

A Note from Your Executive Director, Sean Cooley

New rules, new plans and a new Freelance Advisory Committee are all part of the PHBP in 2019.

Thank you for spending some time with “We’ve Got You Covered,” the Producers’ Health Benefits Plan newsletter. With the new year came significant changes to the PHBP, and while the changes ensure the continued financial health of the Plan and its ability to continue the mission of providing premium-free health care to all eligible freelance production professionals, we understand that change is not always easy.



I’ve spoken with many freelancers about the changes instituted in January, most notably the introduction of a tiered system of benefits based on a Freelancer’s PHBP reported income. I’ve heard some great things about the out-of-pocket savings the new HMO offers. In fact, 74 percent of Tier 2 participants did not exercise their option to buy up to the Premiere PPO.

But to be fair, I’ve also gotten my share of negative feedback. I encourage anyone experiencing difficulty to reach out to the Plan’s administrator at staff@phbpbenefits.org so we can offer assistance. We can also enlist our team at Anthem Blue Cross to help you troubleshoot any issues you may be facing, including difficulty finding a PCP or navigating the Continuation of Care process for any preexisting course of treatment started with a former PPO provider. Please let us help you with this new system. It’s what we’re here for.

I urge you *all* to share your experiences with the Plan, both positive and negative. The more feedback we have from you, the better our ability to address your concerns and make adjustments upon future renewals. Please send us your feedback via the ‘contact’ form on PHBP.org website

[here](#).

I’ve also heard a call for greater inclusion of the Freelance community in the decision-making process. To that end, I’ll be working with the Plan’s Freelance representatives of the Board of Trustees to establish a Freelance Advisory Committee. This body will be a sounding board for significant plan changes or amendments under consideration, as well as a forum for greater input from the freelance community of the PHBP. **If you’re interested in participating, please email JohnS@phbp.org and we’ll be in touch.**

On the employer side, the Plan has adapted to some new rules from the US Department of Labor regarding participation in Association Health Plans. While access to the PHBP continues to be available only to AICP members, the new rules allow us to offer benefits to certain eligible AICP Associate Members as well; they’re proud partners to the entire commercial production industry. As a result, we’re excited to welcome 21 newly-eligible AICP Associate Members to the Plan. I’d also like to welcome the 16 new General Member production and post production companies that joined the Plan in January. I encourage everyone to spread the word to your production supply, camera rental and other vendors who may be able to take advantage of our group rates and become part of the PHBP. Anyone interested in more information should email me at seanc@phbp.org.

Along with changes to the Plan’s design and options comes changes to the Plan’s leadership team. I’m very pleased to welcome Andrew Colón to the Board of Trustees. A former freelance production manager extraordinaire and current Chief Operating Officer at SMUGGLER, Andrew is a long-time friend, co-worker, advisor and mensch. His experience in the trenches of production as a freelancer and in the upper management of a large production company, along with his role as President of AICP’s West Chapter and serving on its National Board of Directors, gives him a unique and valued perspective. Get to know Andrew better in the conversation he had with “We’ve Got You Covered” later in this edition.

Sadly, not all the changes to the Plan’s leadership team were welcomed. It’s with a great sense of loss that we mourn the passing of Jeff Miles, the Plan’s Insurance broker and consultant. Jeff has been with the Plan since 2013 and has been instrumental in our growth. In the months since I joined as Executive Director, Jeff was a mentor, friend and trusted advisor. I’m sure all of you who had the pleasure of working with Jeff will join me in offering our condolences to his loved ones. He’ll be truly missed.

I wish you all a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous 2019.

Many Thanks,

Sean Cooley
Executive Director

Meet PHBP Trustee Andrew Colón of SMUGGLER

A 15-year veteran of the freelance ranks, he brings a broad perspective to his role on the board.

In addition to electing new Freelance Trustees in 2018, the PHBP Board also voted to add an additional employer trustee to the group. That designation went to someone uniquely suited for the role: Andrew Colón, Chief Operating Officer at SMUGGLER.



