

The

Also available online at www.seatu.org

ENTERTAINER

SERVICE • HOSPITALITY • GAMING



Federation President Promotes Wage Growth, Workers' Rights

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka never fails to energize a crowd, and he was the perfect speaker to kick off the second day of the SEATU-affiliated Maritime Trade Department's executive board meeting on Feb. 19. After being introduced with a story by longtime friend SEATU President Michael Sacco, Trumka began by thanking him for his contributions to the labor movement: "You're a great friend, a great leader, and I just want to say thanks for what you do for working people every single day."

Trumka addressed the crowd of MTD officials and guests, thanking them for demonstrating the power of cooperation in the labor movement. He then took a moment to say a few words about the departed brothers and sisters who worked aboard the *El Faro*.

"The deaths of these 33 brave women and men – 28 members of the Seafarers and the American Maritime Officers and five Polish nationals – reminds us of the perilous nature of navigating the world's oceans," Trumka stated. "Soon, on April 28, in recognition of Workers Memorial Day, we'll remember the crew of *El Faro*, and those who died on the job, or from diseases and injuries after a lifetime of work."

"Remembering is important, but we also have to do everything in our power to improve workplace safety," he continued, "because as Mother Jones once said, 'Mourn the dead, and then fight like hell for the living.' And right now, brothers and sisters, there's nothing more important than sticking together and fighting like hell for our members and workers out there every single day, because we're under attack."



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka

That fight was the main topic of Trumka's speech, as he detailed the current state of workers' rights. He described the grassroots movement to raise wages and improve worker protections and called on individual unions to lead by example.

Trumka then described how the working class is under attack, using the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, as an example, but not an exception. "America has hundreds of places like Flint," he said. "Many in our state of Pennsylvania, in Appalachia, in West Virginia, in Ohio, all around this country there are places just like Flint. Every single day, they are suffering and being hurt because of deliberate policies that have been adopted. They can call

it austerity, they can call it whatever they want, but it's causing pain on people."

As for a way to fight back, the answer is right in front of us, says Trumka: "We have to stand together. And we have to raise wages. Benjamin Franklin said the rule of solidarity is pretty simple: Either we hang together, or assuredly we will all hang separately."

Trumka then turned to a familiar topic: the AFL-CIO's Raising Wages campaign. He discussed the various wins experienced in the labor movement in 2015, even including some non-union workplaces that benefited from labor's activism. But the campaign is about much more than just increasing the minimum

wage, he said: "It's about basic dignity and basic fairness, about policies that lift us all up, together."

After briefly touching on the AFL-CIO's decision to refrain from nominating a presidential candidate until after the primaries, he emphasized how critical the upcoming election will be for the working class, and not just in the presidential race, but at every level of government. With the recent death of Antonin Scalia, there is also a new opening on the Supreme Court, to which Trumka responded, "America has a chance for a new mainstream majority on our nation's highest court, which would mean hope for responsible rulings on a raft of cases."

The AFL-CIO, much like SEATU, is a bipartisan organization, with allies on both sides of the aisle. As Trumka described, "The AFL-CIO is not a tool of any political party, or any politician. We're a federation built entirely on working people, and our only fidelity is to our members and the working families across America."

He concluded, "So Mike (Sacco), as always, the Maritime Trades will lead the way. You know about service, you embody sacrifice, you practice solidarity.... Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you one more time how proud I am to be here with you, because you know how to win for America's hard-working families. You've done it many, many times. And you'll keep doing it, and I know you will. When we stand together, we win together.... America remains the wealthiest nation in world history, at our wealthiest time in history. We can support middle-class jobs and succeed. That's what America is all about."

Report: America's Union Membership Rate Stays Steady in 2015

The nation's union membership rate—the percent of wage and salary workers who were members of unions—was 11.1 percent in 2015, unchanged from 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Jan. 28.

The number of wage and salary workers belonging to unions, at 14.8 million in 2015, was little different from 2014. In 1983, the first year for which comparable union data are available, the union membership rate was 20.1 percent, and there were 17.7 million union workers.

U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, following the release of the union membership report, issued the following statement:

"With today's Bureau of Labor Statistics' report, we are reminded again that the labor movement continues to be one of the most powerful forces for strengthening the middle class and providing economic stability, for members and non-members alike."

"Median weekly earnings of full-time union workers (\$980) were more than 25 percent higher than those of non-union workers (\$776) in 2015. That's not pocket change – it comes to more than \$10,000 per year. That goes a long way toward writing the mortgage check, paying down the car loan, or even just keeping the kids in snow boots. And, that doesn't even account for the superior benefits, safer workplaces and other advantages that come with union representation."

"Plus, strong unions empower all working people, putting upward pressure on wages and labor standards throughout the economy. After all, you don't need a union card to have benefitted from the advent of the weekend."

