



NEWS REEL



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 2

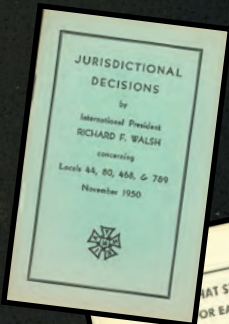
THE THROWBACK EDITION

SPRING 2026

From the Archives

MINUTES OF AFFILIATED PROPERTY CRAFTSMEN

LOCAL 44, I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.



The level of interest in union affairs is reflected on the faces of the members who attend.

LOCAL 44, I.A.T.S.E.
AFFILIATED PROPERTY CRAFTSMEN

7429 SUNSET BOULEVARD
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90046



YOUR LOCAL 44 OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES WORKING HARD FOR YOU AND THE UNION

NEWS REEL

VOL 36 ISSUE 2

APR/MAY/JUN 2026

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Sony Pictures Studios
Rodney Wright
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Alex Hernandez
Television City
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There You Have It 3D
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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Local 44 Newsreel accepts submissions in person, by mail, or by email (preferred). All submissions are subject to review and approval.

Written submissions should be checked for accuracy and spelling by the author. Local 44 Newsreel takes no responsibility for errors in member submitted content.

Please include names of all persons pictured in submitted digital and print pictures to be eligible for publication.

Submissions are subject to revision and editing when necessary.

Local 44 Newsreel offers no guarantee that any submission will make it to print.

NEXT DEADLINE:
AUGUST 17TH

E-mail
newsreel@local44.org

Mail
Newsreel Submissions
c/o IATSE Local 44
12021 Riverside Drive North
Hollywood, CA 91607

Questions? Comments?
Call 818-769-2500

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LOCAL 44'S WEBSITE
WWW.LOCAL44.ORG

FOR ACCESS TO THESE
GREAT FEATURES:

- Manage your Contact Information
- Update Your Work History
- Check the Current & Future Show Lists
- Pay Your Dues Electronically

- Stay Current with Local 44 Events & Deadlines
- Post Ads in the Online Toolcrib
- List Your Work Resume for FREE!
- Download Retiree & Beneficiary Forms

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TOBEY BAYS

BUSINESS AGENT

“Political lobbying and activism can no longer be side projects for Local 44 and its sister locals”

For most of film and television history, Los Angeles was the epicenter of the industry, mostly unchallenged for nearly a century. However, this is no longer the case. California’s film and television sector now faces a mix of challenges that have reduced work opportunities. As we compete in an increasingly global market, technological advancements, shifting entertainment consumption habits, and the consolidation of media companies, have all taken their toll. Our dominance in the industry was taken for granted, and early signs of competition, both from neighboring states and internationally, were dismissed as minor threats. This complacency has since left us in a constant state of playing catch-up.

The key takeaway is clear, maintaining a strong presence in Sacramento is essential to securing the future of our industry. It allows us to support candidates, lobby elected officials, educate members, and engage in public debates for the practical and necessary steps to protect an industry that is not only iconic to Los Angeles but also provides good middle-class jobs with pensions and health benefits.

Local 44 plays an active role in the California IATSE Council (CIC), the political lobbying arm for advancing the interests of IATSE members across the state, including the studio locals and for film and television tax incentives. Representing 23 (and counting) locals statewide, the CIC is committed to supporting IATSE unions and the broader labor movement by addressing policies, legislation, and other factors that could negatively impact our members. The CIC’s growing influence in Sacramento is already being felt. For the first time that I can recall, the film and television industry is at the forefront of political discussions. While we are far from being the largest labor organization in California, the fact of the matter is that IATSE members show up and vote.

Political lobbying and activism can no longer be side projects for Local 44 and its sister locals. They must be priorities. This isn’t just about securing tax incentives; it’s about protecting fundamental rights: the right to organize, to bargain collectively, and to strike when necessary to defend those rights. These are essential protections we can no longer take for granted.

That means endorsing candidates who support workers, opposing legislation that undermines labor, and mobilizing members to vote.

Political engagement is a component of protecting collective bargaining rights and must remain a high priority by leadership. As I’ve stated in prior membership meetings, Local 44 is a very politically diverse union, which may have contributed to its slower embrace of political activity. However, I want to reassure members that any political endorsement that Local 44, through its association with the California IATSE Council, is guided by the will of the majority, and is not partisan. Our focus is solely on what serves the best interests of our members and the labor movement as a whole.

In Solidarity,

Tobey Bays

businessagent@local44.org

ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

WE RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH LOCAL 44.

APRIL 2026

OVER 50 YEARS

Ramiro Arredondo- Property (52)
Barry Bernson- Propshop (52)
Ernest Bishop- Set Decorator (57)
David DeGaetano- Coordinator (52)

Harlan Johnson- Special Effects (61)
Edward Kennedy- Special Effects (52)
Gary King- Special Effects (52)
David Needham- Property (52)

Stephen Nelson- Property (54)
Steven Purcell- Special Effects (51)
Lee Riggins- Propmaker (56)
Charles Stewart- Propmaker (51)

50 YEARS

Gary Deaton- Coordinator
Michael Millar- Propshop

James Olson- Propmaker

John Roth- Propshop
Robert Spurlock- Propshop

35 YEARS

Roger Abell- Property
Christopher Banke- Propmaker
Merideth Boswell- Set Decorator
Steven Bunyea- Propshop
Robert Carmody- Propmaker
Bill Elliott Jr.- Propmaker
Casey Garrett- Propmaker
Patricia Garrity- Set Decorator
Stephen Gibson- Property Master
Roy Goode- Propshop
Werner Hahnlein- Special Effects

Jeff Hall- Propmaker
Erik Haraldsted- Propmaker
Dale Head- Property Master
Ernest Hernandez- Propmaker
Richard Jerebic- Propmaker
Jon Kazunaga- Propmaker
Christopher Kubin- Propmaker
Matthew McDonnell- Propshop
John Nesterowicz- Property Master
Arnold Peterson- Propmaker

