making far below the norm in the industry, jump from project to project all year round to keep my bills paid and COVID has brought the entire industry to a stand still.

It has been interesting to me to watch so many people at home turn to the arts and entertainment as an escape during this weird and deeply emotional time while the many thousands of workers who helped fuel that content into creation are totally out of work and many of us are struggling to make ends meet.
While I am fortunate to have savings, largely because I lived with my family for 4 years after graduating from college and have their continued support, I know that many workers in our lowest wage work are not as fortunate. A November 2019 survey of Hollywood support staffers by the advocacy group #PayUpHollywood found that more than 2/3 of respondents reported having to work a second job to make ends meet while working as an assistant in Hollywood and often those jobs were driving for a ride share or delivery service or in the food industry which have also been severely impacted by this pandemic.

These are friends and colleagues of mine having to currently decide between paying rent or buying groceries or giving up on their dream of working in this industry and picking up in the middle of all of this and moving out of LA or NY because they cant afford to wait it out there. Those visible in the industry, those with a large platform, have been big on pushing for pay equity for those in front of the camera, and inclusivity in the industry but any gains we have made in diversity and inclusion will disappear as workers from historically underprivileged backgrounds are unable to afford waiting this crisis out and then accepting their low assistant salaries at the end of this. Because we are not paying people equitably once we do have them in the room.

While Hollywood execs have gotten credit for sacrificing their salaries and asking us all to ‘tighten our belts’ they still have the potential to make most of their money in massive executive bonuses and stockholder dividends like they do normally.

Overall young workers and people of color are more likely to be in so many heavily impacted industries like retail, food service, hospitality and child care which have lower than average earnings as well and we have to look at how to change all these fundamental systems to serve us all better as we open back up.

Those who earn less money and have less wealth—women and people of color—have less to fall back on.

In many ways women are bearing the brunt of this crisis. We’re 80% of healthcare workers, almost 60% of low-wage workers; and already faced a gender pay gap across industries. How will we help working women move out of this crisis?

Watch the video and see the responses to Marisa’s question here: https://youtu.be/2YsRcjXLDMw (Marisa Shows up around 18:10)
Throughout May and June, the Local hosted a series of “Virtual Field Visits” and “Virtual Craft Panel Discussions” where member panelists led conversations focused on return to work concerns, as well as other craft related issues. Reps were on hand to answer questions, but the discussions were moderated by members.

Attendance was the highest it has ever been for craft-related meetings, though whether this was due to the COVID shutdown and subsequent member availability, the online format, or the member panelists (or some combination of these factors) we can't be sure. Whatever the reason, the good turnout made for lively and productive discussions.

A special thanks to all the members who served as moderators and panelists, sharing their experiences and knowledge.

While the COVID-related limitations that Contract Services mandated have prevented us from scheduling any new 871 classes, our RECORDED SEMINARS page at our website has a great collection of those classes, among others, that you can watch at your leisure. We've also been collecting tons of FREE online learning opportunities - sending you new ones each week in the Dispatch - and have housed them on the COVID Resources page. Be sure to check them out!

-Debbie Ezer
Chair, Education Committee
The IATSE Pride Committee works to enhance LGBTQ+ members’ inclusion, visibility, and potential for success within the union, the workplace, and the community, across our various crafts and geographic locations.

During the shutdown, the IATSE Pride Committee has worked to combat isolation for the LGBTQ+ community. They launched a series of virtual Town Halls to stay connected, provide resources, and to celebrate Pride.

The Town Halls covered issues such as mental health & wellness and starting a Pride Committee. The Town Hall focused on diversity had one of the biggest turnouts and featured special guest Rashad Robinson, President of Color of Change.

In addition, the Pride Committee held a virtual Pride Parade on June 12, and on June 26, IA Pride hosted the Pride Tea Dance (via Facebook) to celebrate Pride Month led by Chris Crowthers, a “world-renowned” DJ (watch clips here).

The next town hall (July 10th) is entitled "Pride is Political" and will discuss all areas of the political process including voter registration, why voting matters, and what’s at stake in the upcoming elections.