"So we all have skin in the game when unions are threatened and collective bargaining rights come under attack. When a larger percentage of workers belong to unions, the middle class grows and thrives. But research shows that a decline in union membership over roughly the last four decades is responsible for one-third of the growth in wage inequality among men and one-fifth of the growth in wage inequality among women."

"The Obama administration continues to push back against these attacks, exploring avenues for strengthening the right to organize and new strategies for giving workers greater voice on the job. We believe this essential to building an economy that works for everyone."

"We've made a dramatic turnaround in the last seven years – from a devastating recession to the highest levels of job growth since the late 1990s. But, there is still unfinished business. We must do more to ensure that all working families can share in the fruits of this recovery."

Data on union membership are collected as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample sur-

vey of about 60,000 eligible households that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian non-institutional population age 16 and over.

According to the 2015 statistics:

- Public-sector workers had a union membership rate (35.2 percent) more than five times higher than that of private-sector workers (6.7 percent).
 - Workers in protective service occupations and in education, training, and library occupations had the highest unionization rates (36.3 percent and 35.5 percent, respectively).
 - Men continued to have a slightly higher union membership rate (11.5 percent) than women (10.6 percent).
 - Black workers were more likely to be union members than were White, Asian, or Hispanic workers.
 - Median weekly earnings of unrepresented workers (\$776) were 79 percent of earnings for workers who were union members (\$980).
 - Among states, New York continued to have the highest union membership rate (24.7 percent).
- In addition to the foregoing, the new

BLS figures also showed that unions made surprising gains in a region where labor faces some of its biggest legal and political obstacles to organizing: the U.S. South.

In the 13 Southern states, the number of workers belonging to unions grew from 2.2 million in 2014, or 5.2 percent of the workforce, to 2.4 million by the end of 2015, or 5.5 percent of Southern workers.

Eight Southern Region states gained union members, including four states that ranked in the top 10 nationally for growth in union membership: West Virginia (which rose from 11.6 to 12.4 percent, a .8 point increase), Mississippi (a 1.8 point increase), Florida and North Carolina (1.1 point increases).

North Carolina's rising unionization rate, which brings the state's total number of union members up to 123,000, or 3 percent of the workforce, lifted it out of its position last year as the country's least-unionized state. The bottom position among Southern states, as well as nationwide, now belongs to South Carolina, where the union membership rate stands at 2.1 percent.

What's Inside

- President's Column

Page 2

- Argosy Flood

Page 6

- SEATU Convention Notice

Page 6

President's Column

Much at Stake on Election Day

As we get closer to the 2016 presidential elections, SEATU members and working families in general definitely have a lot at stake.

Even though middle-class Americans are working harder and harder every year, incomes have not kept pace with the cost of living. Many people worry about setting aside enough money for such things as secure retirements, health expenses and their children's educations.



Michael Sacco

For these and other reasons, we need to elect leaders who care about working people and side with us, not just the wealthy and corporations. And that's why elections are so important. They really do matter. They really do make a difference. They can be a road to the future we want and need.

At the ballot box, we can address all of the concerns I mentioned earlier while also helping to build an economy that works for working people. The presidential election of 2012 was very important to working families, but the upcoming elections in November arguably will be more so. How we vote and the number of us that vote will greatly impact our ability to keep building a strong labor movement that empowers working people.

Although most of the focus so far has been on the candidates running for the White House, it's important to mention that this year is not just about electing a new president. All 435 members of the House of Representatives are up for re-election, as well as 34 U.S. Senators and 12 Governors. There are many other state and local elections, too. All of these elections are of significance to the labor movement, in one way or another, and all are very deserving of an informed vote.

As union members and officials, our role is not to build the power of a political party or a candidate. Instead, it's to improve the lives of working families and strengthen our economy as well as our country. I urge you to keep this in mind when you go to the polls in November; cast your ballots for people who have our best interests at heart.

Voting for pro-worker candidates is an important duty for all of us. Notice I didn't say any particular party – I said pro-worker candidates. Make sure you're registered and please get out to the polls on November 8, or make arrangements to vote absentee if needed. If you're unsure if your voter registration is current, don't wait until the last minute to find out. Check with your local election board or registrar online or in person, or start at the website www.usa.gov.

An economy that works for all

Despite recent improvement, for much of the past decade, America has been beset by high unemployment and widespread economic inequality.

Millions lost their homes to foreclosure during the Great Recession, and workers who are fortunate enough to have jobs are seeing their paychecks get smaller and smaller; it can't buy what it used to.

The declining standard of living for middle- and working-class Americans is no accident. U.S. trade policies depleted the nation's manufacturing base. Federal tax policies promoted inequality and rewarded wealth over work, leaving us without enough money to fund public infrastructure or the education and training needed in a global economy.

The AFL-CIO, its affiliates and allies including SEATU are fighting at the local, state and national levels to find remedies for these problems which continue to plague working families. I urge all union members to join this ongoing fight to forge a new model of economic growth for American workers.

