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## SF-NorCal 2014:10



**SAN FRANCISCO-NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL**

**The Official E-Newsletter of the S.F.-Northern California Local**

**October 2014**

### EMMY WINNERS

Congratulations to the 43rd Annual Northern California Area Emmy Awards winners:

Dan Ashley

Ken Bastida

William Bonilla

Elizabeth Cook

Ama Daetz

Natasha Del Toro

León Felipe González

Juliette Goodrich

Angela Greenwood

Michelle Griego

Cheryl Jennings

Mark Jones

Mark Kelly

Sasha Khokha

Fabiola Kramsky

Flavio Lacayo

Frank Mallicoat

Ryan Scott

Thuy Vu

Linda Yee

To read about veteran newsman Mark Jones' seventh Emmy win for continuing coverage, click [here](#).

### Local President's Report



I would like to take a few moments to talk about one of the ways our democratic union works. Every other year (2014 being one) on October 31, the union takes a census of members in good standing. The number of members in our local not only affects resources for our office, but determines the number of seats/votes our local has on the national board. We are currently the fourth-largest local (only L.A., N.Y. and Washington-Mid Atlantic are larger). While we have about 4,500 members, usually only about 3,600 are in good standing at the time of the census. I encourage you all to make sure your dues are current as of October 31 and ask you to pass this message on to your fellow members.

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ROBIN WILLIAMS. As audiences around the world, fellow artists and our union mourn the passing of Robin Williams, we here in the SAG-AFTRA San Francisco-Northern California Local are particularly touched and saddened by this loss. Williams was a neighbor, a friend, and a kind, generous and supportive member of our community. He loved to film here and provided numerous work opportunities for our local. So many of you met, worked and interacted with him over the years. I would like to invite you all to visit the SF-NorCal Facebook page and share your memories, anecdotes, thoughts and feelings about Williams. To post your memories, visit the [Facebook](#) page, click photos, and select the picture of Robin Williams.

And read SAG-AFTRA's [statement](#) on the loss of Robin Williams.

I wish you all peace and health.

Kathryn Howell

## San Francisco-Northern California Membership Meeting Notice

When: 6–9 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20  
New Member Orientation begins at 5 p.m.

Where: Marriott Union Square Hotel  
480 Sutter St. (between Powell and Stockton Streets)  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Agenda:

- Officer, committee and staff reports, BookPALS presentation
- Special guest Will Durst with a comedy roundup
- New TV/Theatrical Agreement summary
- Commercial contract presentations
- Surprise giveaways

Parking: Self-pay parking is available at the Sutter-Stockton Garage. Public transportation is available and encouraged.

*This meeting is only open to paid-up SAG-AFTRA members in good standing — no guests are allowed. Parents/guardians of performers under 18 years old are welcome. No RSVP necessary. SAG-AFTRA Members, please bring your membership card for admittance (paid through Oct. 31, 2014).*

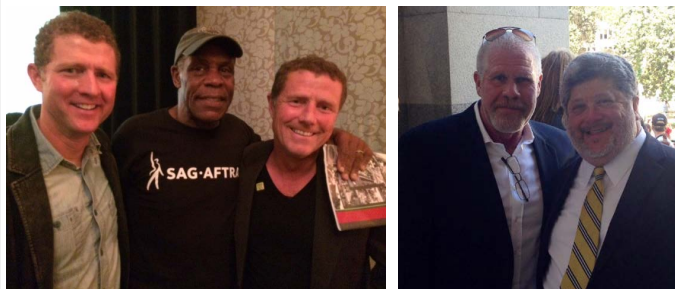
## Northern California Rallies for AB 1839

More than 600 supporters came out to the Fairmont San Francisco on June 14 in support of AB 1839, a bill to expand California's production tax incentive program.

The Meehan Brothers were the comical emcees of the rally, and Danny Glover delivered a passionate keynote speech. Four members of the California State Assembly were on hand to show support, including Bay Area Assembly members Marc Levine and Rob Bonta, AB 1839 Author Raul Bocanegra, and Ian Calderon. Hundreds of letters to Gov. Jerry Brown were signed at the rally in support of this important legislation.