During this time they also launched a YouTube channel where they will post videos on topics such as HIV and why pronouns matter.

To get on the IATSE Pride mailing list go to: https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-up-for-the-iatse-pride-committee-mailing-list?source=direct_link&

As part of Pride Month, Local 871 Board Member Doug Boney, a member of the IATSE Pride Committee and representative of the IATSE on the NEB of Pride At Work, was featured in an article in Medium, sharing his LGBTQ Pride story. Doug is also the Business Rep at Local 884.
**SYMPTOMS**  Individuals with COVID-19 should not work. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. However, other symptoms may include sore throat, fatigue, muscle aches and pains, and decreased appetite. COVID-19 is primarily spread through person-to-person contact.

**STAY HEALTHY**

- **Wash your hands throughout the day with soap & water for 20 seconds, including at the beginning, during, & end of your work call and before & after meal breaks.** Wash your hands after using the restroom. Hand sanitizer is recommended if washing with soap is not available. Hand sanitizer is not effective on heavily soiled hands.
- **Cough and sneeze into tissues (or elbows if needed) and immediately dispose of tissues.**
- **To the degree possible, maintain 6 feet/2 metres of distance between coworkers & avoid close physical contact, such as shaking hands.**
- **Wear disposable gloves, a face covering (mask), and other PPE as recommended for your duties AND when unable to maintain a distance of 6 feet/2 metres apart from others AND when interacting with the public.**
- **Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes.**
- **Disinfect personal objects you need to bring to your job, such as cell phones, keys, and tools.**
- **Do not share tools and equipment before sanitizing them.**

**PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

- **Do your part to regularly clean & disinfect surfaces that you frequently touch such as doorknobs, handles, tables, and shared equipment such as tools and vehicles.** Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap & water after cleaning.
- **Open windows and doors to increase fresh air in rooms and hallways whenever possible.**
- **To the degree possible, stagger the use of common areas, such as breakrooms, trucks and trailers, and dressing areas.**
- **If you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms, you should not go to work.** Call your doctor, or, in case of a health emergency, call 911 and notify the 911 operator of any COVID-19 symptoms.
- **If you suspect that you may have had contact with someone with COVID-19, let your supervisor know immediately.**
- **If you or a family member test positive for COVID-19, follow your doctor’s orders.**

**RESOURCES**

If any worker has a specific health/safety concern in their workplace, report it via our Safety Info App, available on iOS, and Play Store, or by talking to your Local Union.

Stay informed with the latest recommendations:
- [https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/)
- [https://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/covid19/](https://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/covid19/)
- [https://iatsecares.org/resources/](https://iatsecares.org/resources/)
- [https://iatsetrainingtrust.org/](https://iatsetrainingtrust.org/)

For safety training, visit: [https://www.iatsetrainingtrust.org/](https://www.iatsetrainingtrust.org/)
Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions (EHIS), a joint program of The Actors Fund and MPTF, offers California residents in our entertainment and performing arts community personalized counseling and enrollment support to ensure you understand and purchase the best plan to fit your individual and family needs. Our programs are always adapting to the shifting landscape of health care options. We are singularly focused on keeping members of our entertainment community healthy and capable of pursuing their chosen careers.

Our experienced staff of licensed agents provides unbiased, comprehensive health insurance counseling. Our multi-faceted services include:

- Consultations in person and/or by phone
- Competitive health insurance options and enrollment assistance in medical, dental, vision and travel health insurance plans
- Group, individual, family and senior options
- Alternatives to COBRA
- Enrollment in Medi-Cal, Covered California plans, Child Health Insurance Program, Medicare and Medicare products
- Educational seminars on insurance options, including Affordable Care Act plans, Medi-Cal and Medicare
- Community outreach through participation in health fairs, conferences and other local events
- Advocacy for legislative changes that will make insurance more user-friendly and affordable
- Information and practical tips from our monthly Health Insurance HQ and our online educational resources and materials
- Covered California Certified Insurance Agents; CA Insurance License (0M72678)

Getting health insurance or finding quality medical care can be confusing for anyone who isn’t covered by an employer or union health plan. EHIS identifies coverage options and helps members of the entertainment and performing arts community enroll in them.

FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT:
Los Angeles
Toll free 1.833.777.EHIS (3447)
Welcome New Members

MARCH - MAY 2020

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yasmin Almanaseer</td>
<td>Script Coor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Asdel</td>
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<td>Whitney Beckwith</td>
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<td>Naomi Brodkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina Nieves</td>
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Local 871 Membership Statistics

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IATSE Safety Hotline
(Toll free): 844-IA AWARE (844-422-9273)

Continued next page...
Welcome New Members... continued from previous page

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<td>Tom Noonan</td>
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<tr>
<td>August Osterloh</td>
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<td>Sara Parrott</td>
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IATSE C.A.R.E.S. (Coronavirus Active Response and Engagement Service) is a new initiative designed to provide support to our most at-risk, elderly, and/or disabled members during the COVID-19 crisis. This website will also be used to provide information about future Mutual Aid efforts from the IATSE.

For example, IATSE CARES creates a buddy system where members in need may sign up to have a volunteer check in with them as often as they choose.

We have also created a safe and free delivery system which connects trained and healthy IATSE Young Worker volunteers with older IATSE members in need. Members in need may request supplies, groceries, or whatever else they may need, and another IATSE member will bring it to their doorstep through our volunteer database.

Suggestion Box

We want to hear from you!

Local 871 has created an online Suggestion Box (http://bit.ly/Sugg871), where members can let the union know... whatever they want! Submissions will be reviewed by Business Reps and the Board of Directors. Comments will be kept confidential, however, anonymous submissions will be disregarded.

https://iatsecares.org
In Memoriam
Lisa Starr Beasley

The Local is saddened to note the passing of Lisa Starr Beasley. Lisa was a member of Local 871 as an Assistant Production Coordinator from 2001 to 2014.

September 6, 1952 – April 24, 2020

Lisa Starr Beasley
IATSE Local 871 Assistant Production Coordinator
Owner: Cast of Thousands (Crowd Promotion & Extras)

Remembering a Great Gal

By Lark Bernini, Production Coordinator

Anyone who had ever met Lisa likely never forgot her. The big girl with the big laugh and the biggest heart in the world made an indelible impression. She had a natural easy elegance, a great sense of taste and style, a rapier wit, and a gift for friendship; Lisa always lit up the room. She was a one-woman Musco light!

Born in Long Beach, CA, as a young child Lisa’s family lived in Japan and Germany before settling in Marin County. After high school, Lisa attended the College of Marin where she was cast in the theatre department’s production of THE TAMING OF THE SHREW WESTERN STYLE, performed at the Edinburgh, Scotland Fringe Festival in 1971. Her friend and fellow cast member was Robin Williams. Naturally, Lisa played a tart.

After college, she went to work for AMFAC, a luxury hotel corporation, and made her way to LA. It was time to get into show biz and one assistant to actress Marsha Mason was one of her first jobs. Lisa’s legion of industry friends included producers, directors, actors, and people from every IATSE craft you can name. In fact, her friend Paul asked her to be his date at the Oscars in ’84...he was a nominee and he won that night. Of course Lisa was there!!

We met on ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD. I was Production Coordinator and it was a crazy-hectic morning when I heard a bawdy voice say, “I’m here to go to work...where’s my office?” and I said something along the lines of, “who are you?” Our producer had forgotten to mention that our Crowd Coordinator was coming onboard. For the next 27 years she was a frequent and respected fellow crewmember, a dear friend, and a damn lot of good fun.

