

Local 728

Weekly Digest

JANUARY 3, 2025 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 51



In The Spotlight this week!

The SUPER SOFT LAUNCH of the website was put up with high priority sections first, to make the transfer from the old site to the new one. They are now going through to ensure the functionality of the other areas. If you notice a bug, or other issue, here's where to send it:

<https://forms.gle/EapTnGAARSDRcKk8>



MPI-Summary Plan Descriptions

As of January 1, these are the changes to Your Summary Plan Descriptions that were negotiated this year.

PENSION PLAN

- No Participant will incur a Break in Service for Plan Year 2023.
- All Participants with 65 or more Credited Hours in 2023 will be credited with a Pension Plan Credited Year for 2023.

ACTIVE HEALTH PLAN

- Effective January 1, 2025, the Delta Dental PPO maximum benefit will increase to \$2,500 per calendar year.

- Effective January 1, 2025, the Delta Dental PPO benefit is updated to cover bone grafts after dental extractions when a subsequent implant is planned.
- Effective January 1, 2025, the lifetime limitation on cardiac rehabilitation treatments has been removed. The new Summary Plan Description wording is as follows:
 - A cardiac rehabilitation program consisting of up to 36 treatments is covered after a cardiac event. Additional cardiac rehabilitation program treatments may be authorized upon review by the Plan's Medical Review Department.
- Effective January 1, 2025, an examination of a medical complaint that occurs during a comprehensive physical exam may be covered when medically necessary.
- Effective January 1, 2025, the annual contact lens allowance through VSP will increase from \$175 to \$195.

RETIREE HEALTH PLAN

- Effective January 1, 2025, the Delta Dental PPO maximum benefit will increase to \$2,500 per calendar year.
- Effective January 1, 2025, the Delta Dental PPO benefit is updated to cover bone grafts after dental extractions when a subsequent implant is planned.
- For Participants not enrolled in the Medicare Advantage program, effective January 1, 2025, the lifetime limitation on cardiac rehabilitation treatments has been removed. The new Summary Plan Description wording is as follows:
 - A cardiac rehabilitation program consisting of up to 36 treatments is covered after a cardiac event. Additional cardiac rehabilitation program treatments may be authorized upon review by the Plan's Medical Review Department.
- For Participants not enrolled in the Medicare Advantage program, effective January 1, 2025, an examination of a medical complaint that occurs during a comprehensive physical exam may be covered when medically necessary.
- Effective January 1, 2025, the behavioral health and substance use disorder benefit available through Optum Behavioral Health for Participants enrolled in the non-Medicare-eligible retiree plan will allow for unlimited medically

necessary outpatient visits as well as medically necessary inpatient, residential, and partial day treatment visits.

- o Effective January 1, 2025, the annual contact lens allowance through VSP will increase from \$175 to \$195.

In unity,



Greg Reeves
Business Representative - Secretary
Lighting Technicians IATSE Local 728

Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions (EHISCA)

While we at the Local are hopeful that 2025 will bring an uptick in work for the members of the Local we are aware that this uptick might not be enough for all members to be able to maintain their MPI health insurance.

If you are in need of alternative to employer provided health insurance, please reach out to Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions at MPTF. Their staff is trained to assist members of the entertainment community navigate the complex California health insurance marketplace.

<https://ehisca.com>



Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions

In solidarity,



Martin Weeks
President
Lighting Technicians IATSE Local 728

Upcoming Skills Training Classes

In the last round of contract talks, we negotiated a stipend of \$500 for Local 728 members when they receive (and when they recertify) the ETCP Entertainment Electrician and/or the ETCP Portable Power Distribution Technician Certifications. There are a few requirements for reimbursement so please check them out at https://www.csatf.org/etcp_reimb_728/. Please note that the hours requirement has been changed from the previous calendar year to the previous twelve months.

Electricity 101 <https://iatse728.org/electricity101-01-12-25> or <https://training728.org/electricity101>

Electrical Calculations: <https://www.iatse728.org/elec-calc-01-18-25> or <https://training728.org/ElectricalCalculations>

480 Power Systems <https://iatse728.org/480V-01-26-25> or <https://training728.org/480Vpower>

Preparing for the etcp exam?

