



ACTRA MARITIMES 2024 AGM

ACTRA Maritimes acknowledges we are on the traditional territory and ancestral homelands of the Mi'kmaq Nation. Our Nation to Nation relationship is founded on our collective Peace and Friendship Treaties. In this territory, "We Are All Treaty People".

MEETING NOTES

Tues Oct. 22, 2024 (6:00pm)
NSCC Ivany Campus and Live on Zoom

Member	Present	Regrets	Absent
Bradley Au (Branch Rep)	x		
Sian Morris Ross (Business Rep)	x		
Chris Cuthbertson (Nat'l Councillor, President)	x		
Koumbie (Vice-President)	x		
Kevin Gerrior (Treasurer)	x		
Gil Anderson (Secretary)	x		
Christie Carter	x		
Kathleen Dorian	x		
Liise Keeling		x	
Nancy Kenny	x		
Matthew Lumley		x	
Bob Mann		x	
Sandrella Mohanna	x		
Dale Willman	x		

	Item	Description	Responsible
1	Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:03pm ACTRA's Equality and Land Acknowledgement statements read.	Chris C.
2	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Nancy Kenny. moves to adopt agenda. Seconded: Kirstin Howell</i>	All
3	Approval of 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes	<i>Motion to approve minutes: Guido Furlani. Seconded: Dale Willman</i>	All

4	Introduction of Guests, Council Members, and Committee Chairs	Chris C. welcomes ACTRA National President Eleanor Noble and ACTRA National Executive Director Marie Kelly. He also introduces AFBS Regional Representative Martha Irving and Director of Member Services Ron Zammit, as well as the ACTRA Maritimes Executive Council and attending council members.	Chris C.
5	ACTRA National President Eleanor Noble's Address	<p>Being in person makes a difference and she is happy to join members face to face. It has been a challenging year for members as ACTRA continues to recover from past labour disruptions, including the ongoing commercial lockout by the Institute of Canadian Agencies (ICA) that affects members' ability to work on commercials, and in solidarity with the recent SAG-AFTRA strike against the AMPTP.</p> <p>She and Marie Kelly had the opportunity to visit the set of <i>From</i>, produced locally by Magic Rock Productions, whose owners, Mike Mahoney and Valerie Halman, bring a significant amount of work to the region, and describe the visit as an inspiring example of the strength of local production.</p> <p>Her goal as president has always been to unite branches across the country and she emphasizes that ACTRA Maritimes (despite being small) is just as important as other branches.</p> <p>The upcoming IPA (Independent Production Agreement) negotiations involve an expanded bargaining team to ensure regional representation. Hot topics are AI, residuals, and wage increases to match cost of living. She notes the WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes as precedent for collective action and calls on members to stand together.</p> <p>Negotiations begin on November 4. Members are encouraged to stay engaged via emails and ACTRA National social media. A strike mandate vote may be necessary if producers push back.</p> <p>She closes by saying, "United we bargain, united we win."</p>	Eleanor N.
6	ACTRA National Executive Director Marie Kelly's Address	<p>As Chief Negotiator, negotiating the IPA is the favourite part of Marie's job. Every three years ACTRA gets a seat at the table, and members from across the country contribute to shaping the agreement. Nobody wants a strike, but the best way to protect members is to show readiness to stand together if necessary. Her effectiveness depends on members supporting the bargaining team, and there may be a call for a strike mandate. Members need to stay engaged and informed.</p> <p>Current challenges include self-tapes, where extra effort does not always lead to more work, and the impact of AI, where we are already starting to see its effect on voice work, dubbing, and background roles, which requires protections. Fair compensation that keeps pace with inflation and back-end residuals are essential, noting that new business models, such as productions sold directly to streaming services without traditional distribution, can eliminate residuals. The collective agreement reflects 80 years of work by previous members, and continued advocacy to the government is essential. She concludes by stressing the strength of solidarity in numbers.</p>	Marie K.
7	Maritimes Branch Representative Bradley Au's Report	Bradley, in his first year as Branch Representative, thanks colleagues and council for helping him settle into the role. The branch has seen one of the highest levels of production activity in recent years, and membership has continued to grow, now totaling almost 900 members, with increased engagement from	Bradley A.