Edward Protiva- Property
Edmundo Quintero- Propmaker
Alfred Ransdell- Propmaker
Glenn Roberts- Property
William Salsberg- Coordinator
Timothy Savatgy- Floorcover
Larry Shorts- Propmaker
Douglas Sieck- Property
Glenn Thomas- Propmaker
David Thomas Jr.- Propmaker
Robert Yates- Propmaker

25 YEARS

Mario Arce- Coordinator
Joseph Bebek- Propmaker
Brandon Birrer- Propmaker
Bryan Buckler- Propmaker
Doug Cavanaugh- Propmaker
Joseph Conenna- Property
Adrian Encinas- Propmaker
David Fish- Propmaker
Thomas Flowers IV- Propmaker

Christopher Fuentes- Property
Brian Garrett- Propmaker
David Gomez- Propmaker
James Hunter Jr.- Coordinator
Kenny Keavy- Propmaker
Michael Kissick- Propmaker
Steven Lueck- Propmaker
Tom McElroy- Propmaker
Thomas Meadows- Propmaker

Michael Miller- Coordinator
Christopher Parkinson- Propmaker
David Perez- Propmaker
Dennis Richardson- Propmaker
Darrin Rolls- Coordinator
Mark Sanchez- Propmaker
Matt Sazzman- Coordinator
James Schwalm Jr.- Propmaker
John Tucker- Propshop

10 YEARS

Stephen Fackrell- Set Decorator
Brian Felix- Propmaker
Christian Fritsch- Property
James Gill- Propmaker
John Hemsley- Coordinator

Heidi Koleto- Property Master
Anna Loesby- Property Master
Nicholas Lopez- Property
Julie O'Leary- Property
Randall Papavero- Property

Robert Pound- Propmaker
Steve Ramos- Property
Casey Rose- Property
Freddy Salguero- Propmaker
Shawn Skyes- Propmaker

OPT-OUT NOTICE

To prevent your name from appearing in future anniversary milestone rolls,
please email your request with your full name and Union card number to newsreel@local44.org



Ashley Swanson

SECRETARY-TREASURER

“Being an engaged union member doesn’t always require a major time commitment... there are several ways you can strengthen Local 44 in just a few minutes.”

One of the first things I was told when I joined Local 44 was, “You’ll get as much out of your union membership as you put into it.” Over the years, I’ve found that to be true, but I also know that work gets busy, life gets busier, and not everyone has the time to attend every craft meeting or General Membership Meeting. The good news is that being an engaged union member doesn’t always require a major time commitment. In fact, there are several ways you can strengthen Local 44 in just a few minutes.

Report your work: Every time you start a union job, report it to the Callboard by phone, email, or through the website. Knowing where our members are working helps Local 44 track employment trends, communicate with affected crews when issues arise, and respond more effectively when problems develop on a production.

Report non-union work: If you’re working on a non-union production, call the hall and let us know. These calls are always confidential, and this information help us understand and track where non-union work is happening. They also allow the Local to be prepared should a non-union crew decide they want to organize.

Report workplace violations: If you see contract violations or unsafe working conditions, don’t assume someone else has already reported them. Even issues that seem isolated can help identify larger patterns across productions, allowing the Local to act. It’s a well-worn phrase for a reason: if you see something, say something.

Take our surveys: Whether we’re preparing for bargaining, evaluating member services, or gathering feedback on new initiatives, surveys help guide the decisions we make as a union. A few minutes of your time helps ensure the Local’s priorities reflect the membership’s priorities.

Support the IATSE PAC: Even a small monthly contribution helps amplify labor’s voice in Washington, D.C. Those funds support advocacy on issues that directly affect entertainment workers and our industry. You can sign up online at iatse.net/take-action or ask your payroll department about payroll deduction.

Whatever your level of involvement, if you do have more time to give, we’d love to have you. There is always plenty to accomplish. Join a committee, volunteer at an event, attend a

meeting, or simply introduce yourself to your steward. Every level of involvement matters, and if there’s another way you’d like to contribute, we’d like to hear about it.

Finally, I’d like to remind everyone that Local 44 offers members the option to attend membership meetings virtually via Zoom. While we’d always love to see you in person, virtual attendance is available for those whose schedules or locations make that difficult. If getting to the hall has been a barrier, we hope you’ll take advantage of this option and make your voice part of the conversation. The strength of our union isn’t measured only by how many people attend meetings. It’s built every day by members who stay informed, communicate with the Local, and look out for one another. Even five minutes can make a meaningful difference.

In Solidarity,

Ashley Swanson

secretary-treasurer@local44.org

ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

WE RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH LOCAL 44.

MAY 2026

OVER 50 YEARS

Gary Antista- Property Master (57)
Noel Butcher- Propshop (52)
Dennis DeWaay- Coordinator (51)
Delbert Diener- Property Master (57)

Glenn Evans- Speial Effects (58)
William Gowdy Jr.- Property (57)
William liams- Coordinator (52)
Steven Levine- Property Master (52)

Arthur Lipschultz- Property Master (66)
Paul Lombardi- Special Effects (55)
Robert Planck- Property (57)
Frank Rebro- Propmaker (51)

50 YEARS

Clete Cetrone- Propmaker
Steven Fuller- Propmaker

Bruce Minkus- Special Effects
Joseph Pizzorusso Jr.- Property

Marvin Salsberg- Coordinator
Richard Vallone- Propmaker

35 YEARS

Caesar Bijou- Coordinator
Clifford Carothers- Coordinator
Robert Clack- Coordinator

Jason Hadley- Property
David Long- Propmaker
Alfredo Lopez- Upholsterer

Don Miloyevich- Property Master
Vincent Montefusco- Propshop
David Touster- Property Master

