

*National*

**APPRENTICESHIP WEEK**

**APRIL 26 – MAY 2, 2026**



**Freedom 250**



WE ARE

# BETTER YOUTH

where **POTENTIAL** meets **POSSIBILITY**



Investing in foster and system-impacted youth through a holistic continuum of care and scalable apprenticeship infrastructure.



# MISSION & METHOD

At Better Youth, we **build creative confidence, bridge resource gaps, and prepare foster and system-impacted youth** for personal and professional **success.**



## Our Holistic Approach Includes:

- Digital storytelling and media arts training
- Professional skills development
- Intentional mentorship and coaching
- Wraparound social support services
- Pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship pathways

Better Youth has **three interconnected programmatic pathways** ensuring a comprehensive workforce development pipeline:



**AIM-N-Inspire  
(Pre-Apprenticeship)**

Creative career exposure, paid training, and culturally responsive mentorship.



**Real to Reel Global  
(Pre-Apprenticeship)**

Media production, project management, storytelling, and international youth collaboration.



**Registered  
Apprenticeship Program  
(RAP)**

State and Federally registered; 2,000 OJT hours + 150 RSI hours; paid placements in AME roles.



# WRAPAROUND SUPPORT

All participants receive **individualized care management**, that includes success plans addressing each youth's unique goals and challenges, including:

## Emergency Support

Real time resource support in emergencies, including food insecurity

## Transportation Assistance

Reliable options for consistent attendance of programming and apprenticeships

## Technology Support

Youth ownership of laptops, software, and internet to bridge the digital divide

## Financial Literacy

Training and skill-building around financial literacy and future planning.

## Mental Health Support

Trauma-informed care, counseling, and culturally grounded wellness support

## Housing Resource Navigation

Emergency placements, referrals to transitional housing, and long-term stability planning

# What is an Apprenticeship Program?

## Building Skills for the Future

Apprenticeships are an innovative approach to workforce development, combining paid, hands-on job training with structured academic instruction. These programs equip individuals with critical skills while aligning them with industry-specific career pathways. Participants benefit from comprehensive support and mentorship, helping them transition seamlessly into sustainable careers. Youth who participate in pre-apprenticeship programs receive early skills training preparation. For companies, apprenticeships represent a strategic way to cultivate a skilled and dedicated workforce.

### Combines On the Job Training with Education

*Apprenticeships integrate paid on-the-job training with job-related academic instruction.*

### Structured for Success

*Includes 1,080–2,000 hours of on the job training and mentorship to build expertise.*

*Includes 150 hours of job-related academic instruction.*

### Career Pathways Aligned

*Programs are tailored to specific career pathways for sustainable growth.*

### IATSE Membership Trajectories

*Aligning experiences for production assistants and interns toward local IATSE 871 union membership for assistant production coordinator and production coordinator unrostered crafts.*



# Pathways to Creative Success

Better Youth's apprenticeship program opens doors to a wide range of exciting career paths in the creative industries. From project management to game design, our tracks are designed to align with the skills and passions of young creatives. Each pathway includes tailored training and mentoring to help participants build expertise and confidence in their chosen field. These opportunities not only foster professional growth but also empower apprentices to become leaders in the creative economy.

## Registered Career Occupations Offered by Better Youth

- **Project Manager**  
Learn to oversee creative projects, manage timelines, and lead teams.
- **Game Designer**  
Design engaging video game experiences with cutting-edge tools.
- **Animation Artist**  
Master the art of storytelling through dynamic animation.
- **Multimedia Artist**  
Create visual effects and designs for multimedia platforms.
- **Digital Video Editor**  
Develop skills to craft compelling video narratives.



# REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP HAS A **PROVEN TRACK RECORD** OF PRODUCING **STRONG RESULTS** FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS

IMPRESSIVE INDIVIDUAL – EMPLOYEE –  
PUBLIC RETURN ON INVESTMENT



**44.3%** Employer return on investment in Registered Apprenticeship

**93%** Of those that complete their apprenticeship retain employment after completion.

**\$28** In benefits for every \$1 invested by the government

**\$77K**  
Completers earn per year on average

**\$300K+**  
Apprentices' lifetime earning average



# 2024 - 2025 PROGRAM IMPACT

In 2025, \$355K in Educational Stipends paid out, 50+ Laptops and Tech Devices distributed, 40 State Certificates of Completion

