

The

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# ENTERTAINER

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## MTD Winter Meeting Demonstrates Solidarity

When he opened the winter meeting of the Maritime Trades Department (MTD) executive board, Michael Sacco emphasized two ongoing struggles of paramount importance to working families.

Sacco is president of both SEATU and the MTD – the latter a constitutional department of the AFL-CIO. The MTD is composed of 21 international unions and 21 port maritime councils in the United States and Canada representing nearly 5 million working men and women. The board met Feb. 21-22 in Orlando, Florida.

“One of the most positive stories for the MTD and the entire labor movement, I believe, is how we’ve responded to last summer’s Supreme Court ruling in Janus vs. AFSCME,” Sacco said to the board members and guests. “This was supposed to be the beginning of the end for unions. But as one national columnist recently put it: ‘So much for the labor movement’s funeral.’”

He pointed out that large unions including the American Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees have gained members since the ruling, which allows for free riders.

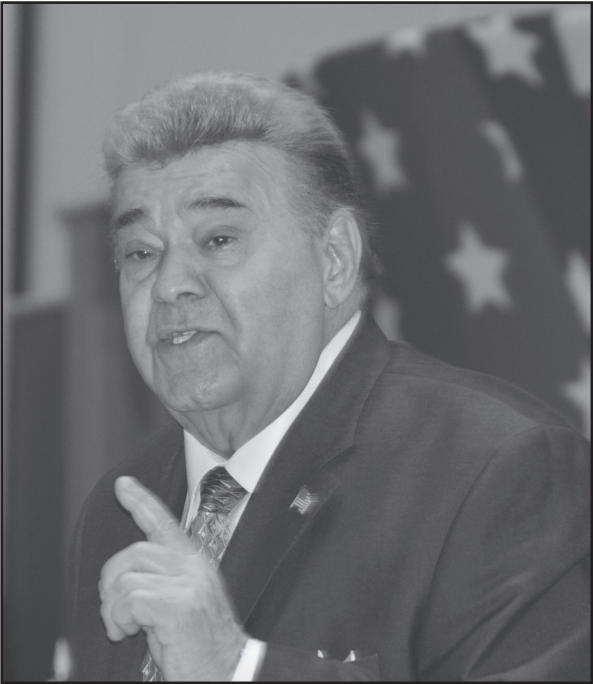
“The Janus ruling is still a farce, and nobody is pretending it’s good news for labor,” Sacco continued. “But you know what? I think it shook us out of the doldrums in a lot of ways. It made us re-educate people about why unions are so important. It made us ramp up our engage-

ment, and the results have been very positive.... I think we’re headed in the right direction.”

He then focused on a relatively new, well-funded campaign aimed at repealing the Jones Act – a law that’s vital to U.S. national, economic and homeland security. The misguided attacks are “nothing new, even though they will be on a larger scale. We’re fighting this battle every day,” he said.

Sacco wrapped up his opening remarks with a quick reflection on the recent government shutdown. “During that time, our affiliates and port councils really stepped up to support the people who were out of work and those who were forced to work without a paycheck,” he recalled. “We collected gift cards and food donations coast to coast and in Hawaii. We rallied in the streets and we marched at airports and elsewhere to stand up for the rank-and-file worker, no matter if they were union members or not.

“There is no doubt that our collective actions and those of the affected workers themselves ended the shutdown,” he continued. “We showed our strength, but we also showed solidarity and compassion for our fellow man. That’s what the labor movement is all about. That’s what the MTD is all about. And that’s why I know we’ll always have a bright future as long as we’re willing to stand together and work for it.”



SEATU President Michael Sacco

## AFL-CIO’s Shuler Speaks on the Future of Work

One of the top officials from the AFL-CIO encouraged the MTD executive board to examine key aspects of evolving workplace technology while not losing sight of the power of solidarity.

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler opened her speech Feb. 21 by thanking MTD President Michael Sacco for his leadership. She then spoke about the important tasks that the MTD and its affiliates handle, referencing the session’s prior speakers.

Shuler said, “The work that you do is truly leading our labor movement, and as I watch the presentations and the slide shows and all of the cataloguing of the work that goes on in this country. You make this country run. I think it’s a little-known secret, and sometimes we don’t get to recognize and appreciate the work that you do enough.”

She then spoke on the future of work, and preparing for the future of labor in America: “Work is changing ... and we need to think about how our unions are going to change with it. How are we going to modernize? How are we going to grow?”