25 YEARS

Adrian Arriaga- Property
Roberto Baez- Greens
David Benavides- Draper
Michael Bench- Propmaker
Bob Border- Propmaker
Kenneth Bryant- Property
Mark Caplan- Propmaker
Chris Chisholm- Greens
Jason Dodd- Propmaker
Joshua Duman- Propmaker
Matthew Emery- Propmaker
Scott Goff- Propmaker
Regina Henderson- Draper
Eric Holman- Propmaker

Cesar Jimenez- Propmaker
David Jimenez- Propmaker
Cliff Jones- Propmaker
Marc Kass- Propmaker
Vernon Kelly- Property
Johnathan Kombrinck- Special Effects
Cynthia LaJeunesse- Set Decorator
Lauchland Lake II- Property
David Lavker- Property
Hayley Madigan- Property Master
David Marten- Special Effects
Cameron Matheson- Property

Shawn McGorrian- Property
Tracy Reedy- Propmaker
Paul Richards- Property
Frank Rodriguez- Propmaker
Glenn Ryan Jr.- Property
Jose Saenz- Greens
Jon Schwartz- Propmaker
Bennet Silver- Property
Paul Small- Propmaker
Ely Vegh- Draper
Jason Vercher- Propmaker
Steven Watson- Property
Clifford Whalen- Coordinator
Rodney Youse- Propmaker

10 YEARS

Jared Bashiri- Property
Sally Baxter- Property
Adam Bedi- Propmaker
Cameron Blake- Property Master
Justin Campanella- Property
Terra Espinosa- Property
David Holtz- Property

John Horlick- Property
Michael Kangaju- Property
Darin Kato- Property
Mary Keledjian- Property
Daniel Licari- Property
Andrew Mallon- Property
Paolo Mariano- Propmaker

Paul Mitchell- Property Master
Allen Nery- Property
Mark Reilly- Propmaker
Bradley Salo- Property Master
Erika Shea- Property
Kevin Smith- Property
Caroline Stratton- Property Master

TOOL



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Please call or text to make an offer to Jerry Chavez at (818) 400-4615

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RAY SCHREFEL JR.

PRESIDENT

“A labor union is only as strong as its membership, and Local 44 continues to prove that we are stronger than ever”

A labor union is only as strong as its membership, and Local 44 continues to prove that we are stronger than ever.

At our craft meetings in late April, we achieved quorum in five out of our six craft meetings, which is a huge attendance improvement compared to even a few months ago. Attending craft meetings is one of the easiest ways to stay informed about the goings-on here at the Local and one of the best opportunities for members to share what their crafts are experiencing in the field. A lot of times when members are experiencing an issue on set, the assumption is their circumstance is a one-off, especially for those working on location or on independent projects with smaller crews. When members feel isolated from one another, it benefits the producers, allowing them to continue to bend and break our contracts without any pushback. But when issues are shared at public forums like craft meetings, it allows the Board and our Business Agents to gather information across projects and identify patterns of contract violations and work to address them. When members are connected to one another, problems that seem isolated often turn out

to be widespread. That information helps Local 44 identify trends, enforce our agreements, and advocate more effectively on behalf of the membership.

Another excellent and easy way to stay involved is communicating with your shop stewards and field stewards. For those who can't make it to membership meetings, your stewards can act as a bridge between you and the local, ensuring you stay informed about what's happening at the Local while also serving as a point of contact for issues that arise on set. Contact information for stewards can be found on the website, and I encourage every member to reach out to their steward and introduce themselves.

Our next best opportunity to catch up with everything happening at Local 44 is our General Membership Meeting on August 15th at the Odyssey in Granada Hills. This GMM, we are trying something new to help streamline the meeting process. Members may now pre-submit their motions to the Secretary/Treasurer, allowing the motion to be reviewed prior to the meeting to ensure it fits the requirements of Robert's Rules and is within the scope of our

Constitution and Bylaws. This will help ensure that members' motions can be heard and voted on without unnecessary procedural delays. Motions can be emailed to secretary-treasurer@local44.org until 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the GMM, or can be submitted in person, in writing, at the meeting venue until the opening of the meeting.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our next meeting in August, and if not, the entire Board and I are always available through our contact information listed on the website. Member communication is the best way for us to make sure we are prioritizing your needs and concerns, so stay involved, stay informed, and speak up!

In Solidarity,

Ray Schrefel Jr.

rschrefel@sbcglobal.net

ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

WE RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH LOCAL 44.

JUNE 2026

OVER 50 YEARS

Richard Albain- Special Effects (54)
William Aldridge- Special Effects (52)
Kenneth Balles- Propmaker (52)
David Blitstein- Special Effects (54)

Louis Cooper- Special Effects (60)
Alfonso Gutierrez- Special Effects (52)
William Lee- Special Effects (55)
Gregory Medina- Coordinator (52)

Guy Owens- Property Master (53)
Jeffrey Passanante- Coordinator (54)
Clarence Price- Coordinator (59)
Joseph Recchia- Floorcover (52)

50 YEARS

Kenneth Clark- Special Effects

Donald Myers Jr.- Special Effects

35 YEARS

John Bankson- Property Master
Chris Langevin- Property

Richard Monak- Propmaker

Sherman Singletary- Propmaker
Kirk Tarouilly- Propmaker

25 YEARS

Paul Baker- Property
Ryan Bear- Property
Lee Cole- Propshop
Ernesto Felix- Draper
Eva Firshein- Property

David Hernandez- Greens
Darryl Lee- Propmaker
Alfonso Mediano- Propmaker

Stacey Miller- Property Master
Hans Soto- Greens
John Thellend- Propmaker
John Timm- Property
James Walters Jr.- Propmaker

10 YEARS

Kyle Craig- Propmaker
Christophe Dahdah- Property Master
Cameron Davidson Jr.- Propshop
Michael Dunworth- Property
Michael Highfield- Property

James Johnson- Propmaker
Benjamin Kronick- Property

Joe Martinez- Propshop
Devin McDaniel- Property
Tessa Nieuwenhuis- TCR Property
Avery Pursell- Property
Forrest Tagliamonte- Property

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS

WE RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR JOINING LOCAL 44.

