



## MARGARET MOHR

### For BUSINESS AGENT/SECRETARY

Dear Fellow IATSE 873 Members,

I am a proud IA member and since the age of 17 have been working in various IA shops in both Canada and the U.S.

On my journey through the years, I've learned a lot from senior union members and now I'm learning from younger members with their tech savvy knowledge and new ideas. Over the years, I've seen IATSE 873 grow in numbers as the demands from production companies increase as everyone is vying for their piece of the production pie. With these changing times, the Union must change to meet these challenges. **We can no longer wait for work to come to us, I believe we must go out and seek new opportunities for our members.** We need to enlarge our base to not only include foreign productions seeking tax incentives but also Canadian film producers and companies, which may be smaller, but still offer opportunities for our expanding membership. I'm prepared to go to the advertising producers and production companies to see if a deal can be struck to have 873 regain some of that work, that we lost, as well as the music video industry, which we once serviced.

As chair of the wardrobe department for many years, I felt the members of the department were not being recognized for their talent and skills. To address this, I took ideas from working at other IA locals and created specific job categories within the department. After many discussions and debates my department was granted 10 picks and 10 key paying positions. I also went to Cheryl Batulis of the IA theatrical local asking if she would use 873 members when they needed extra people on shows. This created jobs for the wardrobe department when our work was slow. As Business

Agent, I will work in the same way, doing cold calls and getting in touch with producers I know, to try to **seek out more employment for the whole Union.**

Being a Costume Designer, every time I'm hired, I negotiate my contract with producers and executive producers. I will use that experience to get the best contracts I can, which won't be easy considering the current world financial state. **We need better hourly rates,** every contract negotiation we seem to fall further behind in wages so now we are not even close to keeping up to the rate of inflation, but I will do my best to get the best deal possible. As well we must get better, safer, and healthier working conditions. Also, I think **we need a second look at our health plan.** While it works for many it is not working for others. I have heard from members who do dailies that they call in but are not offered work, so they are not making hours. Daily crew are the backbone of this Union and are there when we need their skilled help on busy days. I believe we need to show some consideration by taking a look at the plan again.

As well as years of experience working in IA, I have academic credentials which make me an excellent candidate to be the next Business Agent. I have a joint Master's Degree in Film Communication and Culture & Broadcast and Media Management from Ryerson and York Universities. I have been a contract Professor teaching in the film department at Ryerson.

Many of you may not know me personally or work in my category, but I hope you will look at my experience, education, past accomplishments, and ideas for solidly guiding this local into the future and cast your vote for me as business agent.

**In Solidarity,**

*Margaret Mohr*