Shuler detailed several steps the federation is taking to incorporate cutting-edge technology for the betterment of workers. She said the labor movement supports efficiency and advancement, but also stands up for the roles of working families moving forward.

The secretary-treasurer then described recent worker actions by teachers and hotel workers, respectively. The successful strikes serve as reminders that collective action is effective.

“Even though there’s this narrative in our country around rugged individualism and people pulling themselves up by the bootstraps, yes, that is part of our culture as Americans,” she continued. “But we also know that we are stronger together. And no one knows this better than the labor movement. It’s what we stand for, especially the maritime trades unions.”

She also credited the MTD and its affiliates and port councils for their hurricane relief efforts that began in 2017. “When Hurricanes Irma, Harvey and Maria hit, you sprang into action,” Shuler recalled. “And it can’t be said enough, the contribution that you made, because even before the storms hit Puerto



AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler

Rico and the Virgin Islands, your members were loading and unloading U.S.-flagged and -crewed ships and barges to help the islands prepare for the storms. That was before they hit. And then after the storms, you came through again, working with Jones Act, union-contracted companies to deliver and offload more than 40,000 containers full of equipment to help restore the islands’ power and water and infrastructure and public services, not to mention life-saving supplies. Thank you.

“But you didn’t stop there,” she added. “Of course, U.S.-flag ships with Seafarer crews worked with our friends at the AFT to provide more than 100,000 water filters to the people of Puerto Rico. That was well after the storm, and of course you delivered more than 15,000 books to the schoolchildren in the Virgin Islands, all while fending off attacks on the Jones Act. We all know, during disasters, that’s when they come attacking bed-rock labor protections. We’ve seen it before, and I’m sure we’ll see it again.”

Shuler pointed out that public opinion of unions is at a 20-year high, with 62 percent of Americans saying they back organized labor, according to a recent Gallup poll.

Additionally, she provided data on union training, and used the SEATU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education as an example, saying, “The labor movement is the second-largest provider of training in this country, behind the U.S. military.... We’re the ones training and upgrading people’s skills to get them into better jobs. And every time I go to the Paul Hall Center out in Piney Point, Maryland, I am reminded of this. And I marvel the technology you use and the programs you have. More than 70 U.S. Coast Guard-approved courses, more than 17,000 apprentices trained, more than 135,000 skills upgrades and more than 2,000 high school diplomas. That deserves a round of applause!”

She concluded, “Our role in creating the highly skilled, best-trained workforce in this country is the key to the future of the labor movement. I say that because we have our apprenticeship programs, we have our job training programs. When those programs grow, and we get more workers in, the labor movement grows with it, and employers are supplied with the highest-caliber workers that labor can offer.”

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## President's Column

### The Power of Union Solidarity

Both during the recent government shutdown and throughout the teachers' strikes in numerous states across the nation, union members showed the enduring power of collective action and solidarity. Grassroots mobilization, standing up for the truth, and having each other's backs led to positive outcomes.

Community outreach across the country also proved very uplifting, and unions were very involved in those efforts as well. Both the successful strikes and the rank-and-file pressure that led to ending the shutdown underscored that when we stick together, we win together, as AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka often puts it. That's a good lesson to remember as we move forward in protecting workers' rights and reminding folks about the power of collective action.



Michael Sacco

#### Productive Dialogue

One of our union's most important affiliations is with the AFL-CIO, where I am the longest-serving member of the executive council, other than federation President Trumka.

Late last year, the council adopted a statement titled, "Solidarity Pledge for America." The resolution reads in part, "Political extremism has become the norm in America. Constant conflict is cheered and polarizing ideas are reinforced, while conscience-driven compromise is dismissed as weakness. Defamatory mistruths and repugnant rhetoric are hurled from every direction and echoed across social media. We simply don't listen to each other.... This complete and utter breakdown of civil discourse in America is a threat to our very democracy, and it must stop."

While that's an unpleasant paragraph, it reflects the disturbing reality of our times. But as we in the executive council went on to say, the labor movement has a special responsibility to challenge and reject the current state of affairs. Our movement was created more than 130 years ago by a small group of workers looking to initiate change at work and more broadly in society. Throughout our long history, we've used our position as America's diverse coalition of working families to beat back attempts to divide and destroy us.

Our statement was about more than just being polite even when we disagree, but that's not a bad place to start, whether you're at work or at the hall or, yes, on social media. Take a deep breath, stick to facts, and stand up for what you believe in.