AFL-CIO Executive Council Backs WAGE Act

When the Workplace Action for a Growing Economy (WAGE) Act was introduced last September by U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Washington) and U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Virginia), both longtime friends of the labor movement, they made it clear the time has come to stand up for American workers.

Murray said, "Too often, as workers are underpaid, overworked and treated unfairly on the job, some companies are doing everything they can to prevent them from having a voice in the workplace. The WAGE Act would strengthen protections for all workers and it would finally crack down on employers who break the law when workers exercise their basic right to collective action."

Scott stated, "This legislation is critical to workers, their families and our nation's economy. For too long, employers have used illegal tactics to fight back against union organizing drives – tactics like threatening workers and firing them for union activity. They have gotten away with it because the National Labor Relations Act – the law protecting workers' right to organize – leaves workers with little or no recourse. The WAGE Act changes that."

America's largest labor federation agrees. During its winter meeting in San Diego, the AFL-CIO executive council issued a statement strongly backing the bill. (SEATU President Michael Sacco is the longest-serving member of the council.)

The WAGE Act statement follows in its entirety. All of the executive council statements can be found by visiting the AFL-CIO website.

Federation Statement

Policy makers are grappling with the worst income inequality the nation has faced since the New Deal. At the same time, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), the law designed to give workers bargaining power to win pay raises and other improvements on the job, continues to fall short. Economists and other experts agree that robust collective bargaining is essential to reducing income inequality and restoring balance in our economy, yet union density in the United States has plunged behind every other industrialized nation.

Notwithstanding the many weaknesses in current law, workers are joining together all across the country to make their voices heard. From Walmart to the Fight for \$15 and a union, from Nissan to T-Mobile, working people are demanding recognition and economic justice in inspiring ways.

The shortcomings in current law are many, and comprehensive reforms are needed, yet a fundamental and essential first step to protect and expand the ability of workers to effectively join together is to bolster protections against employer interference. Strong remedies for workers and penalties against employers who break the law can make real the rights established in the NLRA.

The Workplace Action for a Growing Economy (WAGE) Act, introduced by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), would strengthen protections for working people engaged in collective action with co-workers in a number of important ways. First, the WAGE Act would provide for swift reinstatement when workers are fired or retaliated against for exercising the freedom to join together. The WAGE Act would require the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to seek an injunction when there is reasonable cause to believe a worker was illegally fired for speaking up, just as it does when there are allegations against unions. In FY 2014 alone, the NLRB ordered reinstatement for 3,240 workers whose rights were violated, but reinstatement often comes very late in the process. In contrast, the WAGE Act would require quick action and make these cases a priority.

Under current law, the most a worker can receive is the pay lost while out of work, minus deductions for money they could have earned in another job. As a result, employers face no real economic consequence for illegally firing workers who exercise their rights. The WAGE Act would change this by providing triple back pay, without deductions and regardless of immigration status.

The WAGE Act also would reinforce the principle that workers' rights are civil rights by giving those who are discriminated against for union activity the right to bring cases in court, just as they can under civil rights laws.

Finally, the WAGE Act would hold corporate officials responsible by authorizing personal liability against CEOs who violate workers' rights. The WAGE Act also would make employers liable for violations committed on their premises by contractors or staffing agencies.

The WAGE Act may not fix every shortcoming of our weak, outdated labor law, but it is an important first step toward restoring the freedom of working people to organize and join together for improvements at work. We call on Congress to pass the WAGE Act without delay.

SEATU Directory

HEADQUARTERS

5201 Auth Way
Camp Springs, MD 20746
(301) 899-0675

ALGONAC

520 St. Clair River Dr.
Algonac, MI 48001
(810) 794-4988

ANCHORAGE

721 Sesame St., #1C
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 561-4988

BALTIMORE

2315 Essex St.
Baltimore, MD 21224
(410) 327-4900

COLUMBUS

2800 South High St.
Columbus, OH 43207
(614) 497-2446

HONOLULU

606 Kalihi St.
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 845-2928

HOUSTON

1730 Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Houston, TX 77003
(713) 659-5152

