



Teamsters Local 399

NewsReel

Motion Picture & Theatrical Division

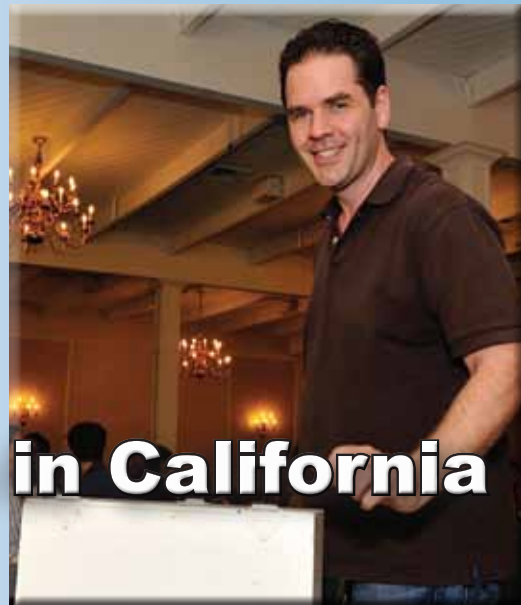
Secretary-Treasurer Leo T. Reed

www.ht399.org

Fall 2012



Protecting Jobs in California



Studio Drivers and Location Managers Ratify Contract





Message from the Secretary-Treasurer

By Leo T. Reed

An Ambitious Program To Create Hollywood Jobs

For the past decade, one of our highest priorities has been creating and protecting jobs. It is a tough and arduous process and we are committed.

Jobs have been leaving Hollywood for more film-friendly states for more than a decade. We are fighting to keep them in Hollywood, which is still the film capital of the world.

We have been fighting this battle on FOUR fronts:

We are lobbying and rallying for subsidies.

Government has a role to play in keeping Hollywood jobs in-state. We have been meeting with our representatives in state government to urge them to extend a tax credit designed to increase production spending in California. Since it was launched in 2009, the program has kept more than 20,000 jobs in the state. For a special report on Local 399's decades-long fight for film subsidies, see page 3.

We are working to make Los Angeles more film-friendly. Business agent Ed Duffy serves on the board of Film LA, the permitting body for productions in L.A. city and county. Film LA works to balance the needs of the entertainment industry and neighborhoods affected by location shoots. "We're aiming to streamline the permit process and make it easier for productions to deal with city and county agencies," Duffy reported. They are also encouraging the city council to waive permit fees for pilots.

Business Agent Steve Dayan serves on the California Film Commission. Its purpose is to enhance California's position as the location of choice for motion picture and television production. It has worked to offer state-owned properties free to filmmakers and is available to assist local governments in expediting film permits. The Film Commission also administers the incentive program that provides subsidies for shot-in-California productions.

We are policing job sites to make sure other unions or non-union workers are not doing Teamster Local 399 work. This is a continuous issue, requiring continuous monitoring. Members can assist in this effort by reporting any violations they encounter.

We are organizing. We have been aggressively signing more productions, especially those productions that have never been signed before, such as super low-budget productions, reality shows, mobisodes and webisodes. We have also organized new production-affiliated businesses such as Studio Services, Inc. As one of the largest suppliers of transportation equipment to the industry, they were a natural fit for Local 399. Their contract went into effect this past spring. By continually expanding our reach and organizing new productions and production-related companies, we are creating new Teamster jobs all the time. Last month alone we had signed 30 productions. We will continue our efforts.

We know it doesn't matter how great your contract is if there are not enough jobs. That's why we are fighting hard—and have been for a long time—on multiple fronts to keep and create Hollywood union jobs in Hollywood. It is a tough uphill battle, and we are on it.

Local 399 Fights to Keep Industry Jobs in California

Local 399, which singlehandedly began the battle for California subsidies to the film industry 13 years ago, is now marshalling its power and influence to keep Hollywood jobs at home.