#### Call for Convention

As you'll see inside this issue of The Entertainer, it's time to start preparing for our triennial convention. If you are a member in good standing, or you know a fellow member who would be an excellent representative of the union, we encourage you to submit a delegate nomination. Check the schedule for your area, and make sure to bring your proof of eligibility. As in past years, the union will cover all the expenses of your travel to the convention, which is being held this year at our union-affiliated training school in Piney Point, Maryland.

Conducting a convention every three years is important – and not just because it's required in our union's constitution. It's a time for delegates, representatives and elected officials to come together in solidarity, and address the victories of yesterday and the challenges of today and tomorrow. We'll hear a variety of reports from each region, as well as some insight into the future of SEATU and the labor movement as a whole.

I look forward to seeing you all there, whether we're meeting for the first time or catching up as old friends.

## AFL-CIO Executive Council Statement on Equal Pay

The following statement was issued by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on March 14. SEATU President Michael Sacco is the longest-serving vice president of that executive council.

### Guarantee Equal Pay for Women and Paid Family and Medical Leave for All

Americans are working harder and longer than ever, but wages remain too low for millions of families to make ends meet. The lack of basic labor protections makes it nearly impossible for many workers to balance the demands of job and family.

More than 50 years after passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, economic discrimination based on gender remains. Similarly, Congress voted in 1993 to provide a first step toward helping workers balance work and family through the (unpaid) Family and Medical Leave Act. However, millions of working people cannot afford to utilize this benefit.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 was passed to abolish wage disparities based on gender, but women still are paid less than men in nearly every occupation, even when controlling for education and experience. Women working full time are paid only 80 cents for every dollar paid to men, and the gap is even more pronounced for women of color. For every dollar paid to white non-Hispanic men, African American women are paid only 61 cents, Native American women 58 cents and Latinas 53 cents. Asian/Pacific Islander women earn 85 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, although some ethnic subgroups of Asian women fare much worse.

When women endure pay discrimination, entire families suffer. More children remain stuck in poverty, especially children of single mothers. As of 2016, mothers are breadwinners in half of the families with children younger than 18. This includes half of white mothers, 53 percent of Latina mothers, 81 percent of African American mothers and 44 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander mothers. Closing the wage gap is urgently needed.

The bipartisan Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 270/H.R. 7) would update the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to close loopholes and break harmful patterns of pay discrimination, requiring employers to report pay data to the EEOC and prohibiting them from retaliating against women who discuss their pay with co-workers. While belonging to a union is still the surest way to guarantee equal pay on the job, with unionized women making approximately 27 percent more than their nonunion counterparts, the Paycheck Fairness Act would provide new and important tools to close the wage gap.

However, equal pay by itself will not help families weather the economic disruption that comes from serious personal or family health issues. Today, just 17 percent of the workforce has paid family leave through their employer, and less than half are eligible for personal medical leave through an employer-provided short-term disability program. Working families lose an estimated \$20.6 billion in wages each year because they lack access to family and medical leave.

The Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act (S. 463/H.R. 1185) would create a national program to help

new mothers and fathers, and people with serious personal or family health issues, through a social insurance fund that would provide up to 12 weeks of partial income replacement during their absence from work. The bill would pay up to 66 percent of the average monthly wage of workers who need to take time off for their own serious health condition, childbirth or adoption of a child, or the serious illness of a child, parent, spouse or domestic partner.

Six states and the District of Columbia have passed paid family and medical leave insurance laws. It is time for the federal government to follow suit.

The AFL-CIO continues to support the FAMILY Act and encourages the measure's sponsors to strengthen its oversight and enforcement provisions by examining the pressure it would place on the Social Security Administration, and perhaps consider another administering agency. Additionally, we advocate expanding coverage to provide family and medical leave benefits to public employees at the local, state and federal levels.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council recognizes that pay equity and paid family and medical leave would directly and significantly improve the lives of all working families. That is why we urge the 116th Congress to enact the Paycheck Fairness Act and the FAMILY Act. We will mobilize our members to act on this important legislation using the resources of the federation, affiliate unions, state federations, central labor councils, and constituency groups and work closely with the Coalition of Labor Union Women to make these bills the law of the land.