Then, on Aug. 20, about 500 people went to the State Capitol to rally one final time behind AB 1839. SAG-AFTRA broadcaster George Rask was the emcee of Mobilization Day, and actor Ron Perlman was a keynote speaker.

We thank all of our local members who worked tirelessly in support of this bill, and are happy to report that Gov. Brown signed the bill into law Sept. 18, authorizing \$330 million per year for five years for the program. Kudos to all!



At left, Chris Meehan, Danny Glover and Mike Meehan at the S.F. rally. Right, Ron Perlman and George Rask in Sacramento.



SAG-AFTRA members, staff — and a pirate — at the State Capitol for Mobilization Day.

## California Film Tax Incentive – A Member's Perspective

By Ann Fields

The California Film and Television Retention and Promotion Act (Assembly Bill 1839) has been signed by California Gov. Jerry Brown. This is a good thing.

AB1839 increases funding for California's film program from \$100 million to \$330 million. It also replaces a lottery system that determines which productions receive incentives. The new system allots incentives according to the number of jobs a project would create. Plus, it would allow for more projects to qualify, including new network television series.

The increased monies and the changes will improve California's ability to compete with other states, regions and countries in bringing film and television productions into the area.

Currently, many companies come to the Bay Area, film short exterior scenes to establish location, say, the Golden Gate Bridge or Lombard Street, and then travel to a different state or country for long, extended filming — places like Canada, or Atlanta that have better incentives. Many middle-class film jobs are lost, and in addition, huge amounts of money are lost to the community. This is not a good thing for our local.

Fifty-four major films were shot in 2012 and 2013; only one was shot exclusively in California.

The California Film and Television Alliance, the hardworking SAG-AFTRA San Francisco staff, and the many committed volunteers who used sweat and elbow grease to make this thing happen deserve lots of credit. The San Francisco Fairmont Hotel rally, featuring actor Danny Glover, who flew in from Canada to speak, drew an estimated 600 people. And that was a good thing.

Another biggie was Mobilization Day, which took place on Aug. 20. Two buses of Bay Area supporters — a fun-filled caravan of laughter and good conversation, featuring raffle games with great prizes — traveled to the State Capitol in Sacramento to meet up with SAG-AFTRA members from L.A., politicians, film commissioners, stunt people, makeup artists and other supporters. Actors Carl Weathers of *Rocky*, Ron Perlman of *Sons of Anarchy* and the crew of *Pretty Little Liars* were among the many who rallied the more than 500 supporters gathered on the Capitol lawn.

The day was sunny and beautiful, indicative of the victory to come: the signing of AB 1839 by Gov. Jerry Brown.

### Broadcast Notes

**KTVU-TV** has announced that the station will be transferred to Fox Broadcasting from their current owners, Cox Media Group. This transition is expected to be completed in November of this year. We met with Cox at the end of August to discuss the effects of the sale and will be enforcing obligations that Cox has assumed under the collective bargaining agreement. SAG-AFTRA represents both on-air staff and writers at this station.

Negotiations continue at the **KSEE** and **KGPE** Nexstar-owned duopoly in Fresno. After several efficient bargaining sessions, the company made disappointingly little movement in our last session, which focused on wages. Bargaining will resume September 23 to hopefully conclude this first contract with a new employer. SAG-AFTRA represents on-air talent, directors and producers at these stations.

**KOIT/KBLX (FM)** - After a long and hard-fought battle that included KOIT members taking a campaign to social media, we are happy to announce that KOIT and KBLX have new contracts that have been approved and will go to print shortly. Kudos to everyone for their hard work and thanks to everyone who signed the petition in support of these members!

**KPIX-TV** - Contract negotiations continue at KPIX (CBS) where part-timer concerns, the new KBCW newscast and multimedia journalist issues have been discussed. Movement has been made on both sides, but MMJ matters remain at the forefront of these negotiations.