The effort is focused on Sacramento, where two bills have been proposed to provide long-term funding for California's popular film tax-credit program. The measures would extend funding to California's film tax credit -- which expires next year -- through July 1, 2018.

California currently sets aside \$100 million annually for dozens of projects to cover 20 to 25 percent of qualified production expenses. The program is modest compared to what many other states offer.

Film and television jobs have long provided high wages and middle-class quality of life to many California workers. That life has been threatened with other states and countries poaching the jobs of the local film and television industry.

"A well-paying contract doesn't do any good if there's no work," said Secretary-Treasurer Leo Reed. "We need to make sure film and TV jobs stay in California. Tax incentives and other programs are essential to keep these well-paying jobs in our area."

Local 399 has been fighting for more than a decade to keep film and TV jobs in California. In 1999, 225 Teamster trucks descended on the state capitol in Sacramento to rally for legislation that would keep motion-picture jobs in the United States after they started straying to Canada. Later that year, a rally in Century City drove home the point that runaway productions pose serious and far-reaching problems.

In 2009, the CA Film and Television

Tax Credit Program was launched to increase production spending, jobs, and revenues in California. By providing tax credits to targeted film and television productions, the program has kept more than 20,000 jobs in the state.

With that program about to expire, Local 399 is now working in coalition with other entertainment-industry unions, including the SAG/AFTRA, American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Professional Musicians Local 47, the Recording Musicians Association, the California Labor Federation, and the Motion Picture Association of America.

"We are all losing jobs and are united in our fight to save them," said Local 399 Business Agent Ed Duffy. "We have formed a powerful coalition."

Duffy has made repeated trips to Sacramento to meet with legislators on this issue. As a board member of Film LA, the permitting body for productions in the city and county of LA, he has been instrumental in garnering the support of other unions and film studios for this fight.

Duffy and others from Local 399 and the other unions in the coalition are lobbying, testifying at legislative committee meetings, and organizing constituents in support of extending the tax credits. "With the current incentives we have been able to keep over 180 projects here, including many long-running cable series, that we might have lost," said Duffy. "We need to fight to extend these credits."

"We recognize that it's a challenging year for the [state] budget, but we feel this is a

Continued next page

tax credit that actually does what tax credits are supposed to do, which is generate more revenue than it costs,” said Barry Broad, a lobbyist for the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council.

Film tax credits benefit the California economy as a whole by generating jobs and pumping billions of dollars into the economy. “More than 6,600 businesses in the state service films, TV, and commercials,” Duffy noted.

“With our state facing a 12 percent unemployment rate, it’s critical to extend this program, which is a demonstrated job and revenue generator,” State Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes (D-Sylmar), author of the Assembly bill, told the Los Angeles Times.

“Local 399 will keep fighting for California workers. Members need to be calling and writing their representatives to urge them to extend the tax credits,” said Duffy.

**AT
PRESS
TIME**

Update

The Film incentive Senate bill extension, sb1167 sponsored by Senator Calderon, passed 32 to 3. Both bills, sb1167 the Assembly bill sponsored by Assemblyman Fuentes and ab2026 which passed through the Assembly will now be voted on in their opposite houses (ab2026 in the Senate and sb1167 in the Assembly) by August 31st. Both bills then move on to the Governor’s desk which he must sign by the deadline of September 30th.

For more information and to receive regular updates about this issue, sign up for Local 399 e-mail updates at www.ht399.org.



