

By Organization and Mutual Endeavor

In my last newsletter I asked that we all look for ways in which we might help each other through the challenging times we are experiencing.

As we approach the 66th Quadrennial Convention of this great Alliance that message continues to resonate. We will come together in Convention session to act on a number of issues that will take us forward in unity by focusing on our common goal of always keeping the best interests of our membership in mind. As we do so, we must reflect on the past, evaluate the present, and consider the future.

With that as our main focus, we must adopt a shared vision for the future by identifying specific goals that we strive to attain, a vision that reflects the broad body of work to be completed and each project or initiative to be undertaken.

With all that we are facing both domestically and internationally on the economic and political fronts, our industry is facing challenges and so far is remaining relatively healthy.

While multi-national corporations operating in the entertainment industry have their own financial problems, we can take pride in the fact that our members have brought entertainment to millions of people looking for escape and a little hope.

In the early years of the IA, movies were a cottage industry, television didn't exist, and theatre was finding its way out of the vaudeville tradition. Today, control of almost all media is held in the hands of a few conglomerates that own not only motion picture studios, but television production companies, legitimate theatres, theme and amusement parks, arenas, and even newspapers and television stations, not to mention the companies they control that are outside the entertainment industry, but that contribute to their profit margins. It is ever so evident that many of our crafts are dealing with the same employers over multiple contracts and various media, presenting new challenges to us on a regular basis. We must, therefore, come together even more, share information across craft and geographic lines, all the while respecting the autonomy, heritage and uniqueness of each Local. We must adapt so that our structure strengthens our ability to succeed on behalf of the members and never let our adversaries use it to divide us.

We must also plan for changes we will face in the future. We will continue to support worker-friendly legislation. We will continue to organize everywhere we can. And above all we will do our best to make certain that our members always come first.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

This is to advise that the regular Mid-Summer Meeting of the General Executive Board is scheduled to be held at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort, 1500 Epcot Resorts Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830 at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 20, 2009, and will remain in session through and including Friday, July 24, 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.

You are reminded that in accordance with Article Eleven, Section 8 of the International Constitution, the General Executive Board shall act as the Credentials Committee of the 66th Quadrennial Convention which will convene the week immediately following the Board meeting.

You are further advised that in order to be considered for a Committee appointment, delegate credentials must be received in the General Office by July 24, 2009.