JACKSONVILLE

5100 Belfort Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 281-2622

JOLIET

10 East Clinton St.
Joliet, IL 60432
(815) 723-8002

KANSAS CITY

5756 North Broadway
Kansas City, MO 64118
(816) 741-9502

LAWRENCEBURG

285 East High St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
(812) 539-2941

MOBILE

1640 Dauphin Island Pkwy.
Mobile, AL 36605
(334) 478-0916

NEW ORLEANS

3911 Lapalco Blvd.
Harvey, LA 70058
(504) 328-7545

NEW JERSEY

104 Broadway
Jersey City, NJ 07306
(701) 434-6000

NORFOLK

115 Third St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 622-1892

OAKLAND

1121 7th St.
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 444-2360

PHILADELPHIA

2604 S. 4 St.
Philadelphia, PA 19148
(215) 336-3818

PINEY POINT

P.O. Box 75
Piney Point, MD 20674
(301) 994-0010

PORT EVERGLADES

1221 S. Andrews Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
(954) 522-7984

SANTURCE

1057 Fernandez Juncos Ave.,
Stop 16½
Santurce, PR 00907
(787) 721-4033

ST. LOUIS/ALTON

4581 Gravois Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63116
(314) 752-6500

TACOMA

3411 South Union Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98409
(253) 272-7774

WILMINGTON

510 N. Broad Ave.
Wilmington, CA 90744
(310) 549-4000



The official publication of the
Seafarers Entertainment and Allied Trades Union
5201 Auth Way,
Camp Springs, Maryland 20746
Telephone (301) 899-0675
Direct inquiries to Nick Merrill, Editor

Officers:

Michael Sacco, President
David Heindel, Executive Vice President/
Secretary-Treasurer
Augustin Tellez, Vice President
Tom Orzechowski, Vice President



Fischer: Veterans Deserve More than Lip Service

The head of the AFL-CIO Union Veterans Council delivered his message with great passion, but he said the organization's vital mission is actually very basic: improving the lives of veterans and working people, who are one and the same.

Will Fischer, the council's executive director, addressed the Maritime Trades Department executive board Feb. 19 in San Diego. Anyone expecting an ordinary speech based on Fischer's unimposing physical appearance got a pleasant jolt as the U.S. Marine Corps Veteran fired up the crowd and drew several

**UNION ★ ★ ★ ★
VETERANS
★ ★ ★ COUNCIL
AFL-CIO**

standing ovations.

Fischer began by asking all military veterans in the audience of 200 or so to stand, then requested a show of hands from everyone whose family included a veteran. The point immediately became clear: Nearly everyone at the meeting either had worn the uniform or had a family member who served.

"The working class and the veteran class are one," Fischer stated. "When you're talking to an audience of people who work, you're talking to an audience of people who served. When you see folks fighting for and defending our rights on the job here at home, very often those same folks already tasted battle and fought to defend our rights overseas."

With that in mind, the Union Veterans Council aims "to show that the issues facing veterans and those facing the working class aren't independent of each other," Fischer continued. "Our mission is to mobilize so that when someone takes off their uniform that they have access to a good job; to advocate so that when someone takes off their uniform that they are able to access the health care we earned –



Will Fischer, Executive Director
AFL-CIO Union Veterans Council

health care delivered through a strong, fully funded and staffed VA."

Not to be overlooked is the council's additional goal of organizing "so that when someone takes off their uniform and goes to work that they're carrying with them basic dignity and respect and the ability to collectively bargain for a fair reward for the job they do," Fischer stated.

While those aims all seem plainly unobjectionable, Fischer said political support for veterans often amounts to nothing more than lip service. Drawing in the audience even further with a quick series of questions, he asserted that it's anything but "pro-veteran" to undermine the Jones Act, support bad trade deals that kill American jobs, and take credit for hiring veterans but then pay them substandard wages.

"And yet these are the actions that are taken by some of those who claim so loudly to be pro-veteran," Fischer said. "The same folks who sent me and many of you to every corner of the world to protect and fight for our nation's future, and now that they're finished with us they do whatever they can to prevent us from having a future of our own. They're the same stock who build fortunes from the sweat of another's body and the same flag-wrapped parasites who are more than willing to fight wars until the last drop of someone else's blood is spilled."

He then delved into the council's ongoing efforts to help ensure smooth proceedings at the Veterans Administration.

Fischer also reminded everyone about the importance of grassroots political action.

"We have a unique opportunity to shape the way we – and others – talk about the trade union movement, our legislative battles, and politics," he declared. "When you go on a congressional visit, if you're talking to a politician, if you're organizing a new worker.... After this conference, when you go back home, let folks know about the Union Veterans Council and encourage them to sign up to push our movement forward."

"The movement that's successful is the movement that hasn't forgotten its mission," he continued. "To the veterans: We're veterans because we answered the call and fought to protect our nation's future. But now we must organize to expel those who prey upon us from office. We must organize and meet our enemies in the streets here just as we once met our enemies abroad – meet them and yank from their blood-stained hands what is rightfully ours. We must organize to fight a new war – a war for our voice and for our dignity and for our future."

He concluded, "Together, sisters and brothers, we can toss off the chains economic slavery just as we once tossed off our flak jackets following an evening patrol. But we must organize. And if we do this, then not only will we fight together, we'll win together."

**To join the Union Veterans Council
and for more information, visit:**

<http://unionveterans.org/>



15% Savings for union members on the monthly service charge of qualified AT&T wireless plans through Union Plus*.

AT&T Wireless is the one and only national unionized wireless provider with nearly 150,000 union represented workers. No other wireless company can say that.