## 2025 Program Numbers

**15** Returning Fellows

**12** Apprentices

**10** Real to Reel Global pre-apprentices

**35** AIM-N-Inspire pre-apprentices

**34** Alumni Club members

## Alumni Job Placements

1. **J. Covington** Tatum Games & GRX Immersive
2. **C. Morris** Dreamworks, Lionsgate, Skydance
3. **D. Smith** NBC/Television Academy
4. **Y. Thomas** America's Got Talent
5. **J. Shin** Warner Bros. Discovery
6. **P. Gomez** Warner Bros Discovery
7. **S. Gonzalez** :GRX Immersive
8. **J. Salvador-Contreras** GRX Immersive
9. **D. Osorio**: Universal
10. **J. Elizondo**: Better Youth + Far West Films
11. **C. Renee**: iFoster/Better Youth
12. **F. Walton**: iFoster/BetterYouth + Far West Films
13. **I. Flye**: Skydance Media
14. **M. Ray-Burks**: iFoster/Better Youth
15. **J. Jiggetts**: SBWIB/Better Youth
16. **S. Simpson**: SBWIB/Better Youth
17. **T. Bryant**: SBWIB/Better Youth
18. **I. Milsap**: Better Youth/Da Vinci High School
19. **D. Peterson**: Better Youth
20. **M. Trinidad**: Better Youth
21. **T. Shaw**: Better Youth
22. **D. Orozco**: Better Youth
23. **K. Garcia**: Better Youth
24. **S. Oden**: Better Youth
25. **A. Garcia**: Better Youth

**CONFIDENCE. COMPETENCE. CAREER CONNECTIONS. COMMUNITY.**



TATUM GAMES





# KEY SUCCESS METRICS

## JOB, COLLEGE, OR POSTSECONDARY PURSUITS

- 70% of youth will have job placements 3-6 months post program
- 75% of youth are/will be enrolled in school

## HOUSING STABILITY

- 60% of youth report being in stable housing



## ECONOMIC STABILITY

- 85% of youth report experiencing higher economic stability
- 100% of youth receive educational stipends
- 95% of youth receive a personal laptop

## CONNECTEDNESS

- 95% of youth report feeling more connected in terms of personal and professional relationships
- 50% of youth opt to receive mentorship support
- 50% of youth report having a general sense of wellness

“

Better Youth is a life changing program.

Johna Rivers  
BY Alum &  
Co-Founder  
Real To Reel Global



”

“My kids found a program that helps them figure out what they want to do”.

Ms. Shelley, Foster/Resource Parent

“I’m learning how to make video games and I have a mentor to guide me in my process and my journey of becoming a game dev, and this has put me on the path to go to college and more.”

Jeffrey (Ree) C, AIM Gaming Intern, Fellow

## CONNECT W/US

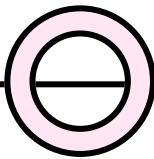


**Syd Stewart**  
**Founder / CEO**  
[sstewart@betteryouth.org](mailto:ss Stewart@betteryouth.org)

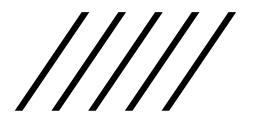
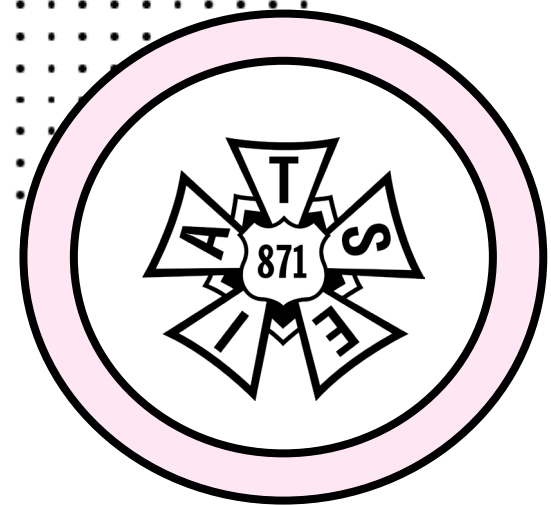
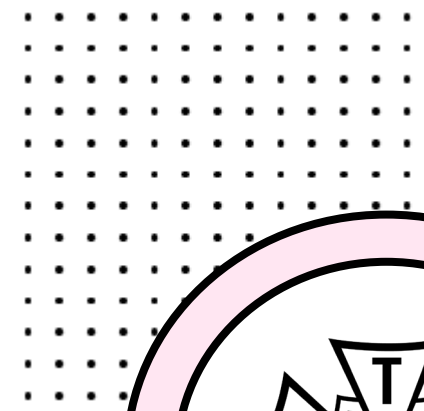
**Ivanna Jackson**  
**RAP Program Manager**  
[ijackson@betteryouth.org](mailto:ijackson@betteryouth.org)



