

America's Center

Here are some key labor issues in America's Center that negatively impact our Facility and our clients.

- **Shadowing** – In America's Center, shadows are required when technicians travel with a customer's production to work in our Facility. The number of local shadows varies from show to show depending on how large the local labor call is, how complicated the production is, and who is on the call from the local unions. Shadowing was the area where concessions were made by local AV labor (**IATSE #6** and **IBEW #1**) for the recent PartyLite meeting. Others shows that have had an issue with shadowing include *Arbonne International, Joyce Meyer Ministries, National Catholic Educational Association Annual Conference & Expo, Southern Baptist, American Legion, Pride Youth Group, NSCA, Promise Keepers, Seventh Day Adventist and Cotter True Value, Primerica Financial Services, and American Jail Association*. All three AV unions, **IATSE #6** and **#143**, and **IBEW #1**, are affected by this issue.
- **Stages** – The in-house crews set stages in most other Convention Centers throughout the country. In our Facility, in-house crews will set the stage in meeting rooms if there is no lighting production or entertainment involved, otherwise the **IATSE #6** stagehands will set them. When the stages are in an Exhibit Hall, the stagehands always set the stage. The Stagehands bring the stages from storage and return them as opposed to our in-house crews performing this task. This cost is passed directly to our customers. A way to minimize the cost would be to find storage on the ground floor for easy access. Shows that have voiced a complaint involving the cost of the jurisdiction local #6 has over the stages include *Association of Fundraising Professionals, Focus on Respiratory Care, Southern Baptist, New Holland, National Catholic Educational Association Annual Conference & Expo, National Parks & Recreation, Mary Kay, Monster Jam, Law Libraries, UMSL Chancellors Report*.
- **Lack of shared jurisdictions** – In meeting room scenarios especially, the client is required to hire two or more local union members from different unions, typically a projectionist and an IBEW sound tech, to perform tasks that in other venues only one person will perform. An example of this is if an IBEW sound tech was working on a project and needed help to complete a task, he would have to get another sound tech to help him even if an IATSE projectionist is already working in the room. The projectionist's reasoning is this is not his work. Shows that have voiced opposition to this arrangement include the *Association of Fundraising Professionals* who specifically stated that, "Multiple unions made things more difficult and expensive." Other shows were *Nikken, Southern Baptist, PartyLite, Shaklee Corporation Sales Meeting, Kubota, American Legion, Pride Youth Group, L'Abri Fellowship Jubilee Conference, AOCS*. All three AV unions, **IATSE #6** and **#143**, and **IBEW #1**, are affected by this issue.
- **Room Monitoring** – In America's Center when a client utilizes the meeting room complex for breakout sessions and has audio and projection, they must hire IBEW sound techs and IATSE projectionists to provide labor to set up, monitor, and dismantle the equipment. A large portion of the local labor costs are incurred during the monitoring of the breakout sessions. IBEW #1 requires one technician for every five meeting rooms monitored. IATSE #143 requires one technician for every six rooms monitored. Sometimes the number of rooms monitored by the technicians will decrease depending on whether or not the rooms are in the same area of the convention center. In these cases more local union technicians are hired. In some convention centers (McCormick Place), the in house electricians act as labor for meeting room support, thereby negating the impact of hired local union production labor. In other convention centers, there are no requirements regarding local union involvement relating to room monitoring. Past clients who have had an issue with room monitors include, *AOCS, Law Libraries, And National Athletic Trainers Association*. Only two AV unions, **IATSE #143**, and **IBEW #1**, are affected by this issue, as stagehands do not usually monitor rooms.

Plasma Screen jurisdictions – **IBEW #1** and **IATSE #143** both claim this work and at times contentious relations between the two causes confusion and difficulty for our clients. The crossover is so prevalent that our two contactors Swank and Edlen can't always agree on whose work this is. Swank, who employs IATSE #143 and Edlen who employs Local 1 labor, both examined a plasma screen with a sound system that was installed during the Red Hat Society show. Both parties stated that this system would have fallen under their respective union's jurisdictions. A previous agreement was reached where the work was going to be split up assigning all tradeshow plasmas that traveled as part of an exhibit to be installed by IBEW #1, while all plasmas brought in by the AV companies would be installed by IATSE #143. After the agreement was documented, IBEW refused to accept it. Shows that have had challenges with this issue include *Red Hat Society, State Beauty, National Athletic Trainers Association, Pow Wow, Cast Expo, Door & Hardware Institute Conference and Expo, Rockwell Automation Fair*.

- **Networking -** Currently **IBEW #1** claims the networking of computers, many clients bring their own IT personnel who have the responsibility of networking included in their duties. This jurisdiction has already been negotiated and concessions were made to soften the control the union has over this issue. Some shows that have had issues with this include *Rockwell Automation Fair and MCI*.
- **Audio Taping jurisdictions-** This jurisdiction encompasses both the actual taping as well as the duplication of the finished product. The actual taping portion of this may go away at some point as more companies are recording the sessions on computers. Until then, our clients who hire a taping company to record their sessions must hire one **IBEW #1** workers for every five recording devices. This labor cost is added to their overall budget. In McCormick Place this jurisdiction is no longer a part of their IBEW workers; the audio taping company is allowed to record, duplicate and package their work. Some shows that have had issues with this jurisdiction include *Law Libraries, Sports Medicine, Seventh Day Adventist, National Wood Flooring, Cystic Fibrosis Conference, American Society of Nephrology, Cotter True Value*.