

The Union Behind Entertainment

This time of year finds most people in a reflective mood. We look back at the year that was and review the broad range of events that occurred in our lives and in the world. As each of us proceeds through our own personal "year in review", our thoughts slowly change from events that were to those that potentially will be.

This end of year of course is slightly different from more recent ones. The economy is slowing, unemployment is rising and measures of confidence are on the decline. Instead of the normal sense of hope and renewal that accompanies this time of year there is a level of trepidation and fear in the air.

The latter part of 2008 brought a conclusion to the national election campaigns taking place in both the United States and Canada. Those newly elected and those re-elected now take their place in government and must turn their attention to fulfilling the promises they made and providing solutions to the problems that we face.

In these uncertain times, the members of the I.A.T.S.E. will have a very important role to play. The public will tire of a constant barrage of negative news in the media and will turn to various forms of entertainment in order to escape. Whether they go to the movies, rent a DVD, attend a Broadway show, go to a convention or trade show or watch a sporting event from the comfort of their own home, our members will be on the job making sure that the audience gets entertained.

For many of these people the escape would be not be possible were it not for the involvement of the members of the I.A.T.S.E., yet many in the general public are unaware of the important contributions that you make. The skill and craftsmanship that our members bring to the workplace help make productions of all types happen. The fact that many people are unaware of your involvement is the ultimate compliment for a job well done and confirmation that we are "The Union Behind Entertainment".

The upcoming year will also be an eventful year for the IA because delegates from 400 local unions will have the opportunity to attend our 66th Quadrennial Convention in Orlando, Florida during the month of July. The next two issues of the Official Bulletin will contain an abundance of convention information and both elected delegates and local union officers should review the information carefully. Credentials and other information will be sent in May to those local unions that are in good standing.

On behalf of the audiences that you helped entertain in 2008, thank you for your hard work and dedication and may 2009 bring you and your families much health and happiness.



2009 SUPPLIES

At the beginning of December, the General Office mailed the 2009 membership cards and supplies to those local unions that were in good standing with the International.

If your local union has not received their 2009 supplies, the Secretary/Secretary-Treasurer should contact the General Office immediately to determine what obligations have not been fulfilled.

2009 PER CAPITA

As a reminder, delegates to the 65th Quadrennial Convention voted to leave the per capita tax rate for 2009 at the same level as 2008. Therefore effective 1/1/09 there will be no increase in the per capita tax paid to the International.