**KCBS Editors** - Negotiations will begin shortly for the KCBS editors. The unit is currently in the process of defining bargaining goals as we get close to our first session with the company.

**KRON-TV** - Negotiations on a successor agreement for the announcers/directors and writers contract continue after LIN Media announced that it will merge with current owner Media General. Economics is the largest issue still to be resolved, and federal mediation is scheduled for September 30. Additionally, the company announced plans to move out of its facilities into leased space in the KGO-TV building on Front Street in November 2014.

**KGO-TV** - Among ABC's proposals, the company is seeking to "cultivate and grow" the use of stringers, and to partner with other entities to provide original reports to the station and vice versa. We are studying these proposals and analyzing their potential impact on our members, now and in the future. Additionally, the issues of wages, H&R contributions and other provisions with economic impact are still open.

**KISQ-FM** - Negotiations began on August 12 with this Clear Channel music radio station as we seek a successor agreement as expeditiously as possible. Management indicated that the narrower the focus of the negotiations, the faster we might make progress.

Based on the company's candor, we have presented a modest list of wage and other improvements.

**Safety for broadcasters** continues to be a major concern, especially in light of three more recent robberies and attacks on news crews in the field. We are glad to report that at least one station has responded with increased security for reporting teams and we are urging other companies to do the same. Our local is following up with the Oakland Police Department on several initiatives to address security issues in that city, and we are reaching out to the San Francisco Mayor's Office and the S.F. Police Department to discuss similar initiatives.

### Safety4Media

SAG-AFTRA's News & Broadcast department has launched a new website and social media campaign focusing on the safety of its broadcast members around the globe. Started in June, Safety4Media is one part educational campaign and one part take-action campaign, and features important tips, tools and a way for broadcast members to confidentially report safety incidents. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Back in the Saddle

By Simon Perez, Assistant Professor, Syracuse University

Absence makes the heart grow fonder, but it can also make the heart (and mind) forget. I'd forgotten what a thrilling, adrenaline-pumping, challenging, varied experience being a TV reporter is. It all came back to me in June as I returned to KPIX/CBS5 to work as a fill-in reporter.

I've been away from local broadcast news since 2011, when I left KPIX to begin teaching broadcast journalism at Syracuse University. But with the gracious agreement of the management at 855 Battery Street in downtown San Francisco, I came back for two weeks in June to stay on top of the latest technology and practices and to maintain street cred with my students.

"When was the last time *you* carried a tripod and camera Professor Perez?"

"Two months ago. Next question."

My time away gave me a fresh perspective — you might say a newcomer's eye — to view and appreciate all that is done in local TV news. Here's what some of you who are still in the business might have forgotten, given you're going through the grind every day.

#### **The Thrill of the Chase**

Few industries move at the pace of local TV news. Next week, next month, next semester, next year are all suitable time frames elsewhere. Not in TV. Knowing there's a hard, immovable deadline at the end of the day forces you to make decisions about where you can go and what you can include in your story. It's always there, hanging over and influencing every move you make. If you look at that deadline as an opponent, it can be kind of fun to see who wins. Making deadline with a pretty good story is a victory you can achieve every day.

#### **The Power of Teamwork**

In teaching, the audience is the students. Professors are on their own to keep the audience engaged. In local TV, reporters have to satisfy not only the viewers, but also the rest of the team back at the station. Take a moment to consider all the people you satisfy: giving a heads-up to the Web crew about the latest details on a story, recording a tease for the producer's cold open, performing a mic check before a live shot for the folks back in electronic news gathering. Oh yeah, you've also put together an entire story, in many cases, with the help of many of those teammates, as well as the assignment desk, writers, the comrades in graphics and video editors. Really, it's one big team that puts on the show.