Learn more: UnionPlus.org/ATT



*Discount available only to members of qualified AFL-CIO member unions. Member must show valid union membership card or other acceptable proof of union membership and be the wireless account holder. Discount applies only to recurring monthly service charge of qualified voice and data plans, not overages and may take up to 2 bills. Discount subject to an agreement between AT&T and Union Plus and additional restrictions apply. See details at www.UnionPlus.org/Phone or visit an AT&T store.

SEATU-ATTSB-03-14-16



Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center

Editor's note: Many classes of SEATU members employed by Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) have recently completed the Basic Safety Training course at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education in Piney Point, Maryland. The two-week training courses begin with a week of "Norwegian" training, as specified by the vessel operator, followed by a week of fire, survival and first aid training. These training sessions were all administered at the Joseph Sacco Fire Fighting and Safety School, located on a satellite campus. With an average class size of 18 students, over 1,500 SEATU members have completed their training since March 2014! Following are class photos from some of the most recent classes.



Left, in alphabetical order: Michael Barber, Ramsey Barksdale, Madeline Beach, John Browne IV, Stephen Davenport, Tiffany Freeman, Samantha Longo, Emily Manglona, Renee Poole, Allen Smith IV, Randy Sudario, Jared Wedlund and Jacob Zajac-Simmons. Their instructor, Eartha Austria, is at right.



Above, in alphabetical order: Lori Bobo, Tenisha Ducot, Trevlin Evans, Deonte Francis, Angel Henry, Katherine McNichol, Dimas Mendoza, Erick Mendoza, Cody Montgomery, Aziz Moyer, Diana Prill, Saydia Sha and Nicholas Tran. Their instructor, Mike Roberts, is standing at left.

In the photo above, in alphabetical order (not all are pictured): Dustin Brause, Trevin Carr, Kellye Davis, Lamai Kasfeldt, Wooi Ong, Brandon Page, Uhuru Running Wolf, Taylor Shepard, Anika Studiar, Alex Vanderbilt, Zachary Whittington and Crystal Willadsen. Their instructor, Mike Roberts, is on the left.



Pictured above, in alphabetical order: Debra Alexander, Roslyn Anderson, Allen Bowers, Kevin Brando, Jessica Carson, Timothy Chin, Dana Davis, John Harkins, Marcial Ibarrolasa, Ryan Massey, Melvin Mumford II, Michael Pugliese, Michelle Siegel, Kimberly Thurston, Christopher Vance, Martin Vasquez, Bony Victor and Nicholas Zito. Their instructors, Joe Zienda and Wayne Johnson, Jr., are located on the left and right, respectively.

Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center



At left, in alphabetical order: Jatoyia Bailey, Kate Burns, Howell Geib III, Conor Kennedy, Regina Ladnier, Kristin Mack, Rey Mago, Spencer Marble, Joshua Miller, Christopher Ranahan, Clayton Soto and Alyssa Thomas. Their instructors, Mike Roberts and John Thomas, are standing at the far left and right, respectively.

Photographed at right: Jatia Alston, Leslie Andrade, Amy Costa, Jordan Cyphert, Zubin Desai, Mark French, Mayra Garcia, Janice Headley, Luz Henry Murrey, Emily Hines, Artecia Johnson, Megan Ley, Allan Mooneyham, Caroline Quigley, Edwin Rivera, I Nyoman Kandia Suputra, Caleb Thomas and Demontray Tyler. Instructor Mike Roberts is at the far left.



Directly below, in alphabetical order: Matthew Borchers, Stephanie Cowan, Charlie Ingram, Jens Jacobson, Thomas Knapp, Morgan McCann, Lisa Peterson, Jennifer Smith, Michael Somerville, Emily Tanner and Emily Valdes. Instructors Mike Roberts and Wayne Johnson, Jr. are standing at the far left and right, respectively.



In the photo above: David Bowen, Caitlin Cushing, Benjamin Eisenberg, Chelise Frederickson, Evan Frederickson, Robert Glassford, Gunawan Indianto, Ellen Kunow, Marvin Orense, Jennifer Poleo, Sarah Rogers, James Scott and Rafael Sylvester. Instructors Mike Roberts and Wayne Johnson, Jr. are standing at the far left and right, respectively.

At left: Jose Alarcon, Summer Collins, Samantha Davis, Claudia De Los Rios, Beatriz Garcia Ozuna, Kiana Hayes, Ashley Jamison, Sally Johnson, Melissa Kaale, Lisa Kerekes, Samuel Krug, Vincent Lopresti, Ronaldo Nadunza, Afame Onwuka Jr., Kendall Ortez, Devin Prescott, Timothy Schnepf, Monica Sutton, Jamie Toureau, Shawn Tracy and Alexander Travers.

Congratulations!

