

These Are Historic Times

This has been quite a year. Change and hope have finally come to us after years of an Administration in Washington that has been overtly anti-labor, and we now look forward to the Barack Obama years with renewed enthusiasm for working families across the country. The White House will again welcome a young family, and with it, the energy and excitement we hope to recapture after eight long years of conflict and cronyism.

Success in Senate and Congressional races will bring us closer to our goals as well. Pro-labor legislation is critical, and enactment of the Employee Free Choice Act should be high on the priority list of the 111th Congress. The Employee Free Choice Act is supported by a bipartisan coalition in the Senate and House and would enable working people to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions by restoring workers' freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union. After years of a labor-unfriendly NLRB, it's time for Congress to stand up for our vanishing middle class and help working families across this country. It was one of Barack Obama's campaign promises and we're looking forward to it becoming one of his successes as president. We must also join in the fight against right to work legislation and support minimum wage increases. We have seen the corporate rich get richer on the backs of working families across this country and there is no better time to take action in support of our brothers and sisters.

We also know these are challenging economic times, and that the road ahead of us will be bumpy. There must be protections offered us when basic survival is at stake – the importance of keeping our homes and jobs secure. Historically in down times, audiences have sought entertainment as a way to boost morale and take a breather from the difficulties of everyday life. However, our industry has faced its own obstacles this year. All of our members, in every division have worked diligently to keep the industry up and running during times of great challenge. It is time for us to work together, all of us in every union, to ensure that we are able to continue to provide employment for our members, and provide the public with the films, television programs, stage shows, and exhibitions that will give them the entertainment that we all seek and need.

As the year 2008 comes to an end we have a great deal for which to be grateful. We are witnessing history in the making every day, and a profound transformation in the way we look at government and at our neighbors.

I wish you and your families good health, happiness, and productive work for the holiday season. May 2009 be the best year yet.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

This is to advise that the regular mid-winter meeting of the General Executive Board is scheduled to be held at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown, 2600 Louisiana Blvd., N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2009, and will remain in session through and including Friday, January 30, 2009. All business to come before the Board must be submitted to the General Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.

Local Union representatives planning to attend the meeting must make hotel reservations with the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown by calling the hotel reservations department at 505-881-0000 or 800-252-7772. Guest room rate for the IATSE is \$159.00, single or double occupancy, plus applicable taxes. In order to ensure that you receive the preferred room rate established for our meeting, you must identify your affiliation with the IATSE.

Reservations can also be made through the IATSE Web site (www.iatse-intl.org).

Cut Off Date: December 25, 2008