



Extra: The Basic Agreement

A Message from Your Business Representative and Executive Board

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You recently received a letter from me explaining why the Executive Board of this Local Union urges you to vote for ratification of the new Basic Agreement.

As stated previously, I believe this is a good agreement with substantial gains that very few unions in North America have been able to achieve. There does not seem to be any downside. But, what would happen if this agreement were rejected?

If rejected, both parties, the IATSE and the Producers, go back to the bargaining table and start from scratch. This means all the gains achieved in the new Agreement come off the table, and I am not sure of the prospects to get them back. No guarantees can be made on the outcome.

There are Local Unions out there actively advocating the defeat of this agreement. The biggest detractor is Local 600. Their officers are concerned

with language in the Agreement that has to do with a Director of Photography requesting to operate the camera and the producers not having to use a Camera Operator on set or on payroll. This is obviously a concern because it will mean some operators will lose work opportunities.

But, two critical points were revealed last week at the IATSE General Executive Board Meeting that will help you understand the controversy. These points are important for you to know so you can make an informed decision on the Agreement.

First, in 1988 language was agreed upon in the Local 600 Agreement which allows a production company to request a waiver from Local 600 allowing the Director of Photography to operate a camera if acceptable to that D.P. Many D.P.s don't want an Operator preferring to operate themselves. Some D.P.s even have this language in their per-

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Calendar

Feb 5, 10:00 am: General Membership Meeting.

Feb 12, 9:00 am: Executive Board Meeting

Feb 20: President's Day Holiday

Mar 5, 10:00 am: General Membership Meeting.

Mar 5, 1:00 pm: Rope and Knot Class

Mar 19, 9:00 am: Executive Board Meeting.

Apr 2, 10:00 am: General Membership Meeting.

Apr 2, 1:00 pm: Basic Photography

LOCAL 80 TRAINING COURSES ARE BACK

SIGN UP NOW

There were Contradictions in the February issue of the newsletter.
These are the Correct Dates.

Rope and Knots

Sunday, March 5, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Basic Photography

Sunday, April 2, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Local 80 Safety and Training

Kent Jorgensen

818-526-0701

Mail@iatselocal80.org

The Safety Pass

The Aerial Lift Rigging Grip, Course B3
Schedule

Saturday, March 25, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
at the Safety Pass Facility

CSATF Passport Program
833 Sonora Ave, Glendale, Ca 91201
818-502-9932
www.csatf.org

Advanced Fall Protection, Course D1
Schedule

Saturday, March 11, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
at the Safety Pass Facility

Local 80
Safety and Training
Kent Jorgensen
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sonal contracts. In every instance, these wavier were denied by the Local Union. The companies then either hired an Operator for redundant services or the D.P. operated without a standby Operator.

It is understandable that Local 600 doesn't want to eliminate a pay position within their jurisdiction. But it is irresponsible of the officers of Local 600 to refuse to point out to their own members of the harm caused to their craft or live up to their 1988 commitment. Instead they file grievances against companies that are trying to follow the language in the Agreement and the personal contracts of Local 600 D.P.s. Or, a "feather bedding" situation is created by forcing the company to hire a standby Operator.

By asking the rest of us to vote the Agreement down, Local 600 wants other Unions to do two things: One is to defend their jurisdiction, and two, to defend feather bedding which is a charge Unions have long fought.

The second point revealed is the most egregious. It seems that during the negotiations the Producers offered to trade Local 600's dues check off provision for the proposal concerning the Operators.

Local 600 is the only production Local in Hollywood that has the employer withhold dues money from a union members' paycheck and then in turn send the money to the Union. Employers apparently feel that this creates a burden

on their payroll systems and adds to the mound of paper work that goes along with the normal start papers at the beginning of a job.

One question is why can't Local 600 get dues the same way that the rest of us do? The second question is does the rank and file membership of Local 600 think this business was a good and fair trade? Were they even asked?

Local 600 hired a professional negotiator to deal with the producers. It seems irresponsible to me that this hired professional would place all IATSE workers, 25,000 people, who make their living in this industry at risk just because Local 600 doesn't want to collect dues in the same manner as every other

"This is a good agreement with substantial gains that very few unions in North America have been able to achieve."

West Coast Local.

I have to ask another question which is directed to the membership of Local 600. Was this trade worth it? If not, then you need to tell your leadership. If it was, then please stop disseminating misinformation such as the loss of sixth day overtime. This lie shows the paucity of Local 600's main argument with the new Agreement.

Do not ask us to reject an agreement with which we are satisfied. It is not fair to put the ratification of this agreement on the line considering the state and cost of our Health and Pension systems. Local 80's and all the industry's current and future retirees deserve better.

In Solidarity,
Thom Davis
Business Representative
IATSE Local 80

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General Membership Meeting Mar 5

Calendar

March

- ◆ **5th, 10:00 a.m.:** General Membership Meeting
- ◆ **19th, 9:00 a.m.:** Executive Board Meeting

April

- ◆ **2nd, 10:00 a.m.:** General Membership Meeting
- ◆ **23rd, 9:00 a.m.:** Executive Board Meeting

2nd Quarter Dues are Due Mar 31