



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

UPDATE #2 (UPDATE 3-13-2020)

Dear Members,

Today we participated in conference calls on both coasts with the IATSE and the heads of the other locals in New York and Los Angeles. I want to share the information that was provided to us.

Just since my email late yesterday, many more shows have announced cancellations, hiatuses or postponement of start dates. The IATSE is in regular contact with the labor relations personnel at the various majors regarding what shows are being impacted. They are maintaining a list of the information as it becomes available. They have asked for our assistance in filling in any gaps to assure we have the most thorough list possible. To that end, if you are working on a show that has been canceled, put on hiatus and/or had the start date delayed as result of coronavirus, please provide us with the information below.

Many of the companies that are cancelling shows or putting them on temporary hiatus are paying IA members what would otherwise be lost wages. When that occurs, pension and health benefit contributions are required. This is being done on a case-by-case basis. If you are impacted but told you will not be paid, please let a Field Rep know. We may not be able to contractually enforce that you be paid, but we are certainly willing to advocate on your behalf in an effort to make that happen. At the moment, your alternative is to file for state unemployment. In California, the typical one week waiting period has been waived in situations where there is a loss of work due to the coronavirus. Provide us with your information: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CoronavirusInfo

I realize many of you are concerned about a loss of health coverage if the hiatuses go on for a long period of time. To that end, all options to keep members from losing MPI health coverage are being evaluated. It is a primary concern for the IA and all of the business agents. There will be more information provided as this analysis is completed. There are also potential financial hardship options being considered.

At this time of crisis, it is important to keep in mind the broad impact this is having on IA members throughout the United States and Canada. Thousands of IA members who work in live broadcast and theatre have already lost their jobs. That is 90 – 95% of the IA workforce in those markets. The IA also represents some theme park workers and the shutting down of Disneyland and Universal Tours is resulting in 3,500 laid-off IA members. This is devastating for so many people. Obviously, my primary concern is for the members of Local 700, but my heart goes out to all of those whose livelihoods and health have been and will continue to be negatively impacted. It seems it will likely get worse before it gets better, but it will eventually get better. It is at times like these, that more than ever we remain calm, come together, stay united and help one another. I am confident we will overcome this.

Again, if there is anything you feel we could be doing as a union to make this a bit easier on you, we are open to any suggestions. For now, please be well. May you and your families and other loved ones stay safe and well.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Repola".

Cathy Repola
National Executive Director

Keep updated with information pertaining to the coronavirus:
www.editorsguild.com/coronavirus-information

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7715 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90046 | Phone: 323.876.4770 | www.editorsguild.com