

Statement from ALAI-USA on the Writers Guild of America Strike, 11/12/07

Resolved, that in keeping with the principles of ALAI to promote authors' rights worldwide, ALAI-USA supports the members of the Writers Guild of America - East and the Writers Guild of America - West in their efforts to realize fair income for writers and creators on the Internet, in new media and in the entertainment industry in general.

ALAI (Association Littéraire et Artistique Internationale) is an international organization based in Paris which promotes and defends authors' rights. Organized in 1878 at the initiative of the French Society of Authors, with Victor Hugo as Honorary President, ALAI's initial objective was the development of an international convention for the protection of literary and artistic property. Eight years later, on September 9, 1886, the now-renowned Berne Convention came into being. Since then, ALAI has participated in all the deliberations leading to Revisions of the Convention. Today, there are over 25 countries around the world with ALAI chapters. Members meet annually to discuss the issues facing today's authors and each nation's chapter is a strong advocate in its home country for authors' rights.

ALAI-USA, the U.S. branch of ALAI, was started in the 1980's. The membership of ALAI-USA, like that of ALAI, includes eminent copyright professors, attorneys, authors (including, in the broad sense, composers, writers, fine artists, playwrights, screenwriters, photographers and others), authors' rights organizations, and a number of persons, lay or professional, who subscribe to the organization's aims and are interested in aiding its efforts.