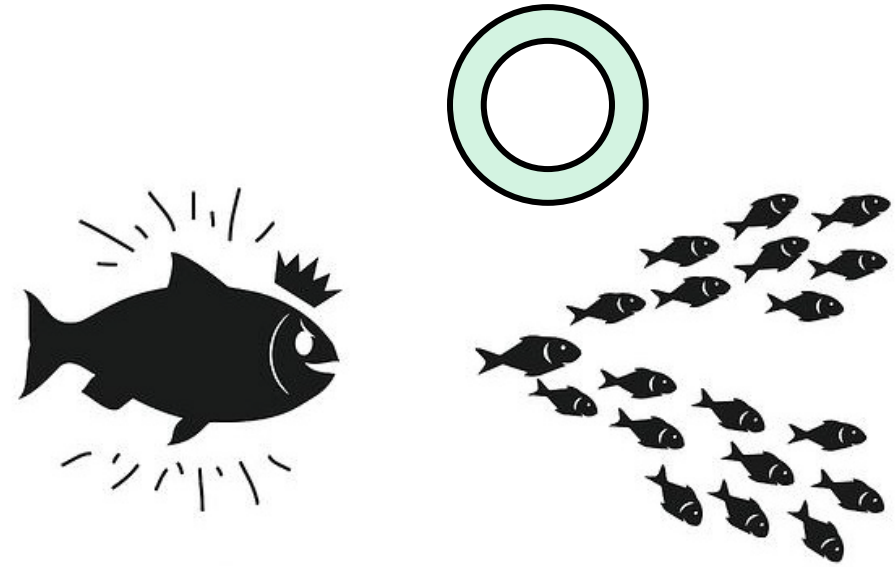
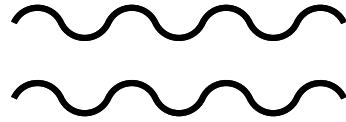
BETTER  
YOUTH x  
IATSE  
LOCAL  
871



BETTER  
YOUTH

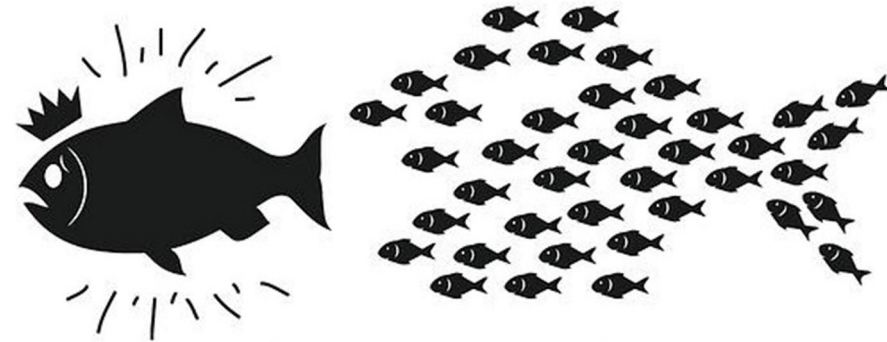
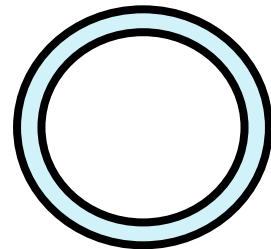


# WHAT IS A UNION?



BEFORE

A Union is a group of organized workers who join together to collectively bargain for better pay, benefits, and working conditions with their employer through collective bargaining & who stand as a unit to protect their rights.



AFTER

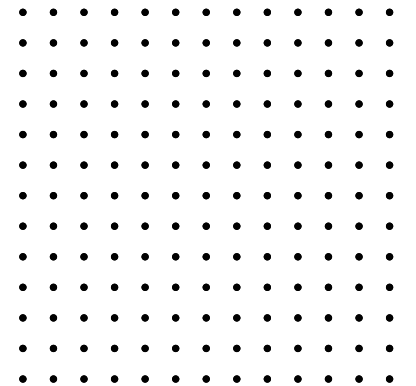


# WHAT IS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING?



A process where organized employees negotiate their contract terms with their employer.