Courtney Allard- Propmaker
Jeremy Alvarez- Property
Casey Craig- Property

Rodney Henderson- Set Decorator
Adrien Karges- Property

Mitchell Loflin- Property
William Scullin- Property
Natalie Trainor- Property

Local 44 Robert's Rules of Order & Parliamentary Procedure Online Workshop

Exercising your rights as a member while respecting the rights of your siblings in union meetings can be challenging. This workshop will give you the tools you need to have more effective union meetings and to be in compliance with your bylaws, rules of order, and national labor law.



- Meeting Procedure
- The Role of the Chair
- Member Participation
- Order of Meetings
- Making a Motion
- Debate and Amendments
- Minutes and Notices
- Conducting Board Business
- The Importance of Union Democracy

Led by Patricia Legault-Frank

Patti Legault-Frank has been a consulting Parliamentarian and Governance Specialist and an instructor at The Labor Guild since 1981. In addition to local, state, and international labor unions, she has also consulted to credit unions; school committees; professional and social organizations. Her Labor Guild courses have been on Union Meetings with Robert's Rules of Order; Reviewing and Amending Union Bylaws; and, on Union Elections.



Join Online

Saturday, July 11th
9:30AM - 2:00PM*

*Break time will be provided mid-session



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS MORE EFFECTIVE, THE LOCAL 44 EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS APPROVED A NEW POLICY FOR THE PRE-SUBMISSION OF MOTIONS

PRE-SUBMIT YOUR MOTIONS TO MAKE MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS A TOP PRIORITY

HOW DOES THIS WORK??

MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO SUBMIT MOTIONS IN ADVANCE IN TWO WAYS

#1 Email the motion to secretary-treasurer@local44.org by 5pm the Friday before the meeting

#2 Hand in your written motion to the Secretary-Treasurer at the meeting up until the beginning of the meeting. If digital, please submit via Zoom chat.

During the meeting's new business, motion makers will be called upon to speak in the order received and present their motion. Members must be in attendance to present their motion.

VIEW FULL POLICY HERE!!



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INDEPENDENT STUDIO SERVICES	TRIBAL SCENERY
JACKSON SHRUB SUPPLY	UNIVERSAL STUDIOS LOT
J.E.M. FX	WARNER BROTHERS STUDIOS
LENNIE MARVIN PROP HEAVEN	

44 Built from LA Labor Chaos

The roots of Local 44 stretch back to a time when the people who built, painted, rigged, and operated theatrical productions worked under conditions that were often dangerous, unpredictable, and poorly paid. Throughout the late nineteenth century, backstage workers routinely labored long hours for meager wages while handling heavy scenery, primitive lighting systems, and complex stage machinery with few workplace protections. Employers could hire and fire workers at will, and there were few standards governing pay, hours, or safety.

In 1893, representatives from eleven cities gathered in New York to form the union that we know today as the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), and in turn, creating the first international labor organization dedicated to entertainment workers behind the scenes. The new union quickly proved the power of collective action as stagehands organized, bargained, and demonstrated that skilled backstage labor deserved fair wages, safe working conditions, and a voice on the job.

That spirit of solidarity soon reached Southern California. In 1895, local stagehands, carpenters, electricians, and other theater workers organized the Los Angeles Theatrical Workers Union, affiliating with IATSE the following year. When the motion picture industry migrated west in the early twentieth century Hollywood inherited not only a growing studio system, but an established tradition of entertainment workers standing together to protect their crafts.



Kinetoscope Parlor ca. 1895

By the late 1930s, Hollywood's booming studios demanded skilled Property Craftspeople to build the worlds audiences saw on screen. Following the dissolution of IATSE Local 37, those workers sought a union dedicated specifically to their trades. After petitioning the American Federation of Labor for representation, they gathered in Los Angeles on May 21, 1939. Guided by AFL organizers A. H. Petersen and J. W. Buzzell, nine craftsmen became the first members of IATSE Local 44, establishing a union built by Property Craftspeople to protect Property Craftspeople.

The next page is taken from the minutes of that very first general membership meeting a few weeks after chartering. It captures the moment Local 44 officially began, not with fanfare, but with workers coming together in the belief that their crafts deserved a strong and lasting voice. More than eighty-five years later, that commitment continues to shape our union. The timeline that follows traces Local 44, IATSE, entertainment and labor's journey through the milestones, challenges, and victories that have defined both our history and the history of the entertainment industry itself.

May 29, 1939

Mr. Louis Krouse
General Secretary-Treasurer
I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.
International B uilding
630 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York

Dear Sir and Brothers:

I was a member of the now defunct union of Local 377 and my dues and assessments are paid up to and including JUL - 1938.

In accordance with Paragraph 4, Section 25, Article 10 on pages 62 and 63 of the Constitution of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada, I hereby apply for the privilege of becoming a member-at-large in the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O. Enclosed, please find \$ to pay up indebtedness to the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O. as provided in the above referred to sections.

Date MAY 25 1939 (Signed) John A. Reynolds Jr
Card No. 2546

ENDORSED BY THE
I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.
OF U.S.A.C.

MAY 29 1939

Louis Krouse
General Secretary-Treasurer

Approved application of defunct Local 37 member to join Local 44 the day after it was chartered in 1939

Detroit Publishing Company. Two men using a movie camera indoors, between 1908 and 1920. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs



General Meeting - June 15, 1939

"A Committee of six be appointed, one from each craft", instead of Committee of five. Carried.
Original motion carried as amended.

Communication from Joint Executive Board read by Temporary Secretary Del Crawford.

Discussion on floor regarding same.
Moved by Bro. Elrod, seconded by Bro. Hanby that the resolution contained therein be adopted. Motion carried.