Lisa was my Assistant Production Coordinator on occasion (THE ANIMAL, MISTER DEEDS) and those films have many crazy memories. But what she did better than anyone was put butts in seats! When I asked her how she started doing crowd promotion she said, “Some producer said ‘Lisa, I need a crowd in that stadium,’ so I made a crowd.” Her company, Cast OF Thousands, worked miracles and Lisa was the magic. How many venues, big and smaller did she populate; how many thousands of people were seduced into filling those seats, day after day in all kinds of weather for the “look” the films needed? She was genius at gathering hundreds of sponsors to donate prizes (everything from a gift certificate to brand new cars!!). She organized entertainment to keep the crowds enthusiastic; never doing anything less than a brilliant job. MAJOR LEAGUE II, ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD, A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN, THE REPLACEMENTS, MISTER 3000, and even the historical JOHN ADAMS mini-series benefited from Lisa’s amazing crowds and extras. I worked for her once to see how she did it. I still don’t entirely understand.

Over time, my admiration for Lisa deepened. She had problems in her life, like everyone. But during
stressful times, sadness, disappointments, and finally her mom’s advanced age that ultimately forced her to shutter Cast of Thousands and return to the Bay Area to look after her, not once did I ever hear Lisa feel sorry for herself. She dealt with whatever crap was going on with grace, smarts, and a big dose of clear-eyed, raucous humor. With a cocktail in one perfectly manicured hand, always chicly attired with just the right jewelry, Lisa laughed at life’s detours and made all of us feel better about how she was coping with annoying BS that shouldn’t happen to good people...

BS like cancer.

Lisa died of glioblastoma brain cancer. When that’s your diagnosis your treatment options are few and your time is limited. Ultimately, she lived longer than the doctors expected and she was scrappy and wonderful till the end.

A mention about Lisa’s mom, Dora. Another character. Two peas. They could have been a hit TV sitcom...natural comedienes. Dora lived to be well over 100 so naturally we just assumed Lisa would do the same. She took good care of Dora. She was a very satisfactory daughter.

And then there were Lisa’s pets over the years...Billy-Joe-Bob the meanest cat who ever lived; Scooter and Shorty dachshunds of some sort, and Otis a hybrid chihuahua. She loved them for what they were...funny and weird and often disagreeable.

Lisa leaves behind a diverse collection of heartbroken friends. The female contingency had all planned on becoming quite old ladies together...lots of travel, lots of parties, lots of flea-markets. No one can quite believe she isn’t here planning the next romp. The aptly named Ladies Debauchery Guild, made up of her oldest and dearest friends from Marin, will carry on. Their yearly reunions in Sea Ranch, CA are legendary.

Her family predeceased her but during Lisa’s long illness devoted pals Lucianna Lehmann (since 4th grade) and Karen Driscoll (since college), stepped in and took over the details so that she could concentrate on living the best life possible. They lovingly confirmed one of Lisa’s firmest convictions...“girls can do anything”.

Lisa once told me she was going to start a club called L.A.W., short for LARGE ANGRY WOMEN, its sole purpose being to sample new cocktails and grouse about whatever was bugging you. She then told me that at five-feet one-inch I wasn’t large enough to be a member but I could serve the drinks. Here’s hoping the club is up and running when I get there. I’ll be deliriously happy to pass the cocktail tray and hear Lisa lead the laughter.

If you would like to make a contribution in Lisa’s name, please select a cause important to you, an animal-related charity, or the American Cancer Society.

And next time you watch A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN, look for Lisa in the stands. Director Penny Marshall insisted she play Garry Marshall’s wife. You’ll have a good laugh, compliments of Lisa.
We Stand Against Racism and Police Brutality

Whereas, tens of thousands of people are protesting across the United States against the killing of Black and Brown people, such as George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and countless others, by police; and,

Whereas, tomorrow, June 1st, we begin celebrating Pride Month, which honors the Queer Community and the modern Queer Rights Movement, which began with the Stonewall Riots, a violent protest that was led by, among others, a Black Trans Woman named Marsha P. Johnson;

Therefore, be it resolved, that IATSE Local 871 will begin Pride Month by also taking a stand with Black and Brown people protesting against police brutality, systemic racism, and white supremacy in all its forms and honoring those who have needlessly died at the hands of police because of the color of their skin.

-Local 871 Board of Directors, May 31, 2020