



NEWS and Views

IATSE Local 665

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BUSINESS AGENT REPORTS

Aloha, Sisters and Brothers,

When I wrote in January that work was going to be slow during the hiatus, no one could predict that it was going to come to a complete global stop! All IATSE jobs nationwide have been canceled or postponed limiting our exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19), and you all should have received a letter from the Executive Board, outlining tips on how to stay healthy and resources to explore for financial and other assistance. We will exhaust all options to help our members get through this.

Congratulations to our "Hawai'i Five-O" crew for their extraordinary 10-year run! We are very proud of all of you! It was the hardest show I've ever worked on because the pace was so brutal – three company moves a day, six-day weeks, multiplied by nine months times 10 years is an incredible achievement. I still can't believe a winning show would be taken off the air so suddenly, but such is the nature of our business. When I was working on the TV show, "Wind on Water," which was shot in Kawaihae on Hawai'i Island, the producer, Howard Grigsby, announced that we were picked up for more episodes and would be working for the next four months. That afternoon, he said we were cancelled. Many of us who work in this industry know how unpredictable and sporadic this business can be. Those who got their days on "Lost" or "Hawai'i Five-O," have never experienced a true slow period, but that was the norm prior to the introduction of the Hawai'i Film Tax Credit. When one show closes, another one comes in, and I'm hearing very good rumors of that.

Congratulations are in order as well to the "Magnum P.I." crew for completing their second season. Well done, everyone! Although there has not been an official announcement, there has been movement by the company that indicates the show will be renewed. We are grateful for that.

Since we will all be sequestered at home, everyone should be getting their online certification done. Go to www.iatsetrainingtrust.org. Under "Courses" register for the "Safety First" modules and you will receive instructions on how to login. Then, register for the LinkedIn Learning subscription and sign-up for Lynda.com. There are literally hundreds of videos on there that the IATSE Training Trust Fund has made available to IATSE members for free. Explore the website. Once this virus scares blows over, and it will, we will be holding OSHA classes and other training modules at the hall.

Many of you have asked how things are going at the hall with the new administration. Truthfully, it was very difficult in the beginning, and there continues to be adjustments, but for the most part, we are moving forward together. Some of the improvements have been great, and I continue to be hopeful. Serving the members is my focus and brings me great fulfillment. I think a great deal about all of you and our local, and I pray for your comfort and well-being.

Much Aloha,

Irish



FROM THE PRESIDENT

First and foremost, a hearty round of applause to the crew of Hawaii Five-0. For 10 seasons, you've spun flax to gold and bent the chaos to your will. I commend you for your faithful service to not only your specific crafts, but to each other. I hope the trials and tribulations of this work are outweighed by the camaraderie you found in the field. May the family you found and cultivated in this venture guide you on your travels forth from this experience.

Congratulations is also due to the crew of Magnum PI S2. It was a hard fought and well-earned win over the course of this season. I commend you on maintaining composure through the madness. It's been an honor to serve alongside your professionalism and drive to succeed. Mahalo nui loa.

With the emergence of CoViD-19, it is of paramount importance that we prepare rather than panic. As with any emergency, the State of Hawaii recommends that we keep a 14-day kit of nonperishable food and supplies. There are several small steps that can be taken to minimize risk of infection.

Following *everyday preventive* actions can prevent or slow down the spread of respiratory illness in the community:

- Get your flu shot. People with seasonal influenza will exhibit similar signs and symptoms as COVID-19 (fever and cough). If more people are protected against influenza, this will reduce confusion and the burden on our healthcare system.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you start to feel ill.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Stay vigilant and stay healthy, everyone.



SECRETARY TREASURER REPORTS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are all living in very interesting times. There are many things going on in the world around us, both near and far, that could immediately impact our lives.

Our membership is made up of some of the most talented professionals on the planet. We are able to visualize, engineer, create and perform our way through any obstacles.

For some time, our membership has been hearing many talking points about what other entertainment guilds are preparing to do with their upcoming contract negotiations. We all want our fellow industry unions to be successful in their negotiations to better the lives of their membership. There is no doubt, the strongest weapon a union has is the united voice of its members. When a union's membership votes to strike in order to achieve their contract negotiation goals, it impacts work for all entertainment industry professionals.

Another subject on our members' minds is the Coronavirus. People across the country are stock piling goods from stores and supermarkets. Government and world health agencies are still determining the best strategies to minimize the spread of the virus, including recommendations to limit "large gatherings" to reduce risk. Many corporations have already stopped international travel or ceased certain operations in order to curtail the spread. Some of our Local 665 members have already been impacted by productions being postponed or outright pushed due to the uncertainty of this virus's spread.

This finally brings me to the overall purpose of this message: Practice prudence. While the weather of our immediate futures is somewhat blurry, being fiscally responsible is of paramount importance. If there is a work slowdown or stoppage for ANY of the reasons discussed above, we must be prepared to take care of our families and ride out these storms.

My advice is to PLEASE be mindful of your household spending. Large purchases (property, cars, trucks, boats, etc.), remodels of property, property upgrades, etc. should be postponed until these potential storms pass.

As things often do, potential threats will eventually pass and/or blow over. In the meantime, exercise prudence on behalf of your families, friends and yourselves.

Aloha,

Robin



MAKING CENTS....

Robin Kekuewa Wong, Secretary-Treasurer

From what I have been hearing at meetings, out in the field, and in conversation, the vast majority of members want the same thing, a medical retirement package. Keep a look out for an upcoming IATSE National Benefit Fund seminar for Local 665 members who want to learn more about retirement options.

In the meanwhile, if you are considering or in the process of retiring, please reach out to me so I can help steer you in the right direction concerning your pension with the IATSE National Benefit Fund.

PRUDENCE



REMEMBER NOT ONLY TO SAY THE RIGHT
THING IN THE RIGHT PLACE, BUT FAR MORE
DIFFICULT STILL, TO LEAVE UNSAID THE
WRONG THING AT THE TEMPTING MOMENT.

- Benjamin Franklin

www.iatse.org/retire.com

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- All persons in submitted photographs must be named to be eligible for publication.
- Submissions are subject to revision and editing.
- Local 665 News & Views does not guarantee submissions will be printed.

NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: APRIL 6, 2020

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