We have three upcoming classes to help

ELECTRICITY 101 **01/11/25**

<https://iatse728.org/electricity101-01-12-25>
- or -
<https://training728.org/electricity101>

No Lottery - Must be current with Safety Pass

ELECTRICAL CALCULATIONS **01/18/25**

<https://iatse728.org/elec-calc-01-18-25>
- or -
<https://training728.org/ElectricalCalculations>

No Lottery - No prerequisites

480 POWER SYSTEMS **01/26/24**

<https://iatse728.org/480V-01-26-25>
- or -
<https://training728.org/480Vpower>

Lottery on January 7 - Must be current with Safety Pass

CLASSES NOW OPEN FOR SIGNUP

Enrollment is not final until confirmed by Local 728



Soldering Lab - January 11 & 12, 2025

<https://training728.org/SolderingLab>

LOTTERY
12/28



Electricity 101 - January 11, 2025

<https://training728.org/Electricity101>

LOTTERY
12/28



Electrical Calculations - January 11, 2025

<https://training728.org/ElectricalCalculations>



Working with Assimilate Live FX and MIMIK

January 12, 2025

<https://training728.org/AssimilateLiveFXandMIMIK>



Working with Assimilate Live FX and Lighting Consoles

January 19, 2025

<https://training728.org/AssimilateLiveFXandConsoles>



Astera Certified 8-Hour Training - January 12, 2025

<https://training728.org/AsteraJan12>



Astera Certified 8-Hour Training - January 13, 2025

<https://training728.org/AsteraJan13>

MyConnex Resources & Reporting Tool

By entertainment workers for every worker, the IATSE is proud to offer Local 728 members access to the MyConnex Reporting Tool & Resources.

MyConnex is an all-in-one online tool that gives members streamlined access to reporting, resources, and education.

Explore resources, learn your rights, and access reporting procedures to choose your next steps.

[IATSE Local 728 MyConnex Access](#)

This site is for IATSE members only. The password was emailed to you on December 3. For a new password, please call the hall or email community@iatse728.org

Read the statement at the following link:

[IATSE Joins Hollywood Commission's MyConnex Misconduct Reporting Platform - IATSE](#)



What is MyConnex?

The MyConnex Resources & Reporting Tool is an all-in-one online tool, resource center, and reporting system for entertainment industry workers.

Explore resources, learn your rights, and access reporting procedures to confront harassment, bullying, and other workplace abuse.

By entertainment workers, for every worker.



IATSE Local 728 Hardship Fund

At our recent November Membership Meeting, changes to our new Local 728 Hardship Fund Loan program were announced. Now to qualify for an interest free loan of up to \$2,500.00, a member needs only to show that they have had \$9,000.00 or less in gross income from covered work in the industry in the past 90 days.

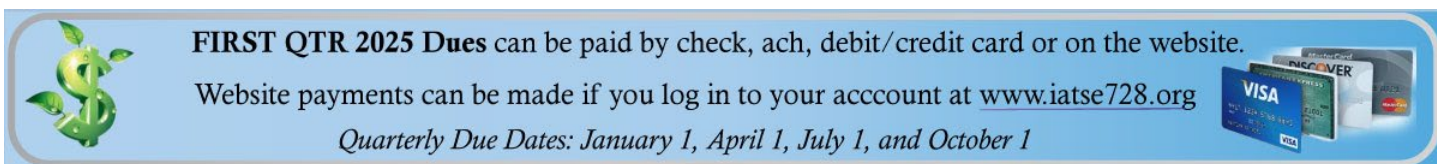
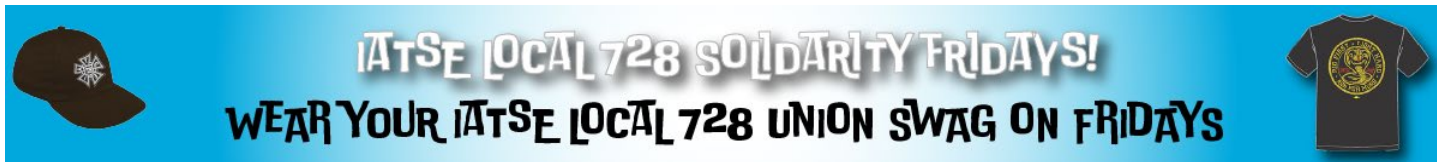
The loan is repayable within one year from the date issued. A member cannot have any other debt to the Local and may not be more than 2 quarters in arrears on their membership dues. Instructions on how to apply can be found here: <https://www.iatse728.org/blog/local-728-hardship-fund>

If you have any questions about the program or your qualifications, please call me at the Local 818-954-0728.

In solidarity,



Pascal M. Guillemard
Treasurer-Call Steward
Lighting Technicians IATSE Local 728



IATSE Local 728 Scholarship Program

Information for the 2025 IATSE Local 728 Scholarship is now available on the website. The deadline for filing all required materials with the Local 728 Office is **Friday, February 7, 2025**.