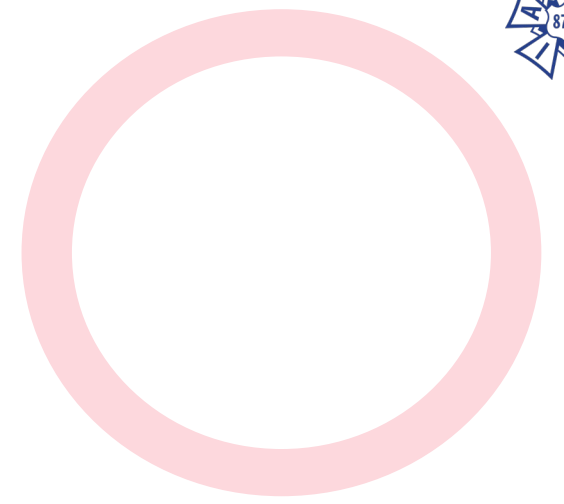
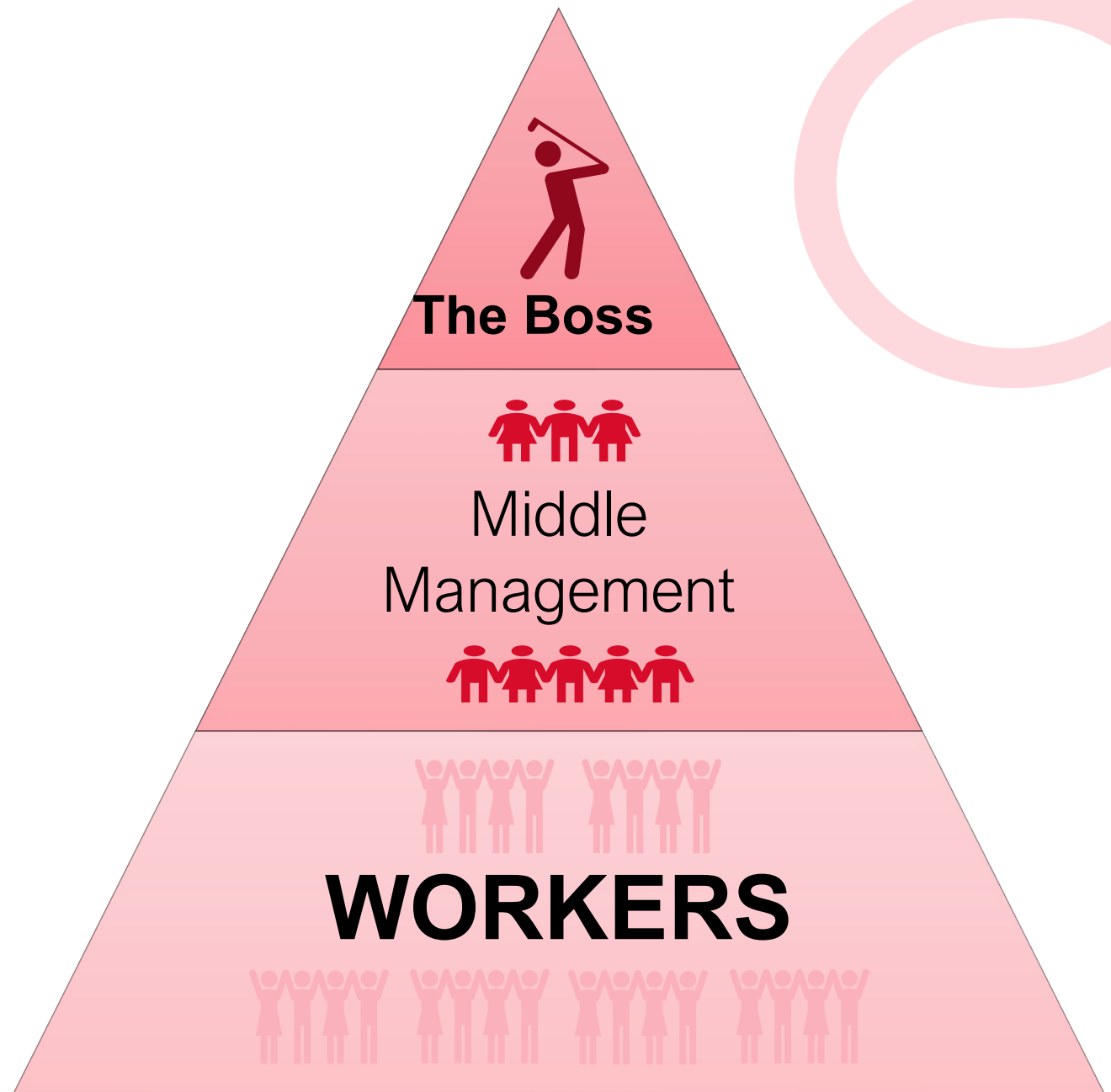
Unions equalize the power imbalance during negotiations, which often results in higher wages, better job protections, and greater benefits.



