

Re-elect David Tellez for Vice President

I want to begin by thanking the membership for your strength and resilience over the last three years. The COVID-19 pandemic was the single worst event to affect the film and television industry in our Local's 60+ year history. We have come out of it bigger and stronger and now more than ever society understands the benefits of working people organizing to bargain collectively, support each other and raise our working conditions, wages and standard of living through union membership.

During the COVID-19 shutdown, the officers of Local 873 worked diligently to reopen Toronto's film industry. We engaged with government leaders, we hired workplace hygienists and industrial engineers to develop safety protocols that addressed existing health hazards and the new threat of COVID-19 in the workplace. We improved our technological capabilities to facilitate online training, union business was able to be conducted remotely and membership outreach increased substantially. These measures allowed us to send our members back to work safely until the *Return-to-Work Agreement* came into effect.

I have increased the presence of this office on set and in workshops. Attended Joint Health and Safety Committee meetings to ensure health and safety issues are addressed quickly and properly and brought the concerns of this Local to the Section 21 Film and Television Health and Safety Advisory Committee. I have shut down unsafe job sites and worked with safety reps to bring sites back up to code.

I formed Local 873's first Young Workers Committee to address the generational gap in leadership we face. Developed Local 873's Shop Steward 101 course, because a network of trained shop stewards and crew reps is the cornerstone of building a safer work environment and enforcing the Collective Agreement.

We rebuilt our Membership Services department from the ground up to properly represent our members throughout workplace investigations and support them in issues ranging from accommodation, wrongful dismissal, harassment, and discrimination. We are now a Local that grieves employers and holds them accountable to the promises they made at the bargaining table.

We have accomplished an incredible amount despite working through a pandemic and if re-elected I will continue building upon our accomplishments. This local must continue to focus on increasing our wages and addressing quality-of-life issues that have affected our members more than any other industry in North America. This business should not make us have to choose our career over a healthy family life. Our government is providing less for Canadians while the cost of living, inflation and taxes are increasing. The union, this collective of working people, has the resources and influence to develop programs that will make our lives better. The creation of a proper pension plan, a daycare subsidy program and continued improvements to our health plan will be explored. I have always listened to our members and all of your suggestions will be considered.

I am a 20-year member, worked my way up from delegate, Construction Committee member, Executive Board member, have negotiated two collective agreements and graduated from the IATSE Officers Training Institute before being elected as your Vice President. I am the only vice-presidential candidate with the training and experience to execute this position effectively and I ask for your continued support.

In Solidarity,

David Tellez Vice President vicepresident@iatse873.com