SEATU Convention Call and Notice of Nominations

Dear Sisters and Brothers:
As per Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Seafarers Entertainment & Allied Trades Union and in compliance therewith, the 2016 Triennial Convention of the Seafarers Entertainment & Allied Trades Union will be held in Piney Point, Maryland on September 13-14, 2016.

At the Convention there will be an election for National Officers. The Convention will also take action on numerous resolutions and motions.

The Executive Board has resolved that for purposes of determining the number of delegates as provided in our Constitution Article XII, Sections 2 and 3, the amount of members in good standing upon which the number of delegates are to be determined and thereafter selected, shall be as of the month ending January 31, 2016.

The following Executive Board members were elected at the 2013 Convention and are, therefore, accredited delegates to this Convention:

Michael Sacco, President
David Heindel, Executive Vice President/
Secretary-Treasurer
Augustin Tellez, Vice President
Tom Orzechowski, Vice President

Based upon current membership numbers as well as any anticipated additions or deletions through January 31, 2016, the following is the delegate count for each area. The Baltimore area is entitled to three (3) delegates; the Baton Rouge area is entitled to one (1) delegate; the Boston area is entitled to one (1) delegate; the Columbus area is entitled to one (1) delegate; the Honolulu area is entitled to three (3) delegates; the Joliet area is entitled to one (1) delegate; the Kansas City/Riverside area is entitled to three (3) delegates; the Lawrenceburg area is entitled to three (3) delegates; the Michigan area is entitled to one (1) delegate and the St. Louis area is entitled to one (1) delegate. These delegates are to be nominated and elected by the SEATU members in good standing in each area.

Each SEATU member in good standing in the Union may nominate himself/herself or any other SEATU member in good standing.

At nomination and election, each member in good standing should bring with them their appropriate evidence of good standing. Evidence of being continu-

ously on check-off for the required time will constitute proof of such eligibility.

Anyone denied the right to be nominated as a delegate may appeal such denial in writing and send by certified mail to Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel, Seafarers Entertainment & Allied Trades Union, 5201 Auth Way, Camp Springs, Maryland 20746, enclose supporting and/or explanatory evidence or material. Such appeal must reach the Secretary-Treasurer within five (5) days after the nomination denial. Action and reply upon the appeal will be timely made.

The SEATU will bear all the necessary expenses of the elected delegates attending the Convention.

Nominations and Elections for delegates for area members in good standing to the above SEATU Convention will be held at the times and places indicated in the box at right.

Immediately following each election, ballots will be counted and the winners shall be declared. In the event there are no more than the appropriate number of qualified nominees for a particular area for Convention delegate positions, there shall be no voting and such nominees shall be deemed to be elected as Convention delegates.

If any member wishes to challenge an election for convention delegates, he/she should send a letter to the office of the Secretary Treasurer of the Union at 5201 Auth Way, Camp Springs, MD 20746, setting forth the basis for the challenge. The letter must be sent by certified or registered mail and must be sent within five (5) business days of the delegate election in your geographic area. Following receipt of such a challenge, a subcommittee of the Union's executive board will be designated to investigate and rule on the challenge. This subcommittee will have the authority to either deny the challenge in its entirety or, if merit is found, to fashion an ap-

propriate remedy up to and including ordering a new election for delegates in the affected area.