# WHY UNIONS MATTER



## THE WORKPLACE PYRAMID

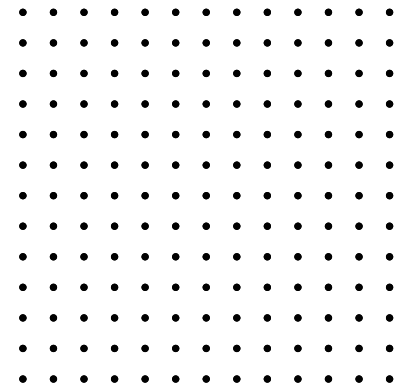
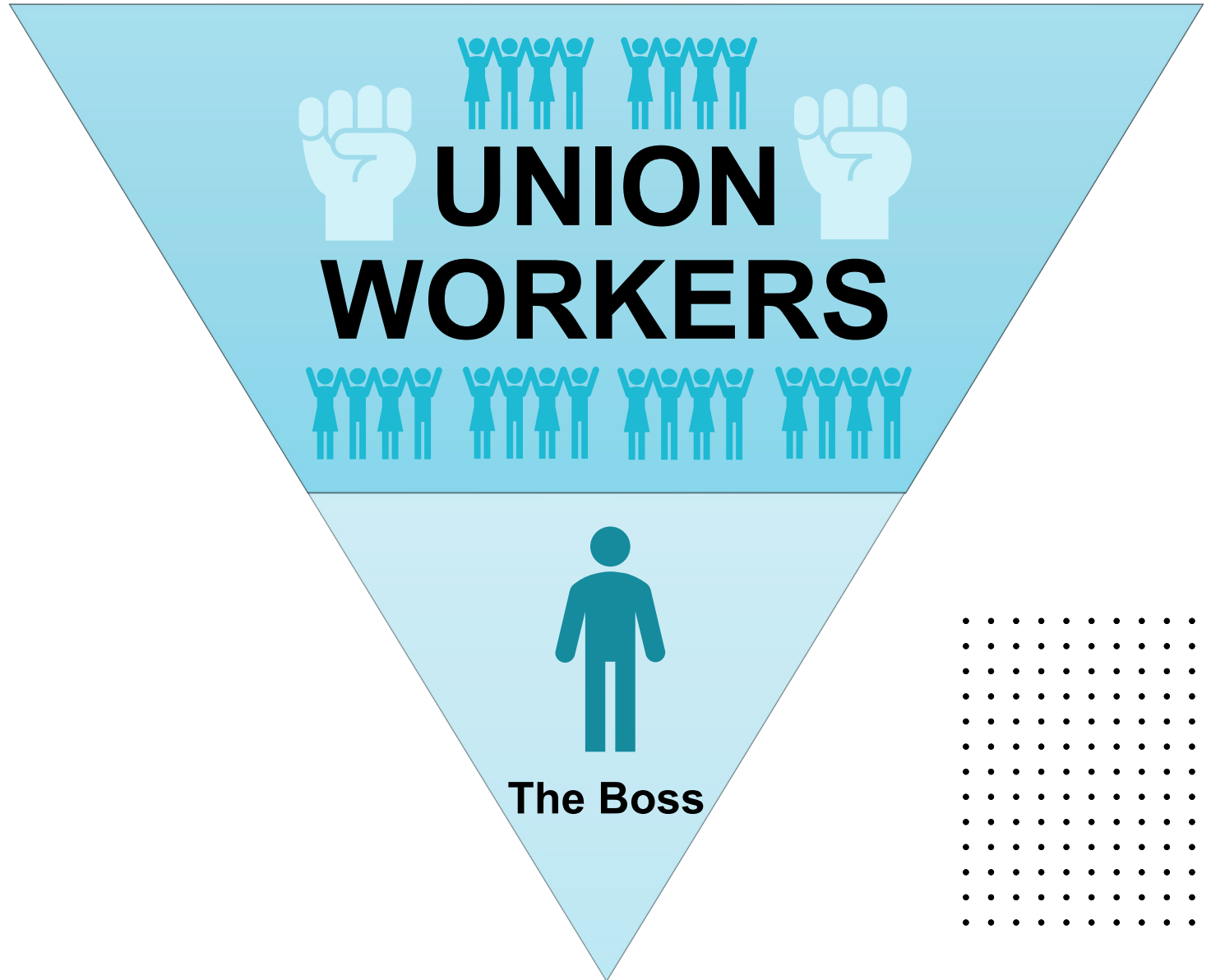




# WHY UNIONS MATTER

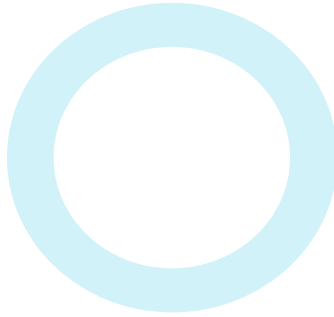


WE'RE  
STRONGER  
TOGETHER



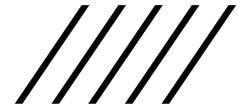


**WHO  
IS THE  
UNION?**



**YOU!**

**UNIONS ARE  
MEMBER-POWERED  
ORGANIZATIONS.**





# WHAT DO UNIONS FIGHT FOR?



WAGES

BENEFITS

WORKING CONDITIONS

JOB PROTECTIONS

VACATION & SICK TIME

SAFETY TRAINING & POLICIES

AI PROTECTIONS

& MORE!





H O L L Y W O O D I S A  
U N I O N T O W N .

THE MAGIC OF HOLLYWOOD IS  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY UNIONS.

ACTORS ARE SAG-AFTRA

WRITERS ARE WGA

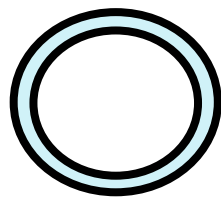
DIRECTORS ARE DGA

THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES MAGIC IS  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE IATSE,  
TEAMSTERS, IBEW, & LIUNA



