

To all CATE 2024 attendees:

It has come to our attention that convention attendees have been receiving numerous emails, voicemail messages, and phone calls informing them of a hotel strike in Los Angeles, which began in June, 2023.

While it is true that the Hyatt LAX, our CATE 2024 convention hotel, is currently involved in arbitration proceedings, **hotel stakeholders have recently reached a tentative agreement (TA) and are awaiting union response.** As such, we do not anticipate aforementioned warnings regarding understaffing, spontaneous walkouts, or other hotel service disruptions to come to fruition. Parties at the Hyatt LAX are close to reaching a resolution, and 24 of the 28 original striking properties have reached consensus already. We have every assurance that the Hyatt LAX team is doing their best to resolve their concerns in a way that is mutually professional and productive, at no loss of service to our convention attendees.

As an organization led by and nourished by teachers, we recognize the optics of hosting a convention at a hotel that remains in ongoing professional conversations. We stand in solidarity with hotel workers and applaud their thoughtful and conscientious efforts to reach their goals. That said, an all-out boycott of the hotel is not reasonable, as it would render CATE financially insolvent (cancellations come with hefty fees to the tune of several hundred thousand dollars, which CATE, as a nonprofit organization, cannot shoulder). Practical and logistical concerns would also make relocation and postponement impossible, as we arrange contracts with convention hotels 3-5 years in advance and our sites are securely contracted until at least 2027. Alternate accommodations simply are not available at this time.

We thank you for your consideration of these matters, wish every success to the Hyatt LAX as their negotiations reach an end, and we trust that you plan to attend CATE 2024 with confidence, clarity, and excitement. We have many “gems” to uncover with you!

For your reference, we have attached the current, *official* position on these matters from the Hyatt LAX. Please feel free to share that document and this response with any interested parties, including administration at your school site.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cateconventioncoordinator@gmail.com.

With literacy and justice for all,

Annie Gervais and Jennifer Silver, Convention Coordinators
California Association of Teachers of English

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Six Southern California Hotels Managed by Aimbridge Hospitality Sign New Proposal with UNITE HERE Local 11

Memoranda of agreement includes non-tipped wage increases and continued health care and retirement contributions

PLANO, Texas, Jan. 11, 2024 — Aimbridge Hospitality, a leading, global hospitality management company and the world's largest third-party hotel operator, today announced that six union hotels operated by the company in Southern California—five in Los Angeles County and one in Anaheim—have signed a new proposal with UNITE HERE Local 11, joining two hotels that signed in 2023. The memoranda of agreement includes non-tipped wage increases of up to \$10 per hour, as well as continued contributions to health care and retirement, and goes through Jan. 15, 2028.

Properties signing the proposal this week include:

- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Los Angeles Downtown
- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Pedro - Port of Los Angeles
- Hilton Pasadena
- Hyatt Regency LAX
- Holiday Inn Los Angeles - LAX Airport
- Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort

Aimbridge-managed properties that previously signed proposals with the union are The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites Los Angeles and the Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa.

Throughout the negotiations, the company has worked tirelessly on behalf of these hotel owners to bring UNITE HERE Local 11 to the table for productive conversations that would result in a fair and equitable agreement. Aimbridge has consistently stated that its top priority has always been, and will continue to be, taking care of people, especially its associates. “We are pleased to move forward with a memoranda of agreement with UNITE HERE Local 11 that reflects our commitment to our associates and includes thoughtful increases in non-tipped wages and continued contributions to health care and retirement,” said Mark Tamis, Global President, Aimbridge. “We are urging the Union to act by countersigning the proposal so that we can implement these wage increases at these properties, including providing retroactive payments.”

As we look ahead, we will continue to foster the Aimbridge WAY culture for our associates and help them thrive by offering competitive compensation and benefits, unmatched training and development, and the most robust job opportunities in the industry.” To learn more about Aimbridge Hospitality, visit aimbridgehospitality.com.