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And the Winner is … America’s Unsung Middle Class

With the Oscars this Sunday, Labor 411 honors the ‘below the line’ workers of the entertainment industry

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Cherri Senders is available for comment and interviews

The guide to products and services that support good jobs – Labor 411 – has shifted its attention to the most anticipated awards ceremony in the world of entertainment: the Oscars. While many of the folks taking home trophies are household names, it is the thousands of “below the line” workers that toil anonymously behind the scenes that are the heart and soul of the industry.

This industry that entertains America while paying its below the line workers good wages and benefits, thanks to their negotiated contracts, is a good role model for the rest of corporate America to follow. These good wages and benefits allow its skilled workforce to be firmly planted in the middle class. In the entertainment world, these workers include stagehands, costumers, camera crew, make-up artists, editors and more. Labor 411 is honoring these employees with their 3rd Annual Oscars Special: a quick list of products made by employers that support good jobs, inspired by the Best Picture nominees.

“The average viewer doesn’t realize that the highly skilled crews who work behind the scenes often work 14 and 16 hour days, sometimes doing very dangerous work, because of the high expectations of the industry. This is where the need for contracts that guarantee health and welfare come in,” said Cherri Senders, Founder and Publisher of Labor 411. “They make sure these employees are treated fairly, take home an honest day’s pay and go home safely to their families at night. These are conditions every employer in America should emulate.”

Labor 411 has previously called for a consumer movement that lifts all boats in op-eds published by the Sacramento Bee and the L.A. Daily News.

Founded in 2008, Labor 411’s print and online guides now include more than 8,000 listings covering hotels, restaurants, retail outlets and other businesses in three of the nation’s top consumer markets: Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, DC.

Labor 411’s recently redesigned website (www.labor411.org) allows consumers to pinpoint by neighborhood where their shopping dollars can support living-wage companies and their communities and avoid retailers that do not treat their workers well. Labor 411 also produces annual print guides in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and will be launching a Washington, D.C. edition in 2015.

For more information regarding Labor 411 or to speak with publisher Cherri Senders, please contact Robert Fulton at 818-884-8966 ext. 1110 or robert@sendersgroup.com