[Scholarship Programs | IATSE Local 728](#)

If you would like to contribute to the IATSE Local 728 Scholarship Fund to help educate future generations, you can mail or drop off a check at the Local 728 office. The fund is NOW a 501c3 and your donation is tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to: IATSE Local 728 Scholarship Fund

Union Resources

New Provider Alert-Alliance Wellness Care

Barriers to access for in-network psychiatrists continue to be significant; the wait time for a UCLA Behavioral Health Associates psychiatrist is several months.

Alliance Wellness Care, a new MPI in-network outpatient psychiatry practice is now available with locations in Encino, Inglewood, and the MPTF campus. Call 747-264-9202 for details.

Entertainment Community Fund-Every Artist Insured Open Enrollment

From November 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025, the Affordable Care Act will be in open enrollment period and the Entertainment Community Fund can help.

[Every Artist Insured Open Enrollment 2024-2025 | Entertainment Community Fund](#)

MPTF/ECF Insurance Services

For those who may be transitioning off MPI Health coverage, IATSE Local 700 recorded a Zoom Presentation with MPTF/ECF Insurance Services to help explain options beyond paid COBRA. Please check out this informative video.

[Zoom Presentation](#)

Mental Health Tools and Resources

If you are in need of mental health assistance, don't feel ashamed. It's natural. Please utilize some of these tools from our website or call us at the hall.

MPTF Intake Line: (323) 634-3888

[Mental Health Resources \(iatse728.org\)](http://iatse728.org)

[Mental Health Tools and Resources with Behind The Scenes | IATSE Local 728 \(iatse728.org\)](#)

IATSE Local 728 Guide to Assistance and Benefits

Information for IATSE Local 728 members, including: Unemployment/Disability Insurance, Sick Dues, Life Insurance, Honorable Withdrawal, MPI (Motion Picture Pension & Health Plans, Motion Picture & Television Fund, Assistance Information

Log-in required to view content: [Assistance | IATSE Local 728 \(iatse728.org\)](#)

IATSE PAC

IATSE PAC

The IATSE PAC is about access to politicians regardless of platform on behalf of ALL members.

While the work stoppage last year impacted you and your colleague's financial wellbeing, the fights we take on with PAC resources continue for our industry, benefiting ALL U.S. members and Local Unions whether they contribute or not. Donate today! <https://L728.co/iatsepac>

[What is the IATSE PAC? Play Video](#)



In Memoriam

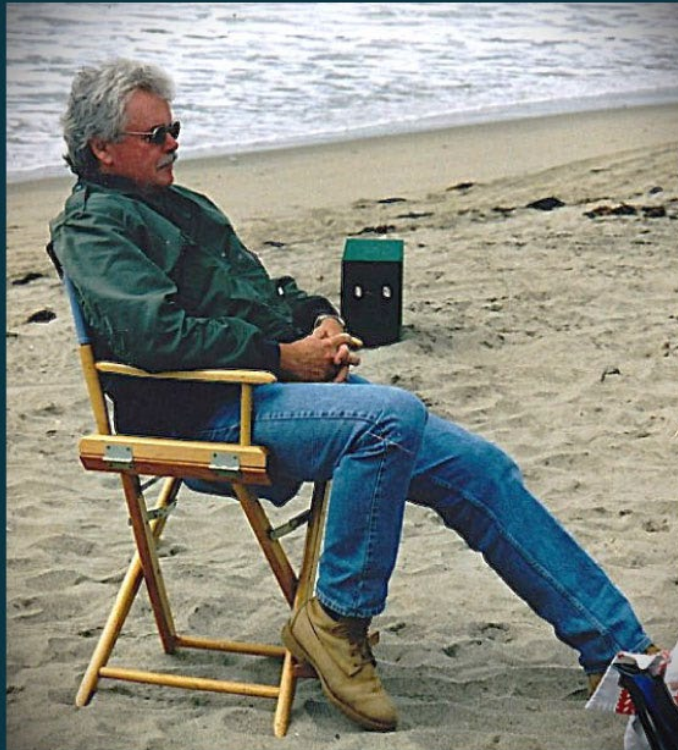
Brother Calvin “Cal” Maehl

A 29-year member of IATSE Local 728, Brother Maehl passed away on December 28, 2024.

[Notice of member passing: Brother Maehl](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Brother Calvin “Cal” Maehl



A member since September 1, 1995

Passed away on December 28, 2024

He was 78 years old

Brother Robert Grower

An 11-year member of IATSE Local 728, Brother Grower passed away on December 27, 2024.

[Notice of member passing: Brother Grower](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Brother Robert Grower



A member since January 19, 2013

Passed away on December 27, 2024

He was 45 years old