The Local Union had before it the following resolution:

"Whereas, there are a large number of men employed in the motion picture studios at Hollywood, California, as Motion Picture Studio Property men, Swing Gang Men, Nursery Men, Set Dressers, Propmakers, Prop Miniature Men, Upholsterers, Drapers and Special Effects Men, and

"Whereas, these men, so employed, believing that their interests as employees can best be protected by the formation of a local labor union have applied to the I.A.T.S.E. and M.P.M.O. for a local union and said Charter has been granted and is known as Local No. 44, and

"Whereas, it has come to the attention of this local union that our parent body, the I.A.T.S.E. and M.P.M.O. is being attacked in the Courts of Los Angeles County, by certain groups and persons, who in our judgment are enemies of the I.A.T.S.E. and this local union and its members, and

"Whereas, the Congress of the United States has declared, through the language of the Wagner National Labor Relations Act, that workers of this country shall have the right to freely organize into Unions of their own choosing without interference by the employer, and by inference without interference by any other governmental agency, and

"Whereas, the members of this local union voluntarily formed this Union and sought a charter from the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O., therefore be it

"Resolved, in this regular meeting of Local No. 44, that we heartily denounce attacks, which we believe to be subversive in origin, and intended to weaken the prestige of the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O. and the effectiveness of this local Union, and be it further

"Resolved, that this Union declare its confidence in the International Alliance and its integrity, and be it further

"Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O. and to the Los Angeles Central Labor Council and to the daily and trade papers."

It was moved by Bro. Frank O'Connor and seconded by Bro. Walters that this resolution be adopted. Carried.

The following resolution was presented:

"That the President and Business Agent and three members-at-large be elected as delegates to the Los Angeles Central Labor Council."

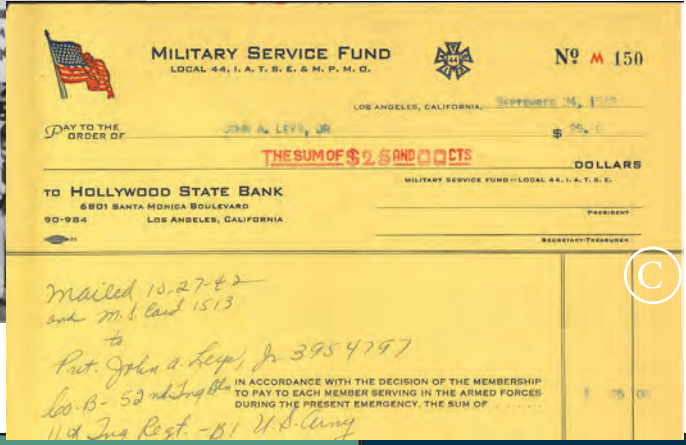
It was moved by Bro. Pierce, seconded by Bro. Paul Jones that this resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

The next order of business was nomination of officers. Conducted by Organizer Petersen.

- (A) David Dubinsky gives a speech against the Taft-Harley Bill
- (B) Grand Opera House Prop Room 1936
- (C) L44 Military Service Fund Receipt

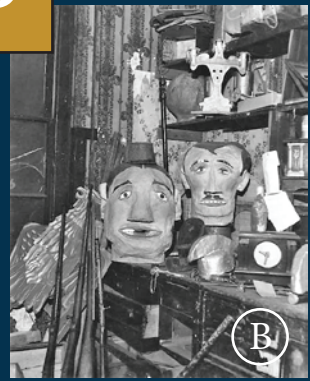


Protestors line up with families for the 1945 Hollywood Black Friday Strike. The strike lasted from March to October of 1945.



The 1930's

1935; First movie released in Technicolor 3-Strip *Becky Sharp*



1935; The National Labor Relations Act is implemented, guaranteeing Americans' rights to form unions

1938; The Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) breaks away to form independence

1939: RCA introduces the television at the New York World's Fair

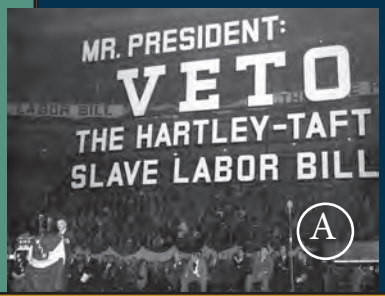
May 21 1939: Local 44 is chartered after worker organization for protections

1940; The Local 44 Attendance Committee writes to the membership about low attendance at member meetings

1945-46 Set Decorators officially recognized as a craft at Local 44

October 5th, 1945; Bloody Friday saw mass picket lines at Warner Brothers Studios

1941; Local 44 membership approves the Military Fund, which provided a \$25.00 payment to each service member of Local 44 for their deployment to WW2



The 1940's

1947; The Taft-Hartley Act (LMRA) is passed, restricting the power of labor unions

1948; The Paramount Decrees order the big 5 studios to divest from theaters

The 1950's

1950; Independent production begins to grow after Supreme Court issued divestment

1952: IA workers went on an hour-long strike at major TV producers

1953; Televisions become a staple in American homes and the first color broadcast is shown

1952-53: MPI Health Plan and Pension Plan agreements signed



1955; AFL and CIO merged to become a united front

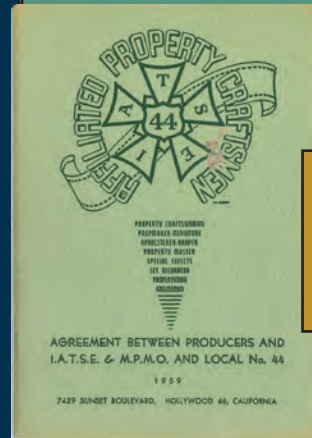
1959; Congress passes the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act

