

Call to Convention

Dear Member:

Every two years, members from across all geographic regions and work categories meet to elect new leaders and assess where the union should focus its efforts. This year, the National Board has voted to once again hold a virtual convention, which will take place Oct. 21–23. While there’s no substitute for seeing each other in person, the virtual convention not only is more eco-friendly, it also allows more delegates to attend and participate without the need to travel. At the time the decision had to be finalized, there also were concerns remaining about the ongoing volatility of the pandemic.

Here’s how the convention works: In the months before convention, locals elect a contingent of delegates to represent them. Following the elections, delegates may submit resolutions about issues that are important to them — it could involve anything from contract concerns to inclusion to specifics about dues or the website.

The first order of business for delegates at the convention is to elect the executive vice president — the union’s No. 2 officer — and the seven national vice presidents who represent our various member categories, as well as geographic areas (small and mid-sized locals, Los Angeles and New York).

Once that’s done, delegates and officers weigh the pros and cons of constitutional amendments and the resolutions delegates submitted in compliance with the convention rules. There’s an opportunity for those present to speak for or against the merits of the issue before a vote is taken. Resolutions that pass are sent to



the National Board for further consideration and action.

Additionally at the convention, attendees will have the opportunity to virtually mix and mingle and visit the expo hall, where sponsors showcase services of interest to members. We also use our biennial gathering to recognize those who have worked hard for members’ interests with the George Heller Memorial

Awards as well as the American Scene Awards, which recognize producers who practice diverse casting and tell the stories of underrepresented groups.

Whether you’re new to the union or have been a member for years, I hope you will consider putting yourself forward as a delegate candidate — our union is at its strongest when the voices that shape our priorities bring a diversity of viewpoints and experiences. On the following pages are all the details on eligibility and everything else you need to know.

See you at convention!

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan".

Duncan Crabtree-Ireland
National Executive Director & Chief Negotiator