Andrew has been at SMUGGLER for over six years, but spent 15 years in the freelance ranks before that. A Bronx native, he moved out to L.A. without any idea that he'd end up in production, but a friend of a friend was a coordinator and she got him a job, starting at the bottom of the ladder.

From there he moved up to production coordinator and production supervisor before being hired at SMUGGLER – for whom he'd freelanced many times – as their Head of Production back in 2012. He was named Chief Operating Officer in 2016, but also still acts as HoP.

So why join the PHBP Board? "SMUGGLER was an early and large contributor to the Plan," Andrew explains, "and I wanted to be a part of it. I understand the point of view of both the freelance members as well as the employers, so I reached out to Sean Cooley and told him of my interest."

Being a production person at heart, it's no surprise that Andrew felt being on the trustee board would help him influence PHBP's policies and direction, particularly at a time of change in the health insurance marketplace. "I'm a solution-based person," he says. "I'd rather be part of a solution to a problem; otherwise it's less credible to be dissatisfied with the way things are. I like to get in there and get to the bottom of things."

This approach defines his overall level of commitment to the production industry. In addition to his time spent on PHBP matters, he also serves as President of the West Chapter of AICP and is the chapter representative to its National Board as well.

A compulsive volunteer, he's asked? "No," he says with a laugh. "I'm lucky enough to work for a company that encourages my participation with the production community. I love what we do in this business, and I do what I can to make sure our industry, and our Plan, stays healthy."

Membership Expands as PHBP Coverage Reaches Thousands

As we welcome our new subscribers, here's a full list of participating PHBP employers for 2019.



PHBP has started off the year with a growing list of subscribing employers, reports Executive Director Sean Cooley. The list of employers has grown based on the influx of post production companies after the merger with AICE a year ago and with a change in the regulations governing associations such as AICP and its membership rolls.

Many new employers come from the post production ranks, a list that includes shops like Big Sky Editorial in New York. "When we compared it to our present plan, PHBP provided us with more value, efficiency, and options," says Big Sky Owner and Editor Chris Franklin.

In addition, Associate Members of AICP are now eligible to join PHBP, provided they meet certain criteria regarding overall revenue (two-thirds of which needs to be derived from servicing commercial producers).

"PHBP is providing coverage to a wide range of people employed in the making of advertising content," says Sean. The total number of individuals whose health care needs are covered by PHBP now exceeds 4,100. Of this community, 1,559 are freelancers and an additional 567 are their dependents. Staff employees covered by PHBP number 1,160, with 823 additional dependents.

Here's a list of PHBP Participating employers. The Plan and its Trustees want to thank these companies for stepping up and providing coverage for their freelance employees (and for many, their staff employees as well!).

A Common Thread

A Jumping Girl Productions

A WHITELABEL Product

Adolescent Content

AICP

Alldayeveryday

Andrew Hall Management

Anonymous Content
Artery Industries
Arts & Sciences Department
Assassin Entertainment
Avalon Films
B-Reel
Backyard Productions
BAM Studios
Believe Media
Belladonna Productions
Big Sky Editorial
Biscuit Filmworks
Boardalicious
Bob Industries
Brand New School
brother
Bullit
Cannonball
Cap Gun Collective
Capitol Art Creative
Carbo Films
Carolyn's Commercial Representation
Carousel Collective
Cathi Connor
Cause and Effect
Caviar
Chelsea Pictures
Chromista
Cinelicious
CMS Production
Colonie Media
Community Films
Compulsive Pictures
Cut + Run
Dektor
Dina Mande Studios
Division7

Double-wide
Dummy Films
Durable Goods
EAJ Productions
Elma Garcia Films
Epoch Films
Eye Candy Edit
Famous Frames
Fancy Content
Farm League
Farmuse
Firefly Creative Entertainment Group
Fixer
Framestore
Free Market Films
Froomer Pictures
Furlined
Gartner
Gentleman Scholar Studios
George Media
Gifted Youth
Giraldi Productions
GO Film
Grand Large
Great Bowery
Harvest
HB Collective
Hey Baby Films
Hey Wonderful
hi, Inc.
Holmes Defender of the Faith
Hotspots Production
Hound
Hudson Editorial
Humble
Hungry Man
Hype, Repetition, & Overkill