Drivers and Location Managers Ratify Three-Year Agreements

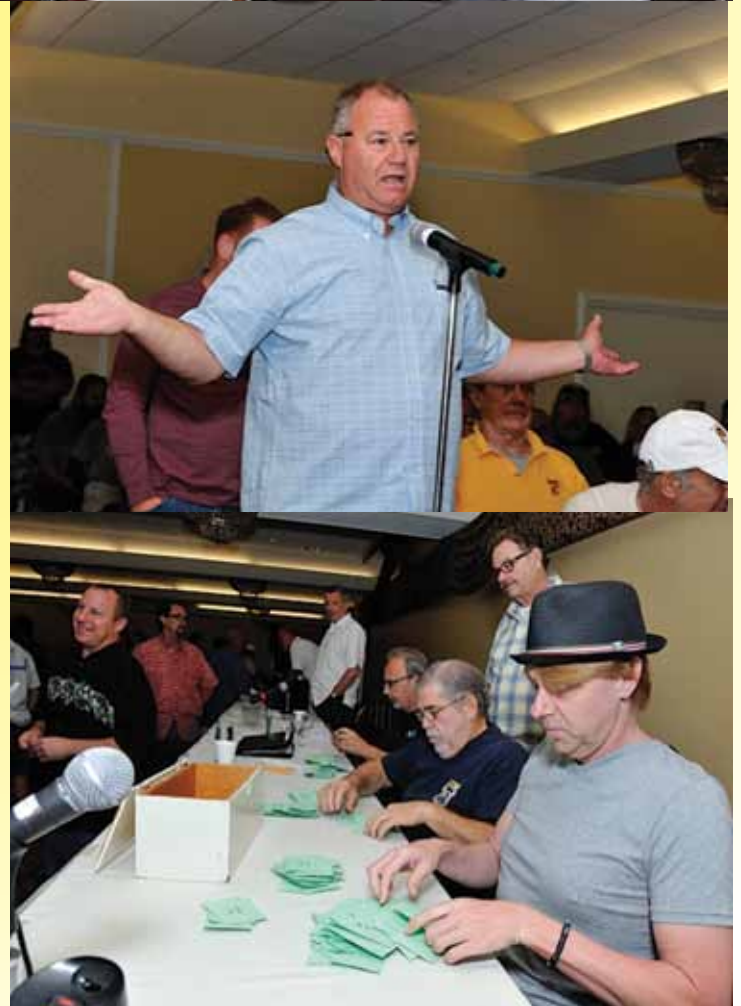


Two three-year contracts, negotiated for the studio Drivers and Location Managers, have been overwhelmingly ratified by the members covered by the agreements.

The agreements with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) protect 3,500 studio Drivers and 600 Location Managers. They were ratified by 86 percent and 90 percent margins. They bring Teamster members wage increases and continuation of what has become known as the Cadillac of health plans.

Negotiations for the studio Drivers' contract, which served as a template for the Location Managers, were long and arduous. Secretary-Treasurer Leo T. Reed led a team of Local 399 and Basic Crafts unions in talks that began in early April and continued for three months.

"By ratifying the contracts studio Drivers and Location Managers will enjoy





the same quality of health plan they had for years with little impact on their wallets,” reported Secretary-Treasurer Reed after the August ratification vote. “And our Retirees are guaranteed their additional checks.”

The studio Drivers contract includes Drivers, Mechanics, Auto Service and Dispatchers on a wide range of projects from commercials and reality television to independent films and big-budget motion pictures.

The overwhelming majority at the two ratification meetings expressed their support and appreciation for the union.

“I think our union did a great job negotiating the contract,” said David Cohen, an eight-year member who is a studio driver at Universal. “I believe that with the way the economy is right now we could have lost a lot – especially with our health care plan, but I believe Leo Reed did a great job of protecting our benefits and maintaining our medical insurance.”

Location Manager Timothy Hillman said he was pleased with the contract, which also brought increases in mileage allowance. “My wife just got her doctorate in education and I’ll tell you I make more money than her. So we should be happy with our contract,” he said. “Thank you to the board for their hard work.”

The Basic Craft unions, which overwhelmingly ratified their contracts, included IBEW 40, Plumbers 78, Studio Utility





Employees 724, and OPCM 755.

"The deal helps keep productions working without interruption in the 13 Western states as the industry continues to adapt to the challenges of producing in today's market," said a joint statement released by the Teamsters and AMPTP.





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