## 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) 537-5987

### COLUMBUS

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

### GUAYNABO

457 Hillside St.,  
Guaynabo, PR 00907  
(787) 400-8150

### HONOLULU

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

### HOUSTON

625 N. York Street  
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. 4th 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

### 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

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



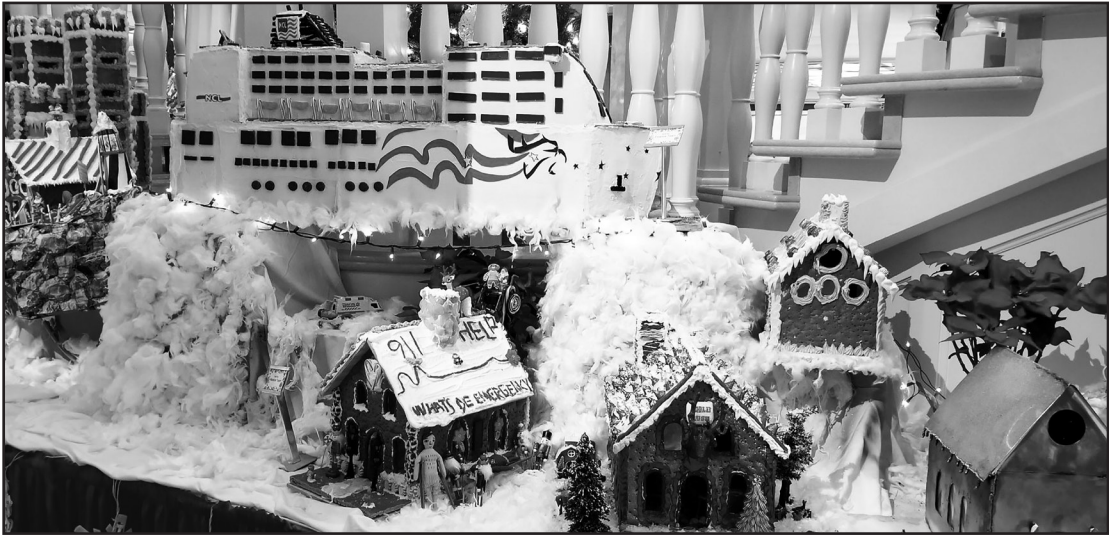
# A Festive Holiday Aboard the Pride of America

The photos on this page were submitted by Representative Amber Akana, after a late December servicing visit to the SEATU-crewed *Pride of America*.

At right, Jewelry Sales Associates Famela Dayrit, Cocoa Waugh and Haylei Peralta celebrate the holiday season. Below, the crew showed off their holiday cheer with a gingerbread house challenge, with every department creating their own masterpiece.



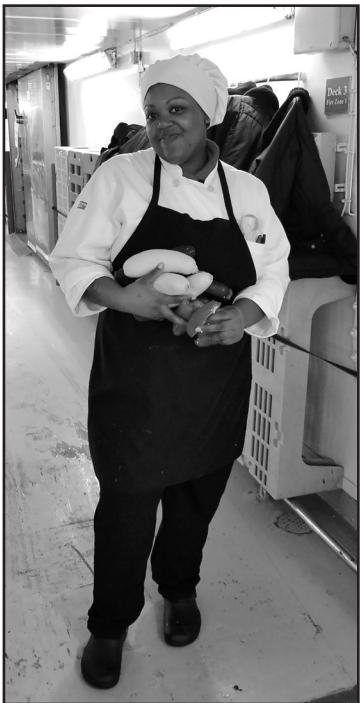
Dakota Harjo-Torress, Restaurant Steward



Bar Waiters Natasha Reaves and Levi Self



Efe Erol, Assistant Cook showing off his cooking skills in Aloha Cafe



Jacqueline Goggins Assistant Cook

# 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 2,500 SEATU members have completed their training since March 2014! Following are class photos from some of the most recent courses.*



In the photo at left (not all are pictured): Jonathan Alvarez, Rhonda Arredondo, Bruce Barrera, Ann Carbaugh, Dave Catalan, Ariel Dagasdas, Linda Dew, Jody Fisher, Caitlin Gray, Ulises Gutierrez Espindola, Britteney Jackson, Kelley Killeen, Emil Lagman, Edward Ludwick, Harleigh Ortman, Felianys Otero Carrion, Elijah Parris, Michael Roy, Karina Silva, Kimberly Summers, Michael Turbiville, Katherine Wheeler, Julie Zawisa and Graham Zurschmiede. Instructor Joe Zienda is at the far left.

