

AFTRA Members Greet Solis



AFTRA Los Angeles President Ron Morgan (r) shares a moment with Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. Photo courtesy of L.A. County Federation of Labor

AFTRA members were among the many union members, community activists and local elected officials who welcomed newly appointed U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to Los Angeles at two events in April.

On April 24, AFTRA Los Angeles Local President Ron Morgan and other AFTRA members met Solis at a town hall meeting hosted by the Veterans Committee of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor at Los Angeles' historic Union Station.

Two days later, AFTRA National President Roberta Reardon joined Morgan, Los Angeles Local Executive Director Bill Thomas and National Director of Communications Christopher de Haan at a private reception held in Solis' honor. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Los Angeles Workforce Systems hosted the event at the Getty House.

Solis addressed the crowd of more than 100 city officials, union members and community leaders, saying, "I grew up with a dream to improve the lives of people who have always struggled. I am very honored to be the first Secretary

of Labor from Los Angeles and to come from a humble, working-class family. President Obama has given me a chance: I'm a young Latina woman and a child of working-class immigrants—my father was a shop steward and a union organizer and my mother worked on the assembly line. I'll never forget their struggles, and that's what I will bring to the table. I'm not a politician, I'm a public servant and I'm so pleased that I have an opportunity to bring fresh ideas to Washington, D.C., and put together a team that will put our economy back on track."

Agents Talk Shop in L.A.

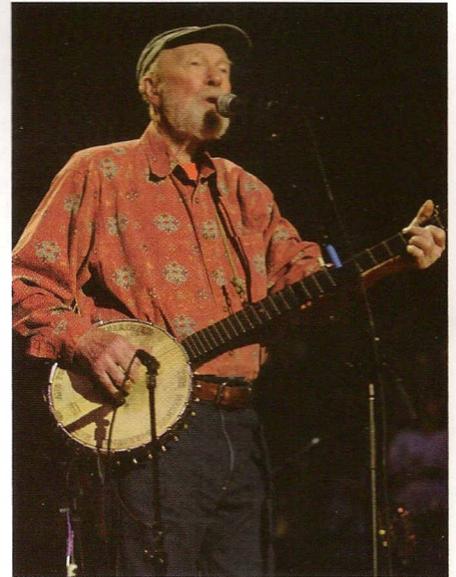
"My Agent Isn't Getting Me Out ... and Other Misconceptions" was the title of a panel AFTRA Los Angeles held on May 12.

The standing-room-only audience of AFTRA members participated in a discussion featuring agents who spoke to one of the most important relationships performers have in the industry—the one between performer and agent.

Panelists included: Angela Strange, vice president of operations/head of adult commercials for Larry Wiedemann on-Camera CESD; James J. Jones, owner/head of adult theatrical division for Premier Talent Group; Jessica Sitomer, the Green Light Coach; and Harry Gold, theatrical agent, Talentworks Inc. AFTRA member Tiwana Floyd moderated the panel.

The agents shared what their expectations were in a partnership, retention and developing clients and how to bridge the gap of communication between actors and agents to build a partnership for years to come. Floyd pitched the Member Education event because of the many concerns she heard from actor/performer colleagues who felt they could get more out of their relationship with their agent.

Seeger Celebrates 90th at MSG



Pete Seeger performs at his 90th birthday concert at Madison Square Garden in New York. Photo: Kevin Mazur, WireImage

Madison Square Garden served as the backdrop for a star-studded 90th birthday celebration for longtime AFTRA member Pete Seeger.

Seeger, who joined AFTRA in 1941, was feted by some of the biggest names in music—including AFTRA members Bruce Springsteen, Joan Baez, Arlo Guthrie, Dave Matthews and Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine. The tribute to Seeger served as a fundraiser for the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, an organization Seeger founded to preserve the Hudson River.

Among the evening's highlights: AFTRA member John Mellencamp doing a solo rendition of "If I Had a Hammer (The Hammer Song)," a rousing "We Shall Overcome," performed by Seeger, and, of course, the entire musical lineup, including Emmylou Harris, Ben Harper, Rufus Wainwright and Oscar the Grouch from the AFTRA-covered show "Sesame Street," joining onstage for Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land."