1960; Writer's Guild of America strike lasts 148 days

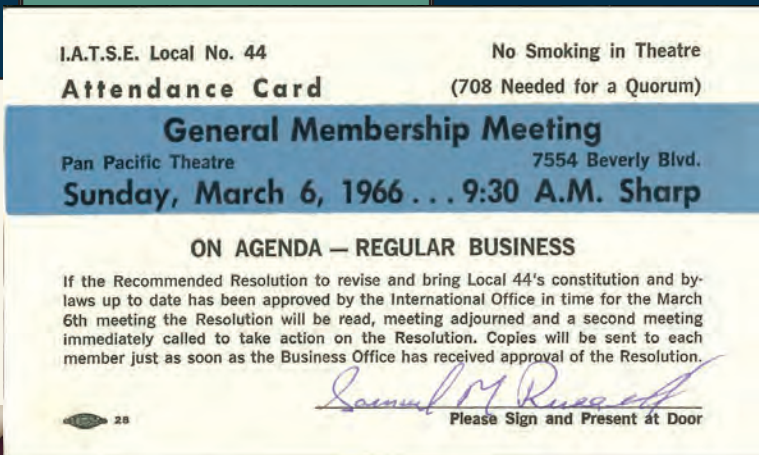


1965; Contract Services Administration Trust Fund is established

1963; Equal Pay Act bans wage discrimination



The 1960's



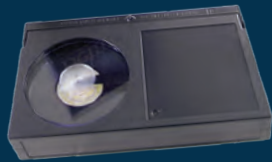
The 1970's

1970; The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) signed into law



1971; Construction Coordinators join Local 44 after a merger with Local 946

1975; Sony releases Betamax



1977; VHS tapes arrive as new viewing option in America

1979; MPI Individual Account Plan established for IATSE retirement

1981; President Reagan dismisses 13,000 striking air traffic controllers leading to the largest labor rally in US History



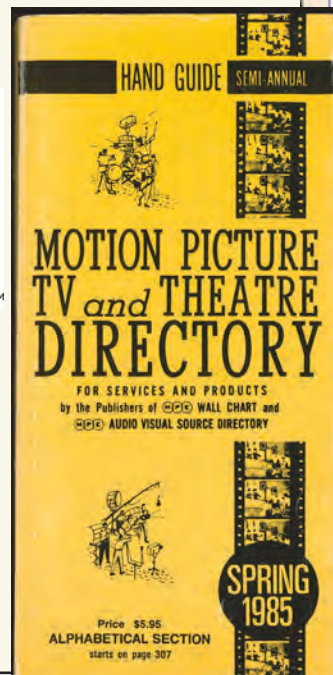
1984; L44 Leadership pressures president of Associated Film Promotions to take out full-page ad in Box Office magazine apologizing to Property Masters.

1982; Basic Agreement negotiations renames Sewers to Property Sewing Person & Floorlady to Floorperson

1987-89; Local 44 enters and exits trusteeship

The 1980's

1989; First issue of the Local 44 Newsreel





Pay Your Dues Online!

You can now pay your financial obligations on-line. Members have been asking if the Local could create the ability to pay their financial obligations by their computer, it is now a reality.

Members can log into the local 44 website (local44.com) and if you are registered on the site use the Paypal account to pay for your quarterly (or yearly) payments.

One of the abilities on the account that needed to be worked out was access for members in bad-standing. Typically, the website won't let a member log into the "members only" section if they aren't up to date on their payments. A dropped or suspended member may log into the payment area now, and still be prohibited from the other member areas.

So if you're one of those electronically connected individuals, who pay your bills online, you can add the Local to your list.



(A)

(A)

Universal Studios Backlot Fire

(B)

Netflix DVD in the mail return sleeve. Credit: HinnoSaur/Flickr

The 1990's

1990; The titles of Property Man and Property Woman officially changed to Property Persons



1992; Starworks emerges as the first video streaming platform

1996: First Low-Budget National Agreement for Theatrical Films

1996: First Agreement reached with HBO

1997: Local 44 and Local 80 host the First Annual Family Picnic

1996: DVD's are first released in Japan

2001; Massive petition signed by entertainment industry workers filed with the Dept of Commerce regarding runaway production to Canada

2008; The Universal Studios Backlot fire destroys the historic area. Over 400 Local 44 members employed to rebuild under the name Phoenix Project lasting almost 2 years

2005; YouTube is launched

2006; IATSE New Media sideletter established

2007; Netflix changes from a DVD subscription service to a streaming platform



(B)

The 2000's



MEMBERS: DON'T FORGET!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, March 31st, 2012 @ 9:00AM

PICKWICK GARDENS CONFERENCE CENTER

1001 Riverside Drive, Burbank
(next to the General Motors Training School)

MEETING STARTS PROMPTLY AT 9:00AM

ARRIVE EARLY FOR PARKING & CHECK-IN



HOLLYWOOD

"The battle has only just begun."



The 2010's

2010; IATSE and Teamsters enter into a mutual assistance pact for organizing

2013; Local 44 Entertainment Jobs Committee is formed

2014; Camera Assistant Sarah Jones' death on the set of *Midnight Rider*, sparks an industry movement to prioritize on-set safety in film production

2012; IATSE unveils the Education and Training Department

2012; IATSE establishes the Training Trust Fund and the Young Workers Committee



2020; As the COVID pandemic stalls the industry, IATSE successfully advocates for higher unemployment benefits for entertainment workers

2025; Local 44 and other backlot locals support Zello alongside studios to provide relief to members affected by the Eaton and Palisades wildfires

2021; Production sees a peak from the "Covid Boom" and streaming wars

2021; IATSE receives a 98.3% Yes vote from membership when requesting a strike authorization during AMPTP negotiations

2025; Local 44 members lobby in Sacramento for increased film tax incentives

The 2020's



As this timeline shows, throughout Local 44's eighty-seven-year history, one thing has remained constant: this union has always been driven by its members. Every contract negotiated, every right protected, every challenge overcome, and every victory celebrated has begun with our fellow craftspeople choosing to stand together.

The greatest strength of Local 44 has never been a single contract, a specific office, or any one leader. It has always been the members themselves. From the nine founding members who came together in 1939 to establish a union for their fellow craftspeople, to the members who organized mutual aid overnight in the wake of the devastating 2025 wildfires, our history has been written by ordinary people stepping forward when their union needed them.