At right, in alphabetical order: Martha Aguirre, Anna Bouras, Diomedes Candelaria, Gina Chun, Alva Coleman, Hannah Healy Timlin, Jonah Ibrahim, Ferdinand Medalla Jr., Richard Minor, Lilian Ramirez, Tiffany Reyes, Teri Shepherd, Airik Strandberg, Sabrina Velasco, Ronnie Washington, Valerie Wilson and Brittany Wright.



In the photo at left, in alphabetical order: Felix Aguilar, Mark Joel Alcantara, Crystal Brinkley, Canelius Brooks, Breana Brown, De-shawn Cradle, Shelby Donaldson, Iesha Dudley, Daniel Elenen, Sven Fjeldheim, Mercedes Garcia, Vanessa Hernandez Cedillos, Lyon Jones, Zachary Jones, Courtney Maclas, Kelebe Moloro, Len Rhem, Vincent Trefurt and Joseph Wexel. Instructor Mike Roberts is at the far right.

At right, in alphabetical order (not all are pictured): Isaac Bailey, Mohamed Boulakroune, Margarita Astada Gabriola, Darryl Garcia, Nicholas Kaltenbach, Kirbi Long, Saquan Parks, Tamika Peoples, Kenneth Smith, Lisa Marie Smith, Robert Strange, Mickey Thomas, Maybelene Torres and Ejani Wynn. Instructor Mike Roberts is at the far right.



# Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center



In the two photos above: Faith Barksdale, Christopher Brandao, Donny Brown, Johnny Jovany Castro, Richard Ceden, Robert Colquhoun, Kody Conniff, Drew Dembek, Kathleen Doherty, Alea Duran, Tanya Escalona, Jacob Estep Ignacio, Sandy Flesher, Angel Fletes, Katharine Gillies, Colby Harris, Charity Haynes-Fluker, Malik James, Bradleigh Johnson, Andrew Kostich, Isaac Landivar, Brandi Loday Butler, Thomas Lotito, Isaac Mastie, Shiquane McClain, Chad Miyashiro, Pedro Moline Benoit, Kyara Nunez, Angel Pogue, Joyel Richardson, Drew Roberts, William Robles, Jordan Tabarez, Gladys Thompson, David Valdez, Delajah Wilcher, Christopher Williams and Ejani Wynn.



Above: Theodore Cash Jr., Steven Drapkin, Jessica Duffy, Aaron Gustafson, Kristina Helferstay, Maritza Hodgson, Daniel Jaramillo, Desirea Johnson, Julio Lopez, Freddie Macanas, Kaleb Neville, Hendra Prastyawan, Katelyn Robertson, Joshua Rosen, Dika Saputro, Ross Tan and David Tompkins. Instructor Joe Zienda is at the far left.

Above (not all are pictured): Mecca Alexander, Quintavis Artis, Nathan Birmingham, Cassandra Blankenship, Diamond Burton, Emil Mata Carino, Kirsten Clark, Michaela Cricchio, Daniel Dance, Maria Isabel Francisco, Maritza Hodgson, Emily Knab, Barbara Mahone, Reynaldo Abaya Morales, Victoria Polich, Matthew Rivera, Gustavo Romero Estrella, James Taylor, Anna Young and Tomasz Zarzycki.



Above: Jacinta Alvarez, Ghavette Blanks, Lydia Bond, Cady Contreras, Caleb Fulton, Anesha Harris, Brandon Haynes, Alyiah Hnasko, Nicole Horn, Samuel Horton, Taylor Lamison, Jayson Manalo, Jerod Marion, Moises Monteiro, Darrell Scott and Nicollette Sinclair.

Above (not all are pictured): Zakaria Ali, Alyssa Marie Babineau, Laura Chandler, Hillary Faircloth, Jacob Feagin, Evon Ferrell, Chelsea Grant, Jordan Hoyle, Jeffery Lake, Taylor Lamison, Nicholas Lopez, Elizabeth Lusk, Hewitt Martin, Kaley Miranda, Devin Moskowitz, Tonya Retallack, Raquel Richardson, Scott Sherman and Karness Turner Jr. Instructor Joe Zienda is at the far left.



Above, in alphabetical order: Ahmed Baez Jr., Funda Berry, Teagan Corrigan, Gary Dinkel, Maryel Ibarra Espinoza, Curtis Jones, Diana Morales, Christopher Rankin, Britany Rios Cruz, Luis Soto and Dian Watson.

