FAQs
SAG-AFTRA DUES RELIEF PROGRAM

What dues relief is SAG-AFTRA offering members due to the COVID-19 crisis?
After exhaustively examining every possible method of supporting our members, the Executive Council unanimously approved targeted relief for SAG-AFTRA members. The May dues bills will be mailed as usual in mid-April, and those who are able to pay on time are encouraged to do so. However, late fees will be waived for this dues period, and there will be no adverse impact on members’ work eligibility throughout the May 2020 semi-annual dues period, regardless of paid-up status.

Members who request a due-date extension because of financial hardships will be allowed to pay their May dues in two equal installments (July 1 and Oct. 1). Members on the verge of termination will not be terminated during this dues period but failure to make a payment -- either on May 1st or through a deferment request in accordance with the program detailed below -- will result in termination beginning on November 1, 2020. Members can request dues deferment online in their personal member billing portal; and there will be a box you can check on your physical bill if you prefer mailing your request. You can also request deferment via phone through the SAG-AFTRA Contact Center at (855) 724-2387.

Why did it take so long for SAG-AFTRA to offer dues relief?
SAG-AFTRA’s Executive Committee acted as quickly as possible to examine all possible methods of supporting our members. Our goal, which was achieved, was to come to consensus on a relief program prior to the May dues bill mailing, which takes place mid-April.

Why is SAG-AFTRA offering deferment instead of just waiving dues altogether?
Membership dues are what keeps the union operating, allowing us to continue working on your behalf, processing residuals checks, negotiating contracts, monitoring the safety of our broadcast members and lobbying elected leaders to ensure relief bills include help for our members. While the union is sympathetic to the issues many of our members are facing, we also recognize that it is in times like these that unions are needed most.

How can I request dues deferment?
Members can request dues deferment online in their personal member billing portal; and there will be a box you can check on your physical bill if you prefer mailing your request. You can also request deferment via phone through the SAG-AFTRA Contact Center at (855) 724-2387.

Is there a deadline for making a decision about dues deferment?
Requests should be made by May 31, 2020 and it is requested that you notify SAG-AFTRA as quickly as possible if you are requesting dues deferment.

Why should I pay my dues on time if other members don’t have to?
If you are fortunate enough to be able to pay your dues in full you will be helping your fellow members who are not as fortunate. Membership dues are what keeps the union operating, allowing us to continue working on your behalf, processing residuals checks, negotiating contracts, monitoring the safety of our broadcast members and lobbying elected leaders.

Will I still be able to work if my dues are deferred?
Yes. You will be able to work.

If I elect to defer dues payment, will it affect my health and pension plan eligibility? No. Qualification for the SAG-AFTRA Health and Pension/Retirement plans are based on earnings not on dues payments.

Because of non-payment, my membership is set to expire May 1, 2020. Can this be deferred? Termination of your membership will now happen on November 1, 2020 if payment is not made before that time.

###