Iconoclast
Identity Media
Imperial Woodpecker
Independent Media
Interrogate
J. Giles & Co.
Joinery Inc.
Juliusson + Ratcliffe
K Films
kaboom Productions
Knucklehead Films
Konk Films
Launch Pad Films
LightSwitch
Little Minx
Liz Lewis Casting Partners
Looking Glass Films
Lookout Entertainment
Lucky 21
Lucky Post
Luke Content
M S S N G P E C E S
Mekka Media
Mellow Media
Merman USA
Method Labs
Michael Schrom + Co.
Miller + Miller
Minerva Sales and Marketing
Mirror Films
MJ Enterprise Business Consultants
MJZ
Modop Films
Monaghan Talent Rangers
Moxie Pictures
Mr. Bartlett
Native Content

NEED Financial Services
Nine Mile Circle
NO6
NomadFC
Nonfiction Unlimited
Nunchaku
O Positive
Oil Factory
Old Harbor Productions
One at Optimus
Overt Operations
Pacific Rim Films
Palmer Productions
Park Pictures
Partizan Entertainment
Pecubu
Piro
Ponyshow Entertainment
Prettybird
Protean Image Group Commercials, P.I.G.
Psyop Productions
Pulse Commercials
PurposeLab
PYTKA
Radiant Pictures
radical media
Rascal Films
Rattline Stick
Raucous Content
Recess Films
[REDACTED] Content
Renee & Melissa
Representation Co.
Republic Content
Reset Content
Rival School Pictures
Rocket Film

Rogue Representation
Room Two
Roxanne & Co.
RSA Films
Ruffian Co.
Safeword Creative
Sage Ideas
Sanctuary Content
Saville Productions
Science + Fiction Holdings
Sedna Films
Seeker Productions
Serial Pictures
Shoot Collective
Sibling Rivalry Films
Skunk Partners
Slim Pictures
Smartypants Pictures
Smith and Jones
Smooth World Films
SMUGGLER
Somesuch
Somoroff LLC
Spears and Arrows
Spit'tin Image
Splendid & Co.
Station Film
Stink Films / Stink USA / Stink LLC
STORY
Stun Creative
Sugar Film Productions
Superprime
Supply + Demand
Synergy Films
Taste In Motion
The Artists Company
The Corner Shop

The Department
The Devil You Know
The Directors Bureau
The Now Corporation
The Reserve Creative Group
The Sweet Shop USA
The Traveling Picture Show Company
The Underground
Th30ty Films
Thomas Thomas Films
Tony Kaye Collaborations
Tool of North America
Traveler Films
TwoPoint0
Unit9 Films
Untitled
Vertical
Victor House Films
WAVE Films
WAX
Ways & Means Global
Wild Hair Films
Wits End
Wondros
Woodshop Studios
Xenon Marketing
Yard Dog TV

New Mobile Healthcare App Debuts

Track benefits and more from your phone or mobile device.



Working in concert with Anthem Blue Cross, PHBP has teamed with Mobile Health to roll out a new mobile app designed specifically for PHBP members.

Mobile Health is a cloud-based digital platform that helps PHBP's covered freelancers and staff employees to manage not only their healthcare insurance account, but also provides health and wellbeing tools designed to promote a generally healthy lifestyle.

The app, which launched February 1, is available on both the App Store and Google Play and covers wellness information and benefit data. It can be used to generate digital plan ID cards, to check claim status or HSA account balances, to locate in-network doctors or nearby urgent care facilities, track deductible and out of pocket spending and research co-pay and co-insurance details specific to your Plan.

"This is a really great app that gives you access to everything you want to know about your health insurance, and more. It allows you to store important health records and can send you a personal notice, like reminding you of an annual exam. It has a digital version of your ID card and links to Met Life, our provider of vision and disability insurance, for those covered with those benefits. I encourage everyone to take advantage of it, and to take its Health Assessment to maximize the experience."