

RESISTANCE TO TPP GROWS IN ALL CORNERS

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



Hundreds of Teamsters were joined in the streets of Atlanta in October by other fair trade advocates sticking up for everyday Americans who could be hurt by the implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Unfortunately, the negotiators didn't take our advice.

Instead, officials from all 12 TPP countries involved in the pact came together and attempted

to declare victory for the deal. They praised all aspects of the pact, but were largely muted on what the costs would be for workers on both sides of the Pacific.

Protesters warned about the problems the Pacific Rim trade deal could bring to people around the world.

Whether it's jobs being shipped overseas and wages being driven down in the U.S., medicine prices going through the roof, unsafe food and products heading to our shores or a more toxic environment, that wasn't enough to sway TPP negotiators.

But demonstrators weren't alone in their concerns. For example, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who helped push through fast track trade authority, said the TPP in its current form raised serious concerns. Even Ford Motor Company said the agreement would only worsen an already obscenely large U.S. trade deficit and that Capitol Hill lawmakers should reject it.

In short, this is a bad deal that should be rejected by Congress. As the Teamsters have stressed as part of its new Let's Get America Working campaign, businesses must invest at home, not abroad. And elected officials need to remember who they serve. Corporations aren't people too.



MOTION PICTURE News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Thomas O'Donnell, Division Director



WINDY CITY TELEVISION WORK REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Chicago Television Shows Keep Teamsters Working Year-Round

Local 727 members are having their busiest television season ever with four network shows filming concurrently in Chicago.

More than 100 Teamsters are hard at work on Fox's ratings juggernaut "Empire" and the NBC franchise of "Chicago Fire," "Chicago PD" and "Chicago Med"—both on set at Cinespace Chicago Film Studios and on location throughout the city.

"Chicago has truly become a force to be reckoned with in the TV industry," said John Coli Jr., President of Local 727. "Our incredibly talented and hardworking labor force is unmatched, and now we have the products to show for it."

"Empire," which premiered in January and increased viewers each week of its first season, is the top-rated series on television and shows no signs of slowing down in its second season.

"Chicago Fire" is filming its fourth season,

"Chicago PD" is in its third, and "Chicago Med" is in its first full season after airing as a spinoff episode of "Chicago Fire."

USA Network's "Sirens," the original Netflix series "Sense8" and Showtime's "Shameless" also filmed in Chicago this year. Three pilots—"Runner," "Love Is A Four-Letter Word" and "Chiraq"—also were produced here.

Local 727 members work for 10 months on each 22-episode network TV show, consistently putting in 12- or 14-hour days while hauling equipment, trailers and even cast and crew between locations.

"We encourage Teamsters and their families to keep watching these locally produced programs," Coli said. "Not only are they immensely entertaining, but they also help guarantee more steady, good-paying union jobs for hundreds of workers in our city and our state."

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Teamsters Motion Picture News



LET'S GET AMERICA WORKING!

On September 2, our union launched an aggressive, forward-thinking campaign to encourage lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to work together to focus on creating good jobs in America through investment in our infrastructure.

The "Let's Get America Working" campaign outlines key areas that the Teamsters Union believes lawmakers must concentrate on to help build, maintain and repair our infrastructure. Our union must call on our representatives to advance policy decisions that create good, middle-class jobs, guarantee retirement security and expand access for everyone to the American Dream.

The middle class has fallen behind. Wages are stagnant and any growth that we have seen in the economy since 2008 has gone straight into the pockets of the richest 1 percent. We all have a vested interest in fighting for issues that strengthen the middle class. A prosperous middle class has always translated to a stronger America.

We've all seen what happens when the middle class is suffering and our economy slows down. Work that we depend on as Motion Picture and Theatrical Trades members slows down, gets delayed or canceled entirely.

The only path to restoring our infrastructure is through letting our representatives in Congress know that it is time to buckle down, put aside their differences and start working together toward a solution.



Georgia on the Mind of Film and TV Producers

From "Smokey and the Bandit" to
"The Hunger Games," Georgia Becomes
Big Player in Industry

Local 728 member Billy Gillespie has seen a lot of changes over his 35 years working film and television projects in Georgia. His first project, "Six Pack," a Kenny Rogers-Diane Lane film, introduced him to the industry that he would initially only work for 25-30 weeks a year for about a decade, picking up work on the side between projects.

However, Gillespie's work steadily increased as production in The Peach State started to attract more television and film projects. In 1988 Gillespie started working on the critically acclaimed television program "In the Heat of the Night."

