

Friday, May 1st Unemployment Update

Here are my Friday words to the wise on the unemployment front. It's a bit colorful, but hopefully helpful.

If you are still in **Severance Limbo** – please email me and include your login, password and pictures or scans of your check stubs. The EP lists I sent sort of got worked, but not all of them. If you don't have your check stubs, I do have EP reports on NCIS, Queen of the South, Sulphur Springs, and Your Honor that I can submit. Otherwise, my.castandcrew.com or my.ep.com can help you get information.

If you have come **OUT of Severance Limbo**, you may have received a letter that says they are pulling a week back. Take a look at it. If it doesn't make sense, email me. I'm now into the appeal filing stage of these letters. Most of the time they make sense. They will eventually be claiming a back week that they will offset in the future. This video and the email from Tuesday may be helpful in explaining it. <https://vimeo.com/412831752>

Are you **just filing a claim or opening a new one?** **GET IT DONE TODAY OR TOMORROW** – Email me with **I Need to File** in the subject line - we can't move the filing date backwards, but they will let you claim all of this week we have until Midnight Saturday to get your claim in so you can collect on this week - DO NOT list Severance, Vacation, Bonus, any of that, **IF THE DATE WORKED** is before the date you are making the claim. If the dates on the check say they are for pay 3/15-4/4 and you filed at any point in time after 4/4 DO NOT CLAIM Severance or anything else – even if you just received the check. We tried to get relief checks dated back in March so they don't affect filing your claim now. The DATE WORKED is the most important part, not the date issued or received.

Rebel Ridge and **Blood Relative** – I finally got an answer. Don't file weekly certifications for the weeks you get checks (late answer, I know) – **If you did already, we can fix it next week. Email me your login and password and your check stubs. I'll do your weekly next week for you.** – You will have to open a new claim the week after the work end date on your checks. Don't be afraid to ask when you should file and what you should do. We can get you funds faster if we can avoid the pitfalls. (This is really just a giant game of Donkey Kong)

Are you having a problem with **weekly certifications** not going in? Here is what they told me yesterday.

I finally learned there is a glitch in the system that's causing this to happen. Apparently while the host, Geosol, is working to trace and rectify the issue, claimants should just continue to try the weekly cert. It, apparently, eventually goes through. Please keep trying.

So keep trying to do the weekly cert. Don't click to open a new claim. It is also supposedly recording when you attempt to file a weekly. Some people have had luck making the phone call to file a weekly. That number is 1-888-783-5567

SNAP – We have received word that the original plan in Louisiana to put people on unemployment onto SNAP is no longer a part of the plan. This was considered before the Federal Government passed the CARES act and tacked the \$600 per week onto unemployment.

Other options for funds – \$\$\$\$\$

BenExtend through Aflac – Simonette sent out an email earlier today. Be sure to take a look at it. This is not counted as income against your unemployment.

The Actors Fund – its not just for actors. If you have 5 years of experience in the entertainment industry, you should look at this. The application is found on their [website](#) and if you need help documenting the 5 years of experience and your union status, we can help you pull those reports. my.castandcrew.com or my.ep.com Will also be helpful in pulling old W-2s if you need them. <https://actorsfund.org/>. These are up to \$5000 grants and are not counted as income against your unemployment. Also some great resources on their page.

Annuity Hardships – Please see the emails from Shira Landman on Wednesday morning and email her slandman@iatse478.org if you need an application to make a withdrawal from your annuity at IATSE National Benefits Fund under the various guidelines.

Stewards – have you requested your reimbursement yet? Email Simonette if you haven't – I finally cut checks yesterday for many of you. These are also not funds that count against your unemployment.

Refinancing – are you taking this time to refinance your house or other loans – email Simonette she will get you a Letter in Lieu and the information about who to reach out to at the payroll companies for reports. sberry@iatse478.org

PLEASE DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK! If there is someone in the office who can answer your question better, I'll forward your email to them. Please do not feel like you are being a burden. This is what we are here to do. **Try** to answer your questions and get things fixed. I do ask that you only send it to one email address for me, not both of them.

And if you haven't already, please visit <https://iatsecares.org/> The International has been working hard on this program and it is full of ways to help and get help. When I haven't been dealing with unemployment, I've been lucky enough to be a part of the committee helping build this. Watch for more about what you can do in our jurisdiction next week when Simonette sends out our next drive!

Emails are better than phone calls. It lets us track things better. Thank you for hanging in with us!

Dawn Arevalo
Secretary-Treasurer, IATSE Local 478
Assistant Business Agent
CFO, 478 Building Corporation, Inc.

NEW ADDRESS

511 N Hennessey St
New Orleans, LA 70119
(504)486-2192 x **203** (office)
(504)483-9961 (fax)
(985)855-5478 (cell)
darevalo@iatse478.org
sect@iatse478.org