

The speech I was hoping to deliver at the All Candidates meeting, but for a work commitment was unable to deliver in person ...

In the race to elect the **Secretary-Business Agent** specifically;

I would like to thank, David Bartholomew and Margaret Mohr for joining me in this race. I would also like to give a special thank you to our incumbent Glen Gauthier, who stepped up when the Executive Board needed to appoint someone to steer the ship as Monty Montgomery moved up to our Canadian office.

What I will not tell you is that "I am the **only** candidate with the experience required to be successful in the position of Secretary-Business Agent" because that would dismiss the value, skills and experience that each of us possess and is bringing to this election race for Secretary-Business Agent.

I will not tell you that I am the "**best** candidate for the position of Secretary Business Agent" because I value and respect each of us as members and will leave that judgment for you to decide as you enter your ballot.

I will also not make the claim I am the **alternative** candidate to the incumbent for the position of Secretary-Business Agent.

What I will say to you is this ... **I am a very different candidate of choice**

So the question to be asked is, what makes me different? ...

My platform may seem short and simple ... I prefer to think of it as laser focused on the primary functions of the Secretary Business Agent ...

Priority 1... to work together with our membership over the next 18 months or so to ensure that we go to the bargaining table in the next round of negotiations with a strong unified voice and a clear message of demands to be negotiated on our behalf that will maintain, improve and strengthen the terms and conditions of our Collective Agreement.

Priority 2... to actively be on our sets throughout the term ensuring our producer's, their PM's, and our HOD's and Keys and us as members, are all working to the Collective Agreement and if not, then it's the job of the Secretary-Business Agent to help educate, inform and ensure that the contract, a bargained Collective Agreement, is understood and adhered to.

Priority 3... it is the Secretary-Business Agent's responsibility and duty to work to secure production work for our jurisdiction. To that end, I would ask if voted in to the position of Secretary-Business Agent, that I be given a mandate to set up a small satellite office or beach head in Los Angeles, to make certain that IATSE 873 has a visible presence from which to promote our 873 award winning crews and the gold standard work we here are more than qualified and capable of producing. I would ask that the membership support that I would travel to New York and Los Angeles in particular, with regularity to ensure IATSE 873 remains at the top of every studio and producer's list when scouting for filming hubs for their productions, competing head on with other jurisdictions and delivering the message that not only should they look to Toronto IATSE 873 because of their budgetary requirement to do it cheaper... but in fact they should be looking at IATSE 873 because we can make their production the award winning quality it should be.

Priority 4 ... the Secretary-Business Agent must work on behalf of every member of our union local. The Secretary-Business Agent must be willing to fight every fight necessary on behalf of each member should they face a situation that requires union representation to resolve matters with those signatory to our collective agreement, our employer' signatory or with those working under our independently negotiated contracts...

Make no mistake if you are to elect me as your Secretary-Business Agent I bring that willingness to be that fighter on your behalf, I also have the wisdom of experience and maybe the wisdom that comes with age, to know when it's a fight I need to be armed for ... or simply a persuasive conversation with an informed and well developed argument that will get the results I am looking for.

Strength of my character ... is that I am fearless when I am seeking a fair and just outcome as a solution to any problem that presents itself.

I believe anyone who has worked with me on the **Executive Board**, sat with me on **Committees** or worked with me **on the floor** will tell you ... I run my engine hot with passion ... I am a fearless warrior for fairness for justice and for holding all to account under the binding terms and conditions of our Collective Agreement and to the Constitution Oath we all swear our allegiance to.

My resume which speaks to my **prior professional experience**, from what feels like a life time ago now, is up on the website for all to review ... it reflects a 10 year period over 17 years ago now where I held the position of **Executive Producer & Partner** in a boutique production house, producing product for the federal government of Canada and several non profit organization with multi million dollar budgets, we also delivered youth at risk and disability training programs on behalf of the federal government in video and animation production. To go back even further takes me back to when I first landed at 873 in the early 1980's to train as a script supervisor under blanche and cut my teeth in the commercial world ... I left 873 behind for a bit while I worked to forge an independent career path and have a family of four boys, three of whom are working among us today.

All of my **Professional and Personal life experience** travels with me in my tool kit, but what really matters most to me and the tool that I trust the most, comes from the **17 years of experience** I have gained working along side each and every member of our film family that IATSE 873. 17 years of building my career here working together on our union floors, spending the past 3 years sitting as one of your elected **Executive Board members** and participating on **two of our union committees ... that experience as a member of this local ... is the professional experience I value the most.**

I welcome your emails, phone calls and text messages should you wish to reach out to me personally with your thoughts or questions as we begin the process of casting our ballots throughout the week ahead.

Thank you for voting!

Best of luck to each and every candidate running for the Elected Office of IATSE 873.

In Solidarity,

Arlene Halpenny-Heeley