Fraternally,



David Heindel
Executive Vice President/
Secretary-Treasurer

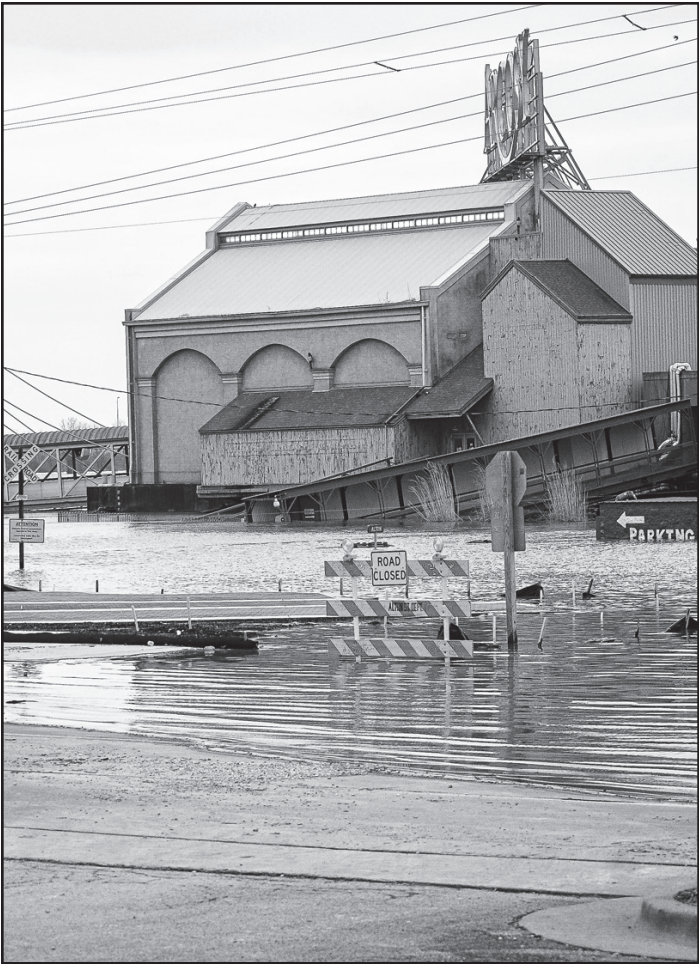
Area	Date	Time	Place
Baltimore	April 17, 2016	1:00 p.m.	SEATU Hall 2315 Essex St. Baltimore, MD 21224
Baton Rouge	April 12, 2016	1:00 p.m.	Sheraton Hotel 103 France St. Baton Rouge, LA 70058
Boston	April 18, 2016	1:00 p.m.	Plainridge Park Casino 301 Washington St. Plainville, MA 02762
Columbus	April 13, 2016	1:00 p.m.	Hampton Inn 880 N. Canfield-Niles Rd. Youngstown, OH 44515
Honolulu	April 15, 2016	10:30 a.m.	SEATU Hall 606 Kalihi St. Honolulu, HI 96819
Joliet	April 14, 2016	1:00 p.m.	SEATU Hall 10 East Clinton St. Joliet, IL 60432
Kansas City/ Riverside	May 4, 2016	1:00 p.m.	SEATU Hall 5756 N. Broadway St. Kansas City, MO 64118
Lawrenceburg	April 20, 2016	1:00 p.m.	SEATU Hall 285 East High St. Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
Michigan	April 8, 2016	1:00 p.m.	SEATU Hall 520 St. Clair River Dr. Algonac, MI 48001
St. Louis	April 15, 2016	1:00 p.m.	SEATU Hall 4581 Gravois Ave. St. Louis, MO 63116

Historic Flood Temporarily Closes Illinois Shop

SEATU members employed at the Argosy Alton Belle in Alton, Illinois, experienced dangerous floodwaters on Dec. 28. The casino closed for the safety of guests and employees, as the city of Alton was enduring its heaviest flooding since 1993. The water rose 38 feet above the flood stage, and the few employees who were able to make it to the casino arrived via boat.

The water receded quickly, and employees were able to return to work normally on Jan. 4.

Photos courtesy of SEATU Representative Patti Christian



Your Home Is Waiting



The Union Plus Mortgage program is one of some 40 benefits available to help union members. The program is for union members and their parents and children. Benefits include mortgage hardship assistance from Union Plus to help protect members' homes in the face of financial hardship. With Union Plus, a mortgage is more than a monthly payment. It's long-term protection for everything your home means to you.



Learn more: UnionPlus.org/Mortgage

3/16



Delegates Needed

Delegates are needed at workplaces in all SEATU jurisdictions. Contact your local union hall for more information.

Know Your Weingarten Rights

All SEATU members should be aware of their Weingarten Rights.

Established by the Supreme Court in 1975, the rights guarantee employees the right to union representation during investigatory interviews with management. An investigatory interview is one in which a supervisor questions an employee to obtain information which could be used as a basis for discipline or asks an employee to defend his/her conduct.

If an employee has a reasonable belief that discipline or discharge may result from what they say during such an interview, they have the right to request union representation. It's important to remember that management is not required to inform employees of their Weingarten rights; employees have the responsibility of knowing that these rights exist and to request that they be invoked when appropriate.

Copies of the Weingarten Rights are posted on all union bulletin boards. They also can be accessed on SEATU's web site at www.seatu.org, linked under the Members Rights section. Individuals with questions regarding these rights should contact their SEATU representative, delegate or shop steward.

Become Familiar With Your Labor Contract

All SEATU members, especially those in bargaining unit classifications, are reminded to obtain, read and become familiar with the provisions of their labor contracts.

It is equally important to be aware of the company's policies and procedures where labor issues are concerned. Knowledge of both better enables members to invoke their rights as necessary and protect them when threatened.

Those desiring copies of their labor contracts should contact their on-site delegate or visit their union hall.

Support Your Newsletter

All members are encouraged to share their ideas for stories and photos with the editorial staff of *The Entertainer*. Become the eyes and ears in your work areas by staying abreast of newsworthy events such as promotions, awards, retirements, participation in community activities, etc.

The Entertainer staff would also like to know about anyone who has or participates in unusual hobbies for possible feature stories.

Contact your union representatives with any tips you may have so that we can give recognition to those who richly deserve it.

Second Quarter 2016 SEATU Meeting Dates

Membership meetings for the second quarter are listed below. All union members are urged to make concerted efforts to attend.

Those who cannot attend, but have issues or questions, should contact their respective union halls.