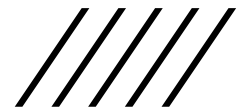
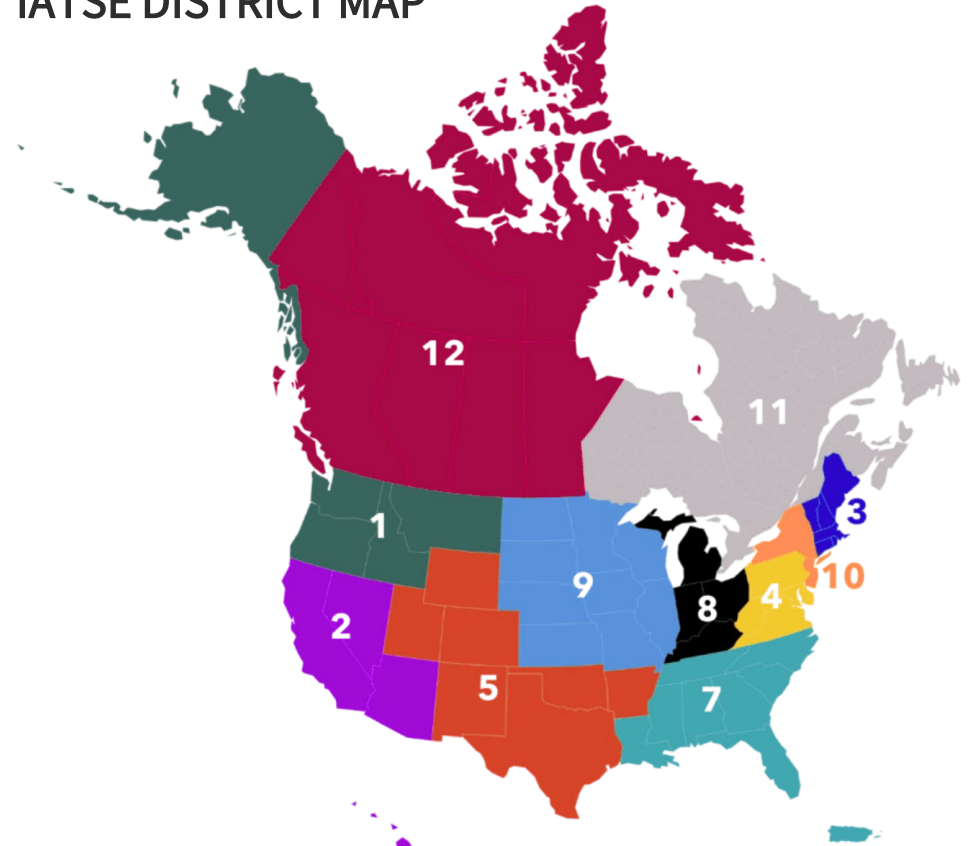


# WHO IS THE IATSE?



- The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists, and Allied Crafts was founded in 1893 in New York with a group of stagehands.
- Today, the IATSE represents workers in all forms of entertainment, including live theater, motion picture and television production, trade shows and exhibitions, television broadcasting, and concerts.
- Currently, there are 366 IATSE Local Unions, with more than 170,000 members across the U.S. and Canada.

IATSE DISTRICT MAP





WHO  
ARE THE  
HOLLYWOOD  
13?

