I’d like to discuss the National ‘Right to Work’ legislation that has been introduced in Congress. The labor movement is now facing the greatest threat against Unions that anyone in organized labor can recall. National ‘Right to Work’ should really be described as National ‘Right to Work for Less’. Big corporations and Wall Street bankers are dismantling the American dream by outsourcing our jobs, slashing wages and eliminating retirement. 28 states have now passed this anti-worker legislation.

The labor movement is the only counterbalance to corporate power. Who will stand up for the middle class if it’s not organized labor? The labor movement in this country could be swept away if this legislation passes. It will most certainly cripple the ability of Unions to lobby state and federal legislators for tax incentives and worker protections. It will diminish representation of members and severely impact our ability to bargain fair wages and benefits for our membership.

I believe ‘Right to Work’ is wrong and should be decided by the individual states, not our federal government. This is an attempt by Congress to stop the only movement that protects workers and the middle class. If National ‘Right to Work’ for Less passes, it will devastate the Union movement. If you believe this only affects public sector Unions, you are sadly mistaken.

Please look for the RTW article in this issue for more information about what you can do to stop this anti-worker legislation.

Local 399 continues its efforts to organize vendors who rent equipment in our industry. To date we have organized Quixote, and King Kong. We’re also looking at companies such as Star Waggons and Sunbelt as well as others in the industry. Please rent from Union vendors whenever possible. Remember that Union vendors contribute to the Motion Picture Plans, which directly benefit every one of our Members.

International Workers’ Day is on Monday, May 1, 2017. Organized labor along with many community groups will be marching from MacArthur Park to City Hall to demonstrate solidarity for Workers’ Rights. Please look for more information in this Newsreel as well as our website. Join your Local on May 1st to show your support for labor. Our 3rd Annual Car Show will take place on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at the Los Angeles Trade Tech College in Downtown Los Angeles. This year we’ll have a chili cook-off, classic cars, motorcy- cles and activities for the entire family. We hope to see you there!

Four more TV productions are coming home, bringing the total to eleven TV shows. Those productions are providing hundreds of jobs for our Members thanks to the tax incentive program. Please make sure to check out the articles on “Black-ish” and our feature article on our hard-working Animal Trainers!

Construction and renovation has begun at the Union Hall! We are excited to see the very needed makeover take place and will keep you updated on our progress. The Members approved the budget for the renovations last year and we are looking forward to completing the construction and renovations as soon as possible.

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Fraternally, Steve Dayan

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This misguided legislation ignores the basic structure of American labor relations, in which all workers in a given company or bargaining unit are represented by the same union and covered by the same collective bargaining agreement with the same right to representation. The legislation is an attempt to undermine these principles and it makes sense that everyone is therefore obligated to pay their fair share.

In other countries, this system is different: In other countries, union function at the national level and the federal government sits at the bargaining table to force management to agree to terms. In America, our labor relations are based on the idea that everyone has the freedom to choose their union.

The real agenda in Congress is to work on the power of hard-working citizens by creating the American labor movement. There’s a better way to do this. The free-rider claims to support the union member’s president’s position in the future because the federal government to advance the interest
What has the labor movement done for ALL workers?

Unions raise standards for all workers, Union and non-Union. Organized labor created the:

- 8-hour work day
- 40-hour workweek
- Minimum wage laws
- Child & labor laws
- GWA
- Workers’ compensation
- Unemployment and disability insurance
- Health and pension benefits
- Overtime, holiday pay
- Sick leave
- Breaks including meal breaks
- Pregnancy and parental leave
- Social security
- Civil rights and military leave
- Equal pay for equal work
- And many more issues that impact workers!

The labor movement is the only counterculture to corporate power. Who will stand up for the middle class if it’s not organized labor? The labor movement in this country could never be swept away if this legislation passes. It will certainly cripple the ability of Unions to lobby state and federal legislatures for tax incentives and worker protections. It diminishes representation of members and severely impact our ability to bargain fair wages and benefits by individual states, not our federal government. This is an attack by Congress to stop the only movement that protects middle class workers. If National Right to Work for Less passes, it will devastate the Union movement. If you care about our democracy, our health and welfare, our community, and our future, you must speak out.
“Black-ish” shows three generations of African American men and their different observations on the world at large. Each episode deftly juggles comedy into a serious discussion about the cultural and racial identity of being black in America.