"'In the Heat of the Night' was a full-time job," Gillespie said. "I was working six to seven months of the year and working in the industry exclusively."

Gillespie, who primarily drives the generator truck, said that during the 1980s there were perhaps 75 members working film and television in the entire state. That number grew to nearly 130 in the 1990s and now sits at approximately 500 Local 728 members currently working in the industry.

Growth

Georgia saw around 40 feature films and a dozen television projects last year, and the pace doesn't appear to be slowing as television shows like "The Walking Dead" and "Vampire Diaries" and major film franchises like "The Fast and the Furious" and "Insurgent" have made the state their home.

"It's been a major change for me, the increase in projects and members, but it's a good change," Gillespie said. "I used to know every person and every crew that worked in this industry. Now I go onto a set and know maybe a dozen people on a crew. There is just so much more work now."

Dwayne McClain is one of the newer Teamsters that has benefited from the increase in work. He became a Teamster in 2012 and represents the new generation of members making their way through an ever-increasingly competitive film and television industry in Georgia. Formerly an IATSE member, McClain set his sights on becoming a Teamster after enjoying working with them on set.

"I was a set dresser with IATSE, but my eyes always gravitated toward the guys on the trucks," McClain said. "I started asking questions and understanding the scope of what they do. It was really interesting to me and I wanted to work with them."

McClain is still learning the ropes, but he credits transportation captain Jon Smith, who he met while working "Antman," with taking him under his wing and mentoring him. McClain works 45 weeks a year and is currently working on the set of Clint Eastwood's movie "Sully" starring Tom Hanks.

"I like that I am doing some of the most important work that happens on the set," McClain said. "

NEW YORK CITY FILM AND TV LOCATION WORKERS FIND TEAMSTERS ARE THE RIGHT FIT



For Dan Welch, there was never any doubt in his mind about which labor union would be the best fit for New York City film and television location scouts, coordinators and assistants. Welch wanted to be a member of the Teamsters and he was going to work as hard as he could to make it a reality.

As a 15-year veteran working in New York City, Welch had always admired the strong representation his counterparts on commercial projects received from Teamsters Local 817, but due to a longstanding jurisdictional issue, film and television location workers fell under the Directors Guild of America (DGA) and the DGA did not show any interest in organizing the group.

It was only when a commercial location scout named John Spady started to mobilize film and television scouts that the location workers really believed they could have a union. Spady handpicked Welch and 11 other people from underrepresented location departments in New York City. Led by Spady, who was already a member of Local 817 for his commercial work, the 13 determined people gained enough momentum in 2013 to become what is now known as the 250-member United Location Department Workers (ULDW).

Jurisdiction Issues

However, jurisdiction issues still prevented the newly formed group from finding a union with which to affiliate. Welch and the rest of the ULDW Executive Board approached the Teamsters in 2012, but Local 817 could not move forward without violating the DGA's jurisdiction over certain location categories—something the local would not do.

"The location department workers approached us three years ago asking if we would organize them," said Local 817 Organizer Terry Casaletta. "But we couldn't move forward without resolving the jurisdictional

issue and at that time, the DGA wasn't ready to make that decision."

Meanwhile, the ULDW was getting attention from other unions and in July 2015, another union offered to represent the group.

"It was a great labor union with great activist organizers, but we always wanted to be in Local 817," Welch said. "We have always found them to be the best in the business. We work hand-in-hand with them and saw firsthand the strength of the union but we could never organize with them due to the jurisdiction issue."

With both the Teamsters and the other union now interested in representing the group, Local 817 President Tom O'Donnell pressed the DGA to make a decision on jurisdiction and let these workers have the union representation they were fighting so hard to secure.

"Tom did some great work behind the scenes," Casaletta said. "In the end, the issues were worked out and the location workers now have a real shot at gaining the representation they deserve."

Organizing Campaign

With the jurisdiction issues resolved, Local 817 moved forward with the organizing campaign. Welch, who now serves as the organizing committee head, said that he has never seen the nearly 200 workers so excited and motivated. This energy was palpable at the New York City Labor Day Parade where nearly 125 location department workers turned out to sign cards and march with Local 817.

"When Tom invited us to march with Local 817, it was a great moment for the group," Welch said. "Everyone that showed up was so excited we cheered so long and loud we lost our voices. In fact, my cheeks hurt at the end of the day from smiling so much. The reality that we are about to join one of the strongest labor unions in the country just blows my mind."