		<p>New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. He reviews current productions, recently completed projects, and upcoming work for the new year.</p> <p>Over the year, Bradley increased outreach by engaging with students at the Screen Arts Program at Nova Scotia Community College, making on-set visits, and attending community and industry events. He notes that council works hard on behalf of members, with recent initiatives including background training sessions, casual Café Talks, and Stunt Committee information sessions.</p> <p>As a member of the Screen Nova Scotia board, Bradley advocates for performers and emphasizes their vital role in the strength of the industry. He also notes recent changes to the ACTRA Maritimes Awards, including four <i>gender-neutral</i> awards for Outstanding Performance by an Actor and the addition of the Ensemble Award.</p> <p>Bradley looks forward to connecting with members at the upcoming holiday party.</p>	
8	Treasurer Kevin Gerrior's Finance Report	<p>Kevin Gerrior presents the audited financial report for the 2023–2024 fiscal year, noting that the branch is in good standing. Some funds received by the branch came from the national distribution of Unclaimed Money, which consists of residuals held for five years when a member cannot be located. In response to a member's question, Kevin G clarified that if a member is later found, national ensures the residuals are paid directly to them.</p> <p>Please see report for more details.</p> <p><i>Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: John Lindsay Bottom. Seconded: Hank White</i></p>	Kevin G.
9	Committee Updates	<p>Dale Willman, Training Committee chair, reports that a background performers' meeting was held on August 23 to discuss current issues and concerns. She also shares plans for an upcoming Conversation Café, which will likely be held over Zoom. This is the first event of its kind — a casual opportunity for members to connect, discuss concerns, and stay in touch with other performers. The tentative date is November 14.</p> <p>Trina Corkum, along with other members, visited the NSCC 2nd-year Screen Arts program, giving students the opportunity to work with professional actors and learn the skills of directing, blocking, and rehearsing scenes. This visit also served as a valuable outreach, helping students connect with experienced industry professionals.</p> <p>Nancy Kenny is chair of the newly formed Stand-In Committee. We are the only region with such a committee. Main issues for stand-ins include that preference of engagement be given to ACTRA members and that stand-ins have separate work requirements from background performers.</p> <p>From, Gil Anderson (chair of special events), this year's holiday party will be held on Nov 28th at Alderney Gate.</p>	Chris C.

10	AFBS Update and Q&A with Ron Zammit and Martha Irving	<p>Martha Irving serves as Governor for the Eastern Region on the AFBS Board of Governors. Her three-year term is ending, and she will be standing for re-election. Martha reads the AFBS vision statement. She notes that the pandemic and commercial lockout have been especially challenging for members. AFBS works to keep as many people insured as possible and has put measures in place to maintain sustainable coverage. The organization benefits from a great staff and board. Coverage details are reviewed and renewed every three years, incorporating member input. Mental health and treatment benefits have been added, with new benefits to be announced in March, all aimed at creating an affordable, sustainable health package.</p> <p>Ron Zammit is president and CEO of AFBS and has been steering the ship since 2020. Ron highlights seven enhancements effective March 25, 2025, including a new gender affirmation benefit, improved bronze-level medical coverage, increased benefits for wheelchair users, coverage for motorized scooters and prescription sunglasses, a change in Family Assistance Program service provider, and updates to travel medical insurance.</p> <p>Ron notes that it has been a good year for the General Fund. Over the next three years, AFBS will take measures to protect against the outcome of the National Commercial Agreement (NCA), Bill C-11, and technological advances, particularly regarding how AI may affect members' work. He closes by announcing that digital claim submissions are now available; while participation has been strong, not all members have switched over, so members are encouraged to onboard to the new system.</p>	Ron Z. & Martha I.
11	Other Business, Questions and Comments, Wrap Up	<p>Chris C. reminds members that council elections are coming up. Council positions are volunteer roles with two-year terms. If more members put their names forward than there are seats, a vote will be held; otherwise, members will be acclaimed. Members are strongly encouraged to get involved. ACTRA Maritimes represents members from Nova Scotia, PEI, and New Brunswick. A member notes that Cape Breton is often overlooked, despite having a significant number of members and ongoing productions in that region.</p> <p>Members raise frustrations around self-tapes, citing the number of pages, overly complicated instructions—such as camera setups or production-related requirements—and short turnaround times, often from Friday to Monday. Members suggest providing sufficient time during workdays rather than over weekends. Opinions on self-tapes are mixed, but there is agreement that they are now the standard for auditions. Additional concerns include uncertainty over whether self-tapes are reviewed, and examples of auditions being requested for roles already cast elsewhere.</p> <p>A member asks whether they need to provide their own wardrobe for commercial work. It is clarified that members are not required to provide wardrobe unless specifically requested as part of the audition, such as for extreme or specialized gear – then a rental fee could be provided.</p> <p>A member asks if, 'intimacy coordinating', will be part of the IPA. Marie Kelly responds: Not currently. The bargaining union scope has already been established, and intimacy coordinating is a new job classification.</p>	All

		<p>Adding it now would be premature, as members cannot legally strike over work not yet covered by the agreement.</p> <p>Late payments are also raised as a concern. Marie Kelly notes that late payments remain an ongoing issue across all regions, particularly in commercial work, and AFBS is actively working to protect members.</p> <p>Self-tapes are discussed again, including concerns about isolation and lack of feedback. Marie Kelly reiterates that members' concerns are heard and valid, and that discussions continue about accountability for casting directors regarding self-tapes.</p> <p>Dale W. reminds everyone of a Conversation Café scheduled to happen in November. Members should keep an eye out for it, as it will be a safe environment where concerns can be voiced.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to participate on boards that reflect their concerns. Make sure that you have a valid email address with the office and that we stay in touch, corresponding. Take advantage of available training sessions and other initiatives when they come up.</p>	
12	Adjournment	Adjourned by consensus at 8:23pm	All