Location	Date	Time
Algonac/Detroit, Mich.	April 8	1 p.m.
Columbus	April 13	1 p.m.
Joliet, Ill.	April 14	1 p.m.
Honolulu, Hawaii	April 15	10:30 a.m.
Lawrenceburg/ MVG	April 20	1 p.m.
Maryland*	April 7	1 p.m.
New Orleans	April 12	1 p.m.
Riverside	May 4	1 p.m.
St. Louis/Alton, Mo.	April 15	1 p.m.

*The Perryville and Maryland LIVE meetings are held at the Baltimore Union Hall.

Wages Boosted in Lawrenceburg



SEATU representatives and delegates met with representatives from Hollywood Casino Lawrenceburg the week of Jan. 4 to secure better wages for the members. SEATU Representative Lori Cornell said, "As I am sure you are already aware, the wage re-opener was ratified. Please thank your committee members!"

The negotiating committee included (back row, left to right) Brandi Dale, Carl Marting, Cody Herndon and Karen Horton-Genette; (middle, left to right) Warren Walls and Linda Richter; and (front, left to right) Darlene Esterwood and Lori Cornell.

SEATU Notebook

Algonac/Detroit Metro

Current Delegates:

Arnold Transit Company,
Mackinac Island, Michigan:
Prentiss "Ben" Belknap

M/V Detroit Princess

Bar Staff: CaSandra Houston
Wait Staff: Seeking volunteers
Kitchen Staff: Anthony Young

New Orleans

Anyone wishing to become a delegate or steward is encouraged to call 504-328-7545.

Current Delegates:

MOPS: Seeking volunteers
Food & Beverage Hotel: Emma Jones
Bell/Luggage Attendants: Seeking volunteers
Maintenance: Tony Blanks (chief delegate)

Chicagoland/Joliet

Members are encouraged to contact their SEATU representatives with any questions or concerns at 815-723-8002.

Hollywood Casino Joliet: Marsha Gavin, Manuel Peralta
Majestic Star: William Torres
Ameristar: Jim Jasman

Honolulu

The union is always seeking volunteers in all departments aboard the *Pride of America*.

Current Delegates:

Restaurant: Henry Martin
Hotel-Housekeeping: Lucia Colon
Galley/F&B: Tanya Awong
Gift Shop: Seeking volunteers

Lawrenceburg

Current Delegates:

Slots: Carl Marting
EVS: Seeking Volunteers

EVS Steward: Warren Walls

Cage & Credit: Linda Richter, Darlene Esterwood

Food & Beverage: Cody Herndon, Brandi Dale

Guest Services: Seeking volunteers

Wardrobe/Gift Shop: Seeking volunteers

Hotel: Seeking volunteers

Facilities: Seeking volunteers

Anyone interested in becoming a delegate or steward is encouraged to contact the union hall at 812-539-2941.

Ohio

Miami Valley Gaming

Currently seeking volunteers in all departments.

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway

Currently seeking volunteers in all departments.

Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley

Food & Beverage: Seeking volunteers
EVS: Seeking volunteers

VLT: Tome Moore

Anyone wishing to become a delegate or steward is encouraged to call the union hall.

Maryland

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to call the Baltimore union hall at 410-327-4900.

Current Delegates:

Hollywood Casino Perryville

Food & Beverage: Mary Kozlowski, Julia Sanders, Beth Knight
Table Games: Mike Williams
Poker Dealer: Seeking volunteers

Maryland Live! Casino

Food & Beverage: Elaine Miller, Corrine Ferrel, Jenn Perez and Katie Ellen - Seeking volunteers

EVS: Reanee Winfree - Seeking volunteers

Housekeeping: Steve Willoughby

Rosecroft Raceway

Seeking volunteers

Riverside

Current Delegates:

Cage: Angela Griffith,, Pam Knapp

Food & Beverage: Jaime Edge, Pam Lewis

Slots: Michelle Oliver, Sabrina Louthain

Hotel: Cathy Estrada

Maintenance: T.J. Curtis, Jim Adams

EVS: Jackie Hibbs

Slots: Sabrina Louthain, Michelle Oliver

Anyone interested in becoming a delegate or steward is encouraged to contact the union hall at 816-741-9502 or 816-453-5700.

Kansas City

Anyone interested in volunteering for a steward or delegate position, call the union hall at 816-453-5700.

Food & Beverage: Lewie Hunt,
Slots: Alfonso Hernandez, Kariena Persons

Maintenance: Donna Miller

Cage: Seeking volunteers

St. Louis/Alton Metro

Current Delegates:

Food & Beverage: Maggie Warren, Mary Moore, Dennis Baker

Housekeeping: Jack Geisler

Slots: Cedric Parker

Cage & Credit: Seeking volunteers

Marine Crew: Merle Caselton

Count Team: Chloe Lake

Boston

Anyone wishing to become a delegate is encouraged to call the union hall at 201-434-6000.