

November 4, 2020 Notes – Stephen Leshinski, Executive Director Local (Philly) SAG AFTRA

To join SAG go to their website portal. Once joined, Steve gets notified and will reach out.

There are 25 local SAG groups that fall under the national group. Prior to productions in Philly, SAG has pre-production meetings to do negotiations for members and usually picks a day during production to be on set. They may also be on set if a production is flagged (stunts or big number of background actors). Should a SAG member have a problem on set, please wait until the next day to report your issue and do not file a grievance from set. A claim may be processed through the membership office.

SAG members include performers and media professionals in the film, TV, commercial and broadcast industry. Broadcast members are full time employees but actors are not.

SAG sets minimum terms for its members so that producers pick you for your talent and do not pick the lowest priced actor. They also set safety guidelines and negotiate residuals. They take the bargaining out of the process for members.

SAG members have an obligation to not work non-union productions (except for print, commercial and live broadcasts).

Once a Taft Hartley waiver is received, the SAG union will track you. After receiving 3, you are not allowed any more. To work any other SAG productions, you must join. However, waivers do not expire, so keep them and your pay stubs. You can always confirm your work with the SAG membership office.

SAG is only appropriate for actors who can book enough work to cover the fees.

Financial Core (FICORE) allows non union workers to work union jobs. However, they must be in good standing with the union and pay a non member fee. These actors ultimately hurt other SAG actors so it is looked down upon.

SAG benefits – better pay, work with higher level talent, pension, health insurance, residuals, conservatory program (monthly free seminars), free studio usage for self taping, on set penalty fees you are entitled to

SAG contracts have been ratified to account for streaming and other video on demand residuals. The union enforces the rules and tracks all platforms.

SAG does not do individual representation however is a resource for all actors. They do only fight for SAG members in regards to better roles and preferences. COVID protocol is enforced by SAG.