That is the enduring story of Local 44. Generations have come and gone. The industry has transformed again and again. The tools of our crafts have evolved. But the principle that brought our founders together, that we are stronger together than we are alone, remains as true today as it was on May 21, 1939. The next chapter of Local 44's history, like every chapter before it, will be written by its members.

Our history extends far beyond what could fit within these pages. Beginning with this issue, The Newsreel will feature a recurring "From the Archives" column, exploring the people, traditions, and artifacts that have shaped Local 44 over the decades. From the evolution of membership cards and the history of craft and general membership meetings to pivotal labor disputes and long-forgotten pieces of Local 44 ephemera, we'll continue uncovering the stories that connect our past to our present.

**A special thank you to Emily Ferry, Andrea Joel, Michael Cappello and Bob Carlyle
for your contributions to this article**

For learning more about IATSE and general labor history we recommend the following sources:

I.A.T.S.E. History Timeline

iatse.net/history-timeline

AFL-CIO Labor History Timeline

aflcio.org/about-us/history

U.S. Department of Labor Timeline

dol.gov/general/history/100/timeline

Do you have a Local 44 story or milestone to add to the timeline? Want to see a deeper dive into an archives topic? Let us know!

Submit your stories, photos, videos and suggestions here.



IN MEMORIAM

Hand in hand, we recall the laughter and tears,
The shared journeys through the passing years.
United, hearts intertwined;
In memoriam, our brothers and sisters, we find.

Peter Albiez
Special Effects

Born: August 28, 1942
Joined: July 25, 1966
Died: May 9, 2026

Gilbert Aguilar
Coordinator

Born: April 28, 1937
Joined: October 21, 1968
Died: February 1, 2026

Brien Campbell
Propmaker

Born: January 28, 1952
Joined: November 5, 1996
Died: March 31, 2026

Edward Candanoza
Property

Born: December 4, 1976
Joined: December 14, 2021
Died: May 8, 2026

David Crockett
Property Master

Born: January 13, 1942
Joined: June 1, 1988
Died: March 28, 2026

Louis Fasano
Propmaker

Born: October 18, 1935
Joined: November 21, 1963
March 9, 2026

Tom Gebr
Property

Born: April 2, 1955
Joined: January 24, 1980
Died: June 6, 2026

Bryson Gerard Jr.
Propshop

Born: January 20, 1943
Joined: August 15, 1978
Died: June 5, 2026

Jack Hoxworth
Property Master

Born: January 3, 1951
Joined: November 27, 1990
Died: January 19, 2026

Mark Jameson
Property

Born: November 16, 1961
Joined: August 25, 1999
Died: April 17, 2026

Selma F. Kora
Property Master

Born: September 24, 1956
Joined: November 20, 1996
Died: November 2, 2025

Scott Lodwig
Coordinator

Born: January 19, 1976
Joined: January 20, 2017
Died: April 12, 2026

Richard Nichols
Property Master

Born: February 16, 1970
Joined: January 2, 2001
Died: March 30, 2026

James Pike Jr.
Property

Born: July 15, 1936
Joined: December 8, 1975
Died: January 25, 2026

Douglas Poole
Property

Born: July 14, 1957
Joined: December 2, 1992
Died: April 17, 2026

Bruce Purcell
Property

Born: July 11, 1951
Joined: March 1, 2000
Died: December 28, 2025

John Schenk
Property Master

Born: June 13, 1944
Joined: December 9, 1975
Died: May 15, 2026

Craig Sheets
Propmaker

Born: November 14, 1959
Joined: July 9, 1996
Died: March 22, 2026

Deborah Siegel
Set Decorator

Born: September 15, 1952
Joined: November 9, 1979
Died: March 11, 2026

Peter Spurr
Propmaker

Born: February 19, 1954
Joined: February 27, 1997
Died: May 24, 2026

George Wilson
Propmaker

Born: October 7, 1949
Joined: July 10, 2006
Died: March 7, 2026

Mark Wisniewski
Propmaker

Born: June 20, 1951
Joined: August 20, 1979
Died: March 25, 2026

Labor

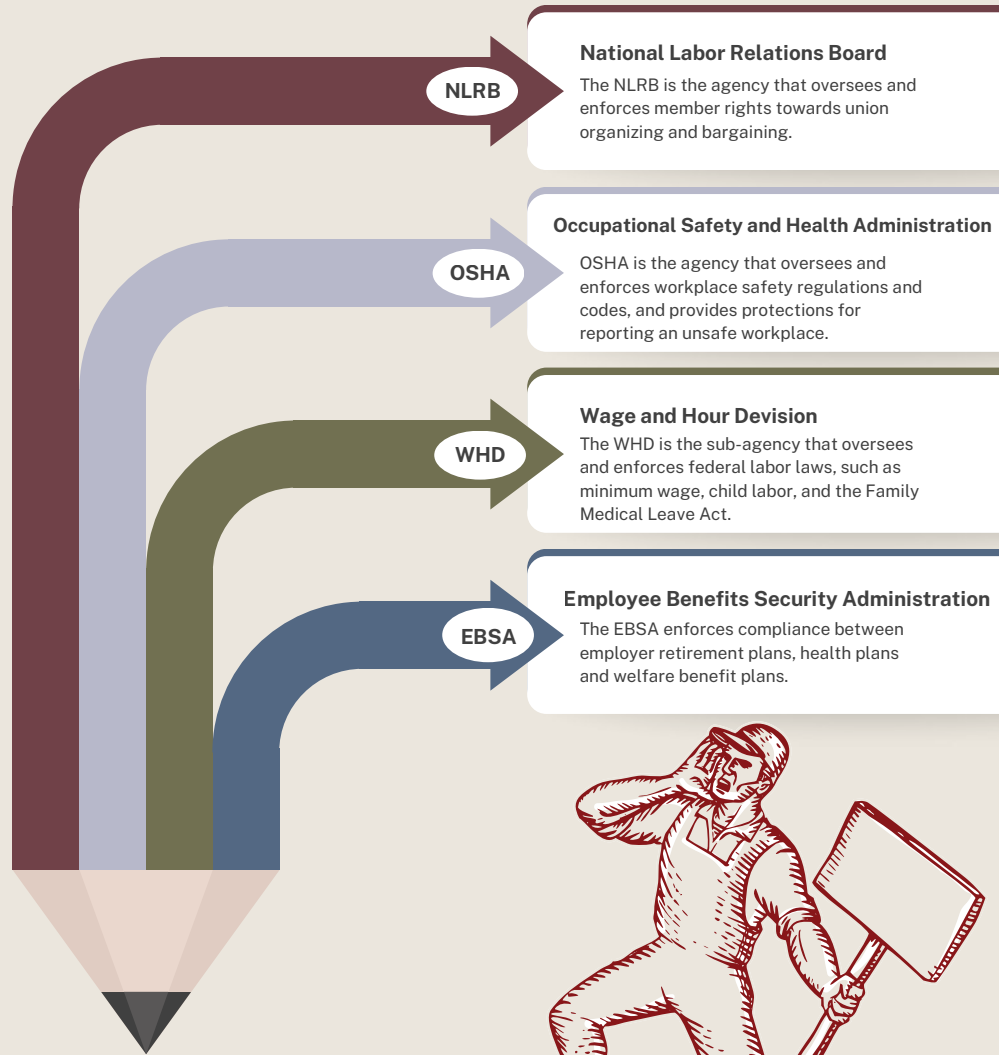
101: Working Knowledge for Knowledgeable Workers