#### **The Variety**

Just when you think the routine of "morning meeting --> newsgathering --> editing --> live shot" gets too, well, routine, stop and think about how different every day really is. In two weeks, I learned:

- There are companies that rent sports cars to really rich people for \$13,000 a day;
- Some gay people felt excluded from Gay Pride Weekend events;
- Twitter, for all its cutting-edge genius, can still get hacked by a teenager.

Really, what other job stretches your capacity for learning like this? These are the stories you get to tell non-TV friends over dinner. How many of those friends come back with anything half as interesting?

Sure, there are a lot of frustrations to working in local TV; this isn't meant to be a Pollyanna's recitation of all that's wonderful. But I can tell you, sometimes it's good to come up for air and take a look around at what this job offers.

### **Conservatory Committee Report**

By Robert Curé



On the weekend of June 28-29, the SAG-AFTRA San Francisco-Northern California Local hosted the SAG Foundation for a weekend of intensive study for the actor and filmmaker. Rochelle Rose and Dennis Baker of the SAG Foundation co-hosted the event. There were several agent panels, branding workshops, acting workshops, cold-read workshops, scene study workshops and more.

With almost all the instructors and panel members coming from Los Angeles, there were so many informative classes to choose from — I took four. One of the most memorable was Dennis Baker's branding workshop, which taught how the actor appears to others. Sounds simple, doesn't it? It wasn't. Casting agents evaluate actors within in two minutes. Our class of 17 actors had 10 minutes to evaluate each person, but it wound up being more like 17 minutes until we got it down to 12 by the end of the nonstop, three-hour class.

This event was a huge success, and the SAG Foundation has agreed to return in 2015. I cannot emphasize enough the incredible appreciation I have to the SAG Foundation for coming up to San Francisco. The SAG Foundation is not funded by SAG. These events are at no cost to the participants, yet they are of great value to all of us. I received so much from the classes that it motivated me to donate to the SAG Foundation. Please go to the SAG Foundation website and sign up for announcements and for the Casting Access Project online program. Also, there are so many workshops and interviews available to watch online on the SAG Foundation [website](#).

Thank you to the SAG Foundation and to the incredible staff of the San Francisco Local for an invaluable experience for all who attended. I look forward to the SAG Foundation's return to San Francisco next year.

*Robert Curé is a member of the SAG-AFTRA San Francisco-Northern California Local Board, the local Conservatory Committee, the local Communications Committee and California Legislative Advisory Committee.*

### **Local Participates in LaborFest2014**

Bay Area SAG-AFTRA actors shone in the spotlight at LaborFest2014. Held every July, the annual, monthlong cultural festival honors the legacy of the 1934 San Francisco General Strike and its leader, Harry Bridges. This year's LaborFest celebrated the 80th anniversary of the historic strike.

The actors performed a staged reading of *A Christmas Carol*, directed and adapted by playwright Michael Gene Sullivan, also a SAG-AFTRA member. The event was a fundraiser for The Actors Fund.

"We are honored to be a part of LaborFest and share in San Francisco's deep labor history," said Len Egert, executive director of the San Francisco-Northern California Local. "We also appreciate the opportunity to bring awareness of The Actors Fund to the labor community and the public, and are proud to showcase our exceptional local SAG-AFTRA talent."



SAG-AFTRA actors perform a staged reading of *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by member Michael Gene Sullivan, for LaborFest 2014. From left, Sullivan, Velina Brown, Michael Ray Wisely, Lisa Hori-Garcia, Cassidy Jamahl Brown and Mark Anderson Phillips.

Held on July 28 at The Tides Theatre on San Francisco's Union Square, actors Sullivan, Velina Brown, Cassidy Jamahl Brown, Lisa Hori-Garcia, Mark Anderson Phillips and Michael Ray Wisely performed a rousing, worker-oriented version of the time-honored Christmas story. Playwright Sullivan brought Dickens' themes of labor unrest, joblessness and poverty and into the 21st century, where the Cratchit family now lives in an Occupy encampment.

The reading featured classic songs from the labor movement, including *There is Power in a Union* and *We Will Sing One Song*. Musical director Joshua Raoul Brody provided accompaniment on accordion, with Eric Lenchner on guitar, while the 80 audience members clapped and sang along to every song.