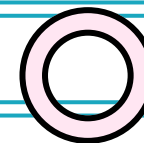
LOCAL 44: Property, Set Decorators

LOCAL 80: Grips, Medics, Craft Services

LOCAL 600: International Cinematographers Guild

LOCAL 695: Sound Technicians, TV Engineers, Studio Projectionists

LOCAL 700: Motion Picture Editors Guild



LOCAL 705: Costumers

LOCAL 706: Make-Up Artists, Hairstylists

LOCAL 728: Set Lighting

LOCAL 729: Set Painters, Sign Writers

LOCAL 800: Art Directors Guild

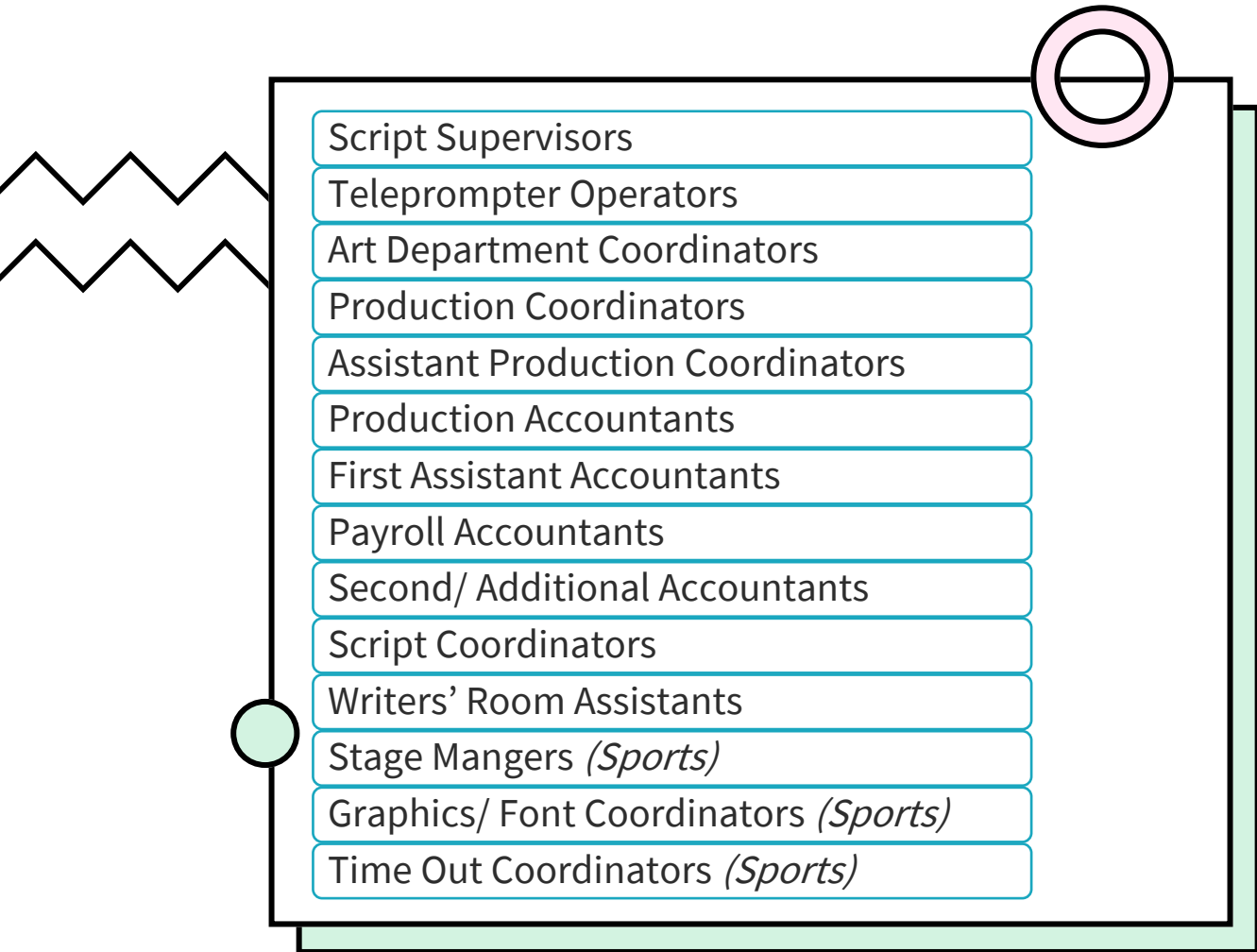
LOCAL 871: Script Supervisors & Allied Production Specialists

LOCAL 884: Studio Teachers

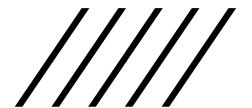


LOCAL 892: Costume Designers Guild



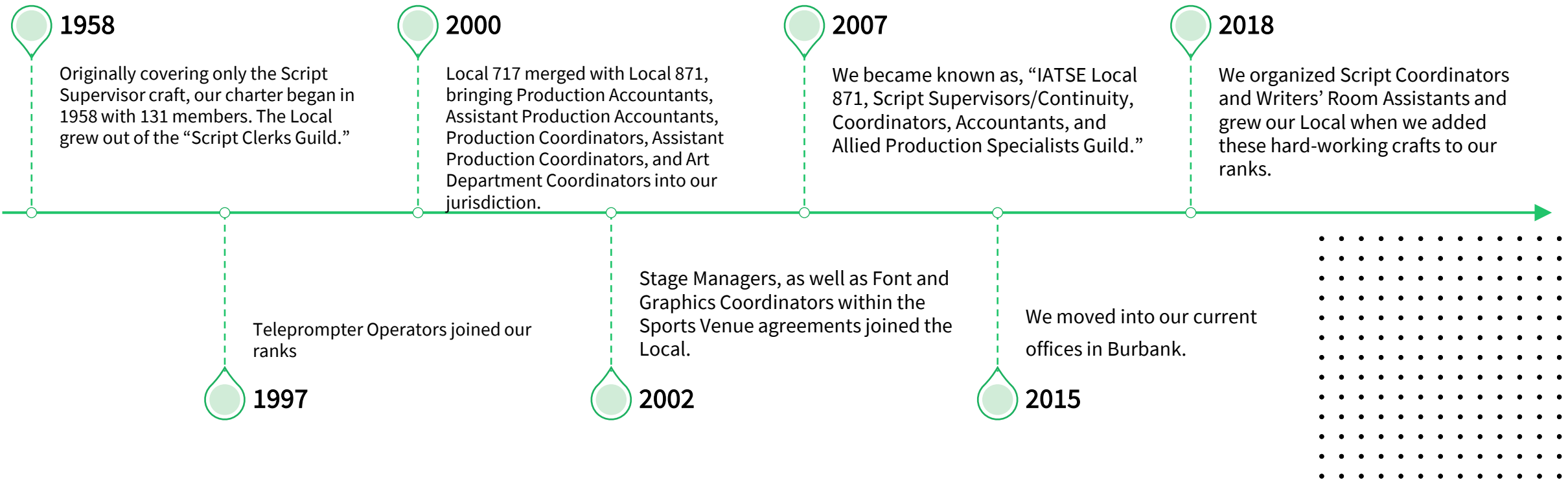
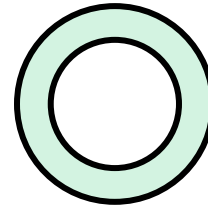


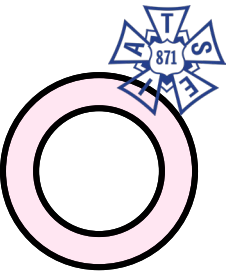
WHO IS  
IATSE  
LOCAL  
871?





