



# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

## UPDATE #7 (UPDATE 3-25-2020)

Dear Members:

I hope you are all managing okay with whatever individual circumstances you are dealing with during this time. It seems we are in a holding pattern for now -- everyone wondering, guessing, and trying to remain hopeful that the worst of this pandemic will soon be behind us. While it continues to linger, I want to assure you that our staff remains fully engaged in assisting the membership in every way we possibly can. Our focus has been advocating to mitigate financial loss to those who have already or will soon be losing employment. We continue to work in conjunction with the IATSE and the other locals to encourage employers to do their part in minimizing the financial hit to our members.

Much of our work is centered around employees who have been, or still are, employed by independent companies that are severely financially burdened. We have had some members laid off at facilities without any compensation from the employer. We are working to make sure these members file for unemployment benefits as soon as possible. Our staff is continuing to research financial aid and social services available to our membership.

I know many of you are concerned about continuing health coverage through the Motion Picture Industry Health Plan. The MPI Board of Directors are keenly aware that this spreading pandemic is causing a great deal of anxiety about health coverage for you and your families. To that end, there are several things being explored to help active participants. I expect there will be some definitive news about some initiatives they are adopting very soon. We will, of course, advise you as soon as these announcements are made. In a previous email I did encourage you to make sure you are fully aware of your current and short-term future health eligibility. [www.mpiphp.org/login](http://www.mpiphp.org/login)

It is imperative that you all take the time to, if you have not already, download the MPI app or register through their website to review your hours that have been submitted. Verify that you do not have any hours missing from your account, other than for the last few weeks, which will likely not show up yet.

We are waiting for definitive answers to many questions about the federal legislation that was passed and what portions of that legislation are applicable to our members. We will provide you with accurate and detailed information as soon as possible.

If you need any assistance from us, have any questions about anything related to your employment, your health coverage, your financial situation, or anything else that we can do for you, if you have not already reached out to us, I invite you to do so.

Part of what makes this situation so challenging is the uncertainty of how much longer this will go on. If we could somehow magically know an end date, we could plan accordingly. Since that is not the case, we must continue to face this one day at a time. We must anticipate how the livelihoods of our members will be impacted and how that will change depending on how long the industry and the overall economy take to recuperate. My goal is to continue to work through this, to look toward to the inevitable end of it, and to contemplate what else we can do as a union to be a valuable source of support for all of you.

With best wishes and in solidarity,

Cathy Repola  
National Executive Director

Keep updated with information pertaining to the coronavirus:

[www.editorsguild.com/coronavirus-information](http://www.editorsguild.com/coronavirus-information)

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