July 28 would have been Bridges' 113th birthday (he died in 1990), and the local wrapped the evening with a memorial tribute to Bridges, with cake, champagne and music.

The Bridges family attended the event and Bridges' son, Robert Bridges, spoke to the crowd saying, "My father would have loved this tonight. He traveled all over the world and saw so many people who lived in poverty. He devoted his life to helping them."

Harry Bridges' granddaughter, Marie Shell (also a SAG-AFTRA member), sang *The Ballad of Harry Bridges*, by Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. Shell spoke of her grandfather's personal connection to SAG-AFTRA, noting that as the former regional director of the CIO in the 1940s, he worked to bring SAG into the fold.

"When SAG joined the CIO, he called it a 'feather in his cap,' and was very proud of me when I got my SAG card," said Shell.

For more information about LaborFest, click [here](#).

### BookPALS Welcome a New School Year

BookPALS (Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools), a national program of the SAG Foundation, led a spirited conservatory in September. Veteran and rookie volunteers shared their love of performing, helping children and reading great books.

Performing for a young audience can be challenging and requires a performer to stretch and reconsider his or her delivery. Deborah Biron, SAG-AFTRA member and speech coach, provided preparation advice and performance techniques, including warm-ups and breathing tips. Robin Roy, national literacy director for the SAG Foundation, recommended 30 books that kids are sure to love and reminded the group to let go and experiment with voices and techniques.



Lynne Maes

Thanks to outgoing BookPALS Coordinator Lynne Maes for all of her incredible efforts and encouragement during her tenure as the San Francisco coordinator. Much love and best wishes in all you do, Lynne!

The BookPALS community left the conservatory invigorated and ready for the next year. Join the community of SAG-AFTRA giving back. Contact Stephanie Tang for volunteer opportunities at [stang@sagfoundation.org](mailto:stang@sagfoundation.org) or (510) 717-3688.



BookPALS volunteers and SAG Foundation staff at at the local union office Sept. 20.

### Two Staff Members Depart

The San Francisco-Northern California Local office bids farewell to two employees who joined us in 2012.

Receptionist and Membership Clerk **Concepcion Castillo** has left SAG-AFTRA to pursue other employment. We wish Concepcion well in her future endeavors.



At left, Concepcion Castillo. Right, Lori Shockley.

Business Representative **Lori Shockley** will be leaving the local to take a new position in Dallas within the organization. She will be working as a regional set relations representative, serving our members who work in areas where we have no local staff. We applaud her contributions to the local and wish her well in her new endeavors.



Tia Baur

The local has hired a new member services administrator, Tia Baur, to assist Marifel Fuentecilla with membership services. Tia started her employment with us on September 22. Some of you may remember Tia from her prior employment with the local as a receptionist and member services coordinator.

### Welcome to New Members & Transfers, June 1 – July 31, 2014

Sabina Bacino, Monica Bhatnagar, Jeremy Bowker, Erik Braa, Jason Corning, James Cretan, Nina Cretan, Talon Crow, Azalea Davila, Veronica De La Cruz, April Dembosky, Brett Dyste, Jonathan Grebe, Kris Jung, Jaymes Lucas, Nick Mitchell, Ray Renati, Ania Rutka, Octavio Solis, Azenith Smith, Pete Swan, Ross S. Thomas, Jacqueline Toboni.

### Contact the Local

The San Francisco-Northern California office has a new automated phone system. The entire staff now has direct lines and the receptionist position has been eliminated. For a complete listing of our current contact information, click [here](#).

### Holiday Closures

The SAG-AFTRA San Francisco-Northern California Local will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Veterans Day - Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving - half-day early closure Nov. 26 & Nov. 27-28
- Winter Holiday - Dec. 24-25
- New Year's Eve - Dec. 31

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[SAGAFTRA.org](http://www.sagaftra.org)

**Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists**

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