“To be free, the workers must have choice. To have choice they must retain in their own hands the right to determine under what conditions they will work.”
~Samuel Gompers, first president of the American Federation of Labor

The United States’ Department of Labor was established in 1913 after half a century of campaigning via civil disobedience and political pressure by organized labor to have a voice in Washington. The Department has developed into various agencies over the years that protect working people’s rights which have been won over the years; the right to organize, and protection from wage theft, unsafe working conditions, and discrimination.

Since these rights were won at different moments in time, and oversee different workplace issues, they each have different agencies that one would look toward in ensuring their rights and the law are enforced. The following are some of the more pertinent agencies as it pertains to our work and the issues we face, and should you have an issue in the future, you can be familiar with which agency is there to protect you.

KEY DIVISIONS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES FOR WORKERS



To do your part to support IATSE in its advocacy of labor rights, consider a one-time or recurring donation to the IATSE PAC.

Visit: iatse.net/take-action



IATSE PAC

Political Action Committee Of
The International Alliance Of Theatrical Stage Employees

SDSA WONDERCON 2026



Left to right: Prerna Chawla SDSA, Michelle Hall SDSA, Don Diers SDSA, Julie Drach SDSA, and Bethany Barton

This year at WonderCon, the SDSA presented three panels featuring various movies and TV shows that are popular with the convention-going public. The panels were moderated by SDSA Set Decorators, and presented set photos and insightful questions answered by the excellent SDSA Set Decorators of those projects.

All three panels were very popular with attendees, and the Q&A at the end of each panel was full of audience members asking great questions. We're so happy to bring education about Set Decoration to the public, and look forward to doing the same at the next Comic-Con! The Panels and Cons Committee at the SDSA were Rae Deslich, Prerna Chawla, Lizzie Boyle, and Michelle Hall.

FOLLOW SDSA

Instagram:
@officialsdsa
@hollywoodsetdecorators

Website:
www.setdecorators.org

or Scan the QR
code here:



Alien Influence: Set Decoration for Extraterrestrials
Lauri Gaffin for "Captain Marvel"
Ashley Michelle Marsh for "Pluribus"

The Set Decoration of Marvel's Wonder Man
Lizzie Boyle SDSA, Asst. Set Dec Nicole Riley,
Set Dec Buyer Avery Ferguson

Set Decoration for Puppets
Don Diers SDSA for "The muppets", Bethany Barton for "The Muppet Show Special", Julie Drach SDSA for "Crank Yankers"



Left to right: Rae Deslich SDSA, Michelle Hall SDSA, Lizzie Boyle SDSA, Nicole Riley Set Dec, and Avery Ferguson, Set Dec Buyer



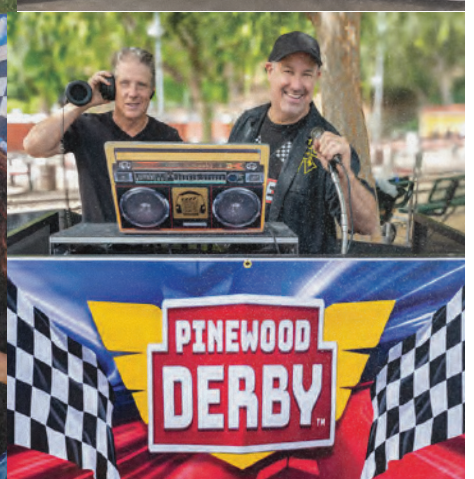
Left to right: Rae Deslich SDSA, Michelle Hall SDSA, Lauri Gaffin, and Ashley Michelle Marsh



CORNER

COMMITTEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
ATTENDED THE PROPMAKER
PINEWOOD DERBY 2026!!





IATSE Local 44
12021 Riverside Drive
North Hollywood, CA 91607



IATSE LOCAL 44 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 2026

TIME: 10:00AM - 1:00PM

CHECK-IN: 9:00AM - 9:45AM

**THIS MEETING IS IN-PERSON WITH A
HYBRID OPTION.**

AGENDA: STATE OF THE UNION

ODYSSEY

15600 ODYSSEY DR. GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344

PER LOCAL 44'S CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, MEMBERS MUST HAVE THEIR QUARTERLY OBLIGATION MET THROUGH THE 3RD QUARTER 2026 FOR ADMITTANCE. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD.