PERG will be sending its members a new survey in November. We invite you to participate. The upcoming survey is on theft and fraud, and no matter whether your company has encountered this problem or not, we need your perspective. The survey results will provide concrete data that helps us shine a light on this issue and gain support of all parties – insurance, manufacturers, law enforcement, and other rental companies. The greater the participation, the more meaningful the numbers.

The survey is just the starting point as PERG redoubles its efforts to address equipment theft. We initiated a discussion about equipment theft and fraud at our annual general membership meeting at NAB 2013, last April. This generated many new ideas about how the association can engage this issue and help our members. In September, PERG combined forces with the Association of Studio and Production Equipment Companies (ASPEC) in the UK to begin jointly developing a number of new initiatives to help rental companies combat theft internationally. A number of very promising possibilities are under discussion.

What will it do for you? Some very concrete benefits can come from addressing this issue proactively.

- For example, a best practices document for rental security would not only provide a valuable checklist for rental company owners, and a resource for employee training, but could also impact insurance rates.
- While rental companies need to evaluate new clients with due caution, they also don’t want to make doing business difficult. A set of simple standards combined with outreach can help increase client awareness, enabling security precautions without the perception of an unnecessary imposition on your clients.
- In the event that a suspect operation comes knocking in your town, we want to have resources available to get the word out quickly, so you are alerted.
- In the event of a theft, we’d like to be able to provide resources there as well.

We have identified a comprehensive set of initiatives we think will have real, meaningful benefits. We need your input. Please help us get this launched by participating in the survey. The results of the survey will be made available early next year.
When the PLASA Production Equipment Rental Group (PERG), and the Association of Independent Commercial Producers (AICP) invited the New York production community to come together over brats and beer, people turned out in force. More than 160 people attended our Oktoberfest event, representing 60 different companies, including about 45 New York production companies, eleven rental companies and five insurance and financial support companies. The mix was supplemented with freelance producers, production managers and directors. The party, for members and guests only, took place on October 15th at Highline Stages in Manhattan.

Matt Miller, president and CEO of the AICP, characterized the mood of the evening, saying “It’s always great to bring people together in an atmosphere that is lively and fun—the great food and the beer didn’t hurt either. But just inviting a good cross section of people with no real agenda, just the ability to talk and socialize is a great community builder.”

The idea for the party came from PERG council member Scott Taylor (Taylor & Taylor Associates). As he sees it, “The number one reason people join trade associations is to network with others, yet the hardest thing for a trade association is to get their members clients to attend their events. Oktoberfest was a huge success on both fronts. The AICP production companies attended the event in large numbers and the PERG rental houses were able to spend an evening with their valued clients in a social setting.”

New York’s film community is unique in that companies are close in proximity and the shared experience of New Yorkers has a uniting influence. Keith Gulinar, president and CEO of Wits Ends Group, expressed the sense of camaraderie. “It was just wonderful to see old friends, meet new friends and put faces together with voices that you speak with on a regular basis. The Oktoberfest event shows how local NY production companies and vendors are committed to the New York film, television, photo and production industry. The overwhelming attendance was just perfect to show that NY cares.”

Many of the people attending the event had worked together a great deal, and yet had never met. Brigitte Wehner (ARRI CSC) told us “I knew half the people who attended the event, but have never met the majority of them before. It’s so valuable to finally meet in person and put a face to a name.”

This was the first time that PERG and AICP have held a joint event that was purely social. Over the past two years the two associations have held joint meetings and worked together on joint committees in order to address business issues. Two years ago PERG initiated the process when it invited AICP companies in Los Angeles to engage in a frank discussion with rental houses at our PERG event at Cine Gear 2012. That meeting led to the formation of a joint committee to create a sample terms and conditions document – the AICP/PLASA
Upgraded Job Board

Check out PLASA’s new and improved job board. Now with resume search, online self-service to manage your job postings, and a resume agent to notify you of new candidates with the qualifications you are looking for. Job seekers are able to upload their resumes at no cost.

Members receive one free job posting on the new job board. Additionally, members receive 25% off subsequent purchases using your member discount code.

Contact kacey.coffin@plasa.org to receive your discount code.

Revised Terms and Conditions

The AICP/PLASA terms and conditions underwent a small revision this year. The revised document is now available on the PLASA PERG website and on the AICP website. The revision came after suggestions for improvements to the document were made. The joint AICP/PREG Terms and Conditions committee reviewed the proposed changes and came to agreement. Going forward the committee has agreed to review the document annually. The committee will hold any submitted changes until the next scheduled review.

http://na.plasa.org/perg/aicp-perg_terms.htm