And not only do they step up and balance it, but they start juggling comedy into it. It’s spectacular, and anybody that can bring comedy into such intense subjects like that is very good at their craft. It’s really rare, very, very rare,” he says.

“Black-ish” shoots out of the Disney lot in Burbank and with three seasons completed, they have a good pace and rhythm. “It’s a well-oiled machine at this point,” says Transportation Coordinator Fred Culbertson. “Monday we get the script. Tuesday we have concept meetings and the prelim budgets are due. Wednesday is the Art Department meetings for sets and picture cars and Wednesday afternoon we receive the pre-production packet. Thursdays mark the end of the script and then production and postproduction meetings. Friday is a day off for anything as we are going out on Monday, and also four of the next five days,” says Culbertson. “So this is the most aggressive episode I’ve seen in a couple years. But that’s fine too. When you do 24 of these kinds of jobs it’s all down. You do 48 of them and the next thing you know, you’ve done 72 of them. We’re filming episode number 73 this coming Monday. Everybody has the routine done at this point.”

One unique element of this show is that it takes place in Los Angeles and also shoots in Los Angeles. For a lot of Location Managers, the opposite is usually true. “It’s a breath of fresh air to be shooting in L.A.,” says Boyd. “I’m not avoiding palm trees and Spanish tile roofs. I am very happy to be working on a show that is set there it is.”

“Our professional differences at times but we all get along together and if we could push the talent on this show,” says Culbertson. “We have such a diverse crew and such diverse interests. We have shitloads of equipment in a day. These machines need to sync with the equipment and I’m not sure how that’s all going to work out. There are a lot of bugs to work out, but it’s still in its preliminary stage. "We have four of the units in our equipment and they are driving the Drivers a little crazy getting used to them and it is taking time to adapt to it. "We are not a common carrier, we are a private carrier for an Fortune 500 Company. It might be a multi-millionaire to accomplish those things. Transportation has provided that steady income.”

“I used to do a lot of road shows and they are far when you are single but when you get married the truck goes all day.”

“We have some diversification of assignments at our join the team. I think it’s a huge accomplishment what they want it.”
Eric took a rather unconventional path to settle on Animal Training as a career. He came from a successful career in advertising, working at the Account Services side in New York prior to picking up and moving out west. All it took was one day on set of a commercial shoot, in which one of the stars of the production was a male lion, for him to realize where his real passion was. “In advertising I dealt more with our clients and losses on the production side of things. I went to one of our shoots and saw this male lion. To put it simply, I was amazed. For whatever reason I always knew there was a trainer that would work on set for say an armadillo or anyone else closely. ‘The course provides a lot of information in a very short amount of time. One interesting observation I had through this course is that other than learning properly and safety about the species of an animal there was a possibility of an internship, which is how Eric got his foot in the door. The criteria, in which is still being used, to determine if you will be selected for an internship is very straightforward. You must have a good work ethic, respect animals and enjoy them for who they are, not just a means of a work, and you must demonstrate the ability to get along with both the animals and humans you will be working alongside. If you meet those criteria, Eric said you would have a great chance of being invited back for an internship. “After I took the course I wanted to come back to the ranch everyday. It was so exciting to learn as much as I could. Brian and Victoria, reining me into only coming up 2 days a week helped me from burning out and overdosing it. They also helped me get some work on set so that I could observe the animals relating to humans, and also to help me understand the way film sets operate and the terminology used.” Eric learned very quickly that there are a lot of moving parts when it comes to how films, television shows, and commercials are shot.

In 2004, after extensive training and experience, Eric was asked to become a partner of ‘Hollywood Animals’. A production he referred to as “With the production was that it was filmed entirely in Los Angeles. ‘You have access to a very highly trained animals and your budget can go much farther when you shoot local.’ Eric continued, “We could make wild requests happen because we have such a strong network of extremely skilled trainers out there.” For Eric the bottom line is simple, “When my animals make production happy that’s phenomenal for me. When I look at them and just at them in awe and impressed by them. I’m fortunate and pleased to be in my animal’s company and that’s what makes any production a great day.”

Eric WELD

Title is Animal Trainer, training an animal is just one small piece of what makes up the day to day of an Animal Trainer in the Entertainment Industry. We went behind the scenes to learn more about animal care, production coordinating, animal advocacy, and complete dedication that Eric has to his furry and exotic family members.

Eric’s closing words in our interview were those shared to him by his partner, “When you hold something dear to you and very important to you, share it with those people that you feel will appreciate it with the same depth you do.” We can honestly say we appreciate Eric giving us a behind the scenes look at his wild life and can’t wait to visit his majestic friends again. To all our Animal Trainers and Wranglers that work hard to ensure the utmost professional care and for your animals is exhibited at all times, we are proud of your work and how you represent for such an incredible crowd.
The website has a lot of valuable information at www.ht399.org.

What should the Membership know about the National ‘Right to Work’ legislation that has been introduced and what is being done to fight it?

Combating the National ‘Right to Work’ for Less legislation that is being sponsored in Congress. We are now facing the greatest threat to the Union movement and we all must do everything we can to defeat this misguided legislation.

How do Local 399 Members get involved in fighting anti-worker National ‘Right to Work’ Legislation?

Contact your elected officials in Congress and the senate to let them know you oppose ‘Right to Work for Less.’ You can gain a wealth of information by heading to our website at www.ht399.org. The website has a lot of valuable information about this legislation. You can easily generate a letter to your elected official from there.

Why do you feel it was important to focus on organizing in this issue?

Organizing is the lifeblood of a Union. We must continue to organize individual production companies and the vendors who service our industry, in order to keep an eye on the movement of equipment. Most importantly, our Membership benefits directly by getting their wage rates, working conditions and benefits. A large part of SirReel’s continued success is due to our Drivers that act as the face of SirReel on Union commercial productions. Without these Union contracts in place, SirReel would have been unable to attract and retain such a high quality workforce for their production motorists. SirReel’s Drivers will now get Motion Picture Benefits regardless of what type of project they are working on.

Without these Union contracts in place, SirReel would have been unable to attract and retain such a high quality workforce.

Business Agent Joshua Staheli approached SirReel on behalf of the Drivers currently being dispatched by SirReel in December. After a preliminary meeting, SirReel asked for a “Card Check” to prove majority status. In January the Authorization Cards were turned over to a neutral arbitrator, Louis M. Zingman, and he certified that the Union had majority status. Joshua and the Drivers had been meeting and discussing proposals since that time and were prepared to bargain immediately. After exchanging proposals, SirReel came to the table in March and after two meetings, an agreement was reached. In addition to gaining Motion Picture Benefits on all jobs, the Drivers at SirReel have a seniority system allowing for the equitable dispatching of SirReel Drivers. Teamsters Local 399 would like or remind our Members to rent from Union vendors that are signatory, such as Herc, Omeg Cinematography, and other vendors such as Hit & Run, Omeg Cinematography, etc. When you rent from a signatory company it helps support your own Health and Pension plan. Far too often people in our industry use vendors that are not actually signatory and do not support our own health and retirement trust funds.

To register your classic car, motorcycle or participate in the chili cook-off, head to www.ht399.org. We are also looking for vendors and volunteers! If you have any questions about the Car Show please email amy@ht399.org. We are very excited to grow this event to include more Unions, Locals, Organizations and the Students of LATTC. We are looking forward to a fun, family event that unite the Labor Movement in Los Angeles. This event is free to attend as a guest and open to the public. Help us spread the word and see you on Saturday, June 24th!
May 1, 2017

MAY DAY MARCH – SHUTTING IT DOWN FOR WORKER’S RIGHTS

We will never back down in the fight for Worker’s Rights. Join us on Monday, May 1st to march in solidarity with all working people in Los Angeles. Whether marching for you, your families, your fellow Union Sisters and Brothers, for all workers everywhere we plan to shut down Los Angeles for a day to show the power working people have in this Nation. Wear Teamster Local 399 attire.

Where: McArthur Park
When: 10:30AM

June 24th, 2017

CLASSIC CAR SHOW AND CHILI COOK-OFF

We’re back and better than ever! Join us for our 3rd Annual Car Show! This year we will be downtown at the Los Angeles Trade Tech College. We will be joining together multiple Unions, Labor Leaders and students that are looking to get into a good Union job after college. We will have live music, vendors, a chili cook-off, food trucks, classic cars, motorcycles, beer garden, children’s play area and more! Full event details and Car and Chili-Cook-off information can be found on our website: www.ht399.org. Don’t wait to register your car! Space is limited.