# LOCAL 871 HISTORY





**WHAT WE  
FIGHT FOR  
IN OUR  
INDUSTRY**

**Rates & Raises**

**Health & Pension Plan**  
(100% Employer Covered)

**Meal Breaks & Penalties**

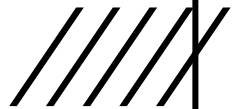
**Turnaround Time**

**On-Set Safety & Safety Training**

**AI Protections**

**Fighting Consolidation & Worker Cuts**

# THE WORK OF OUR BUSINESS REPS



NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS

CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT

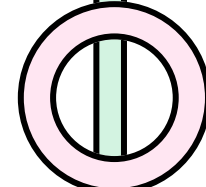
HANDLE GRIEVANCES

ORGANIZE & MOBILIZE MEMBERS

SET VISITS *(Worksite Visits)*

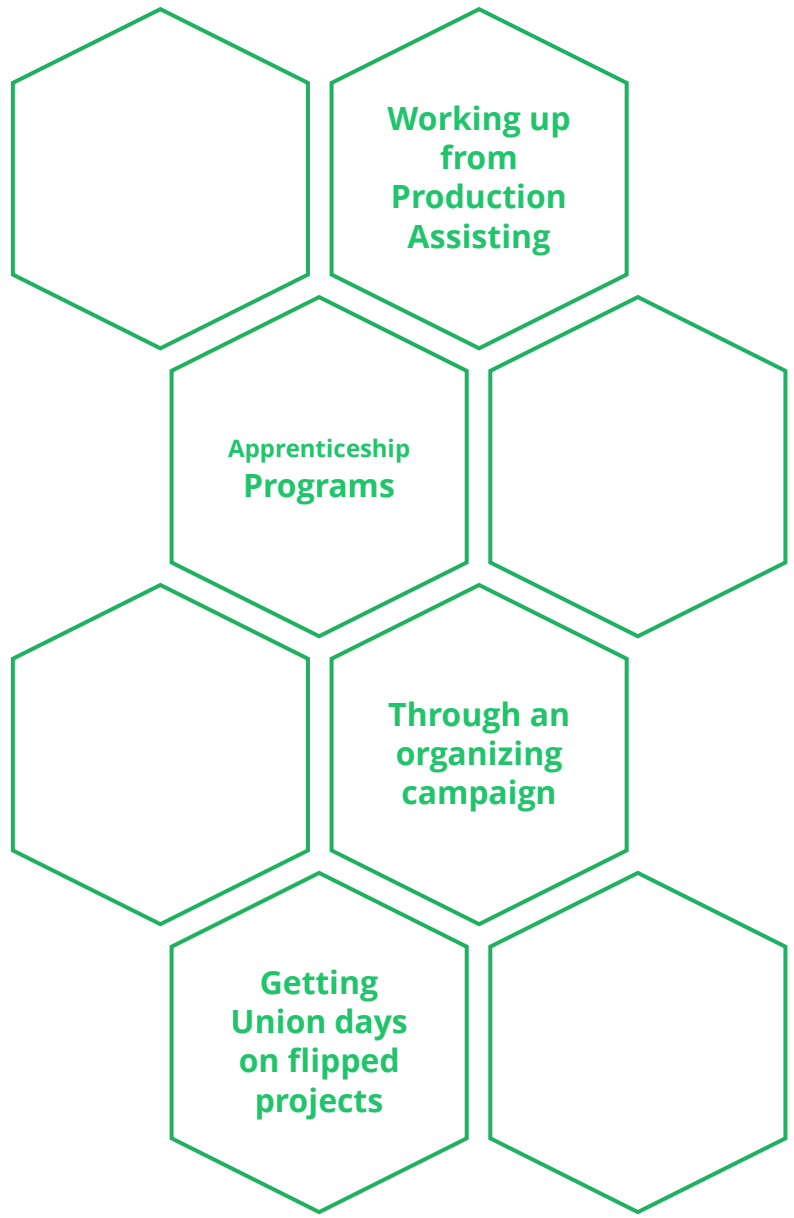
REPRESENT MEMBERS IN  
DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS  
*(Weingarten Rights)*

MEMBER SUPPORT & EDUCATION





# PATHWAYS TO MEMBERSHIP





# ROSTERED VS. NON- ROSTERED

THE INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE ROSTER



# HOW TO JOIN

## GETTING YOUR DAYS

30 Paid Union Days *(Within 1 year)*  
OR 100 Paid Non-Union Days  
*(For some Crafts - Within 2 years)*

## PAY INITIATION FEE & DUES

## ENROLL IN & COMPLETE SAFETY CLASS TRAININGS





**QUESTIONS?**