Where: Los Angeles Trade Technical College
400 W Washington Blvd,
Los Angeles, CA 90015
When: 12PM – 5PM

July 23rd, 2017

3RD GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF 2017

ALL MEMBERS - Please plan to attend our 3rd General Membership Meeting of the year. For any additional questions please contact office@ht399.org.

Where: Pickwick Gardens
When: 8AM

September 25th – 27th

LOCAL 399 RETIREE REUNION IN LAS VEGAS!

Brother Randy White and Steve Hellerstein are organizing this year’s Retiree Reunion in Las Vegas! If you are interested in attending call or email Randy White for more information:

Phone: (505) 869-6244
Email: jrandal399@gmail.com

We hope to see all our Retirees in Vegas!

GET CONNECTED

Be sure to sign up to receive emails and text messages from the Local and get connected with our Social Media pages (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram) in order to stay up-to-date with information from the Local.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We now have printed Commercial Agreements available at the Union Hall. Stop by to pick up a copy.

Coordinators and Captains please remember to include Chef / Drivers on your run-downs. We have many companies that support the industry that we are seeking to organize in the coming months.

If you’re a Location Manager, Key Assistant, or Assistant and registered on the availability list please remember to remove your name from the list when you return to work.

The Union has Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) handbooks available at the hall. Pick up a copy today.

Reminder to ALL MEMBERS - Drivers, Casting Directors, Wranglers, Trainers and Location Managers please remember to call in ALL shows. All Transportation Coordinators and Captains are to send in daily rundowns to the Callboard everyday.

Remember to check your roster status with CSATF. If you are not listed on the roster in good-standing you are not eligible to work and could be at risk of losing pension benefits, health benefits and days towards your seniority.

Enrollment forms will be sent via email for water truck, bobcat, forklift and high reach forklift training. Training will be held in May, June and July. If you are interested in attending please email Business Agent Chris Sell csell@ht399.org.

There is always a Business Agent available over the weekend. If you have any issues when the office is closed please contact: (818) 397-2315.

The LTRF for A and A2 classes are available. More information can be found at www.csatf.org.

Please fill out a log book even if your employer doesn’t require it. Fixes for not carrying a logbook and violations could add up to thousands of dollars. The front office at the Local has free logbooks. This is especially critical for the drivers on Commercials since the productions don’t believe in complying with the Federal Motor Carrier Administration (FMCSA).

Reminder, the Union has logbooks and the CHP has notified us they are going to start checking commercial and non-Union productions.

Please remember the safety guidelines and report anything you feel might be unsafe to the Production and or Local 399.

Please continue to notify the callboard if animals are working.

When working on production and you see trailers that aren’t delivered by Teamsters (for example, small dressing room trailers) Please call a Union Representative.

RETIRES

LOCAL 399 RETIREES

To those that have lost a Father, Mother, sibling, spouse, child or friend, Local 399 mourns the loss with you. The memory of these Members will not be forgotten:

Bilky Arter
Michael Boyle
Ollie Bryant
Manuel Castillo
Jeffrey Garrett
Gavin Grazer
Arthur Greenwood
Joanna Guzzetta
Rusty Hendrickson
Tarteele Huff
William Isaacson
Clifton Kearns
Tony Kurem
David Lang
Dean Maddern
Thomas Neal
Edward O’Neal
Malcolm Pearson
John Peters
Richard Pfeifer
Mary Jo Slater
Patricia Taylor
Randy Thiedeman
Dujo Topic
Tommy Roberts
Douglas Williams
Paul Wilson

OBITUARIES

LOCAL 399 CELEBRATES MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED

To those that have lost a Father, Mother, sibling, spouse, child or friend, Local 399 mourns the loss with you. The memory of these Members will not be forgotten:

Bonnie Baker
Rob Byer
Don Cardwell
Bill Constantine
W.E. Cooper
Joseph Danylik
Herbert Duran
Harry Hill
Buck Holland
Gordon Jerberg
Douglas Miller

Richard Maesell
Richard Ryan
David Schwance
Howard Small
Paul Youads

CONNECT WITH US

Never miss a dues payment, Membership gathering or important information again! Sign up for direct email updates at: ht399.org