Above: Joshua Aldana, Warren Alexander, Alecsander Billings, Tyvon Brown, Jason Buckhalter, Ava Davis, Logan Deitrick, Chelsea Hao Kaawaloa, Donnie Hombrebueno, Zachary Kaplan, Krystal Marrero, Jancy Moua, Allan Quimque, Pamela Rice and Sultan Tursunbekov.

# 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 2019 Triennial Convention of the Seafarers Entertainment & Allied Trades Union will be held in Piney Point, Maryland on September 10-11, 2019.

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, 2019.

The following Executive Board members were elected at the 2016 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, 2019, the following is the delegate count for each area. The Algonac area is entitled to one (1) delegate; the Baltimore area is entitled to five (5) 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 area is entitled to three (3) delegates; the Lawrenceburg area is entitled to three (3) delegates 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 following times and places.

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 appropriate 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
Algonac	April 5, 2019	1:00 pm	SEATU Hall 520 St. Clair River Dr. Algonac, MI 48001
Baltimore	April 18, 2019	1:00 pm	SEATU Hall 2315 Essex St. Baltimore, MD 21224
Baton Rouge	April 11, 2019	1:00 pm	Belle of Baton Rouge 103 France St. Baton Rouge, LA 70058
Boston	April 16, 2019	1:00 pm	Plainridge Park Casino 301 Washington St. Plainville, MA 02762
Columbus	April 25, 2019	1:00 pm	SEATU Hall 2800 South High Street. Columbus, OH 43207
Honolulu	April 12, 2019	10:30 am	SEATU Hall 606 Kalihi St. Honolulu, HI 96819
Joliet	April 9, 2019	1:00 pm	SEATU Hall 10 East Clinton St. Joliet, IL 60432
Kansas City	April 9, 2019	1:00 pm	SEATU Hall 5756 N. Broadway St. Kansas City, MO 64118
Lawrenceburg	April 26, 2019	1:00 pm	SEATU Hall 285 East High St. Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
St. Louis	April 8, 2019	1:00 pm	SEATU Hall 4581 Gravois Ave. St. Louis, MO 63116

## Bureau of Labor Statistics Report: Union Membership Steady

The yearly report on union membership from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) showed very little change in 2018.

According to the agency's report, issued Jan. 18, membership declined slightly from 2017 to 2018, to a total number of 14.744 million. That's a decrease of 73,000; union density in 2018 was 10.5 percent.

The report again reinforced that union members usually earn more money than their unrepresented counterparts. Data from the BLS report shows that in 2018, the median union worker earned \$1,051 per week, compared to \$860 for the median non-unionist. (The median is the point where half of workers are above and half below.)

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO issued a press statement in advance of the report that read in part: "Here's what the numbers alone won't tell you: 2018 was one of the most substantial years for collective action in American history. The following are some significant ways workers are standing together to improve our workplaces and communities, not included in today's report:

- Tens of thousands of teachers going on strike for better pay and stronger schools in red and blue states, including more than 30,000 currently striking in Los Angeles (the teachers subse-
- quently won numerous gains and voted to return to work).
- Google workers worldwide walking out for an end to workplace sexual harassment and a voice on the job.
- UNITE HERE hotel workers taking on Marriott, the most profitable hotel chain in the world, and winning higher wages, a safe work environment and a say on how technology is deployed.
- And, working people electing pro-worker candidates from coast to coast, including more than 950 union members.
- Private-sector union membership is up, despite the fact that Taft-Hartley, a labor law rigged to embolden anti-worker employers, has been on the books for more than 70 years. Workers from Boeing to JetBlue to Harvard University won union recognition in 2018. And 60 million workers – the population of New York and California combined – would vote to join a union today if given the chance.
- Public sector union membership essentially held steady, despite the Supreme Court's ruling in Janus v. AFSCME, the case pundits predicted would be the labor movement's death knell. In

fact, some public sector unions saw membership growth in 2018. Shortly after Janus was decided, the people of Missouri overturned "right to work" by 2-1, the first-ever state to repeal this anti-worker law by popular vote.

- In the face of unprecedented attacks, the labor movement continues to show tremendous resilience. Public approval of unions is soaring. And new organizing campaigns in non-union workplaces are gaining steam. Give working people a level playing field to join and form unions and there will be a dramatic spike in membership by the time the 2019 BLS numbers are released."

Additionally, Mark Gruenberg of Press Associates pointed out, "The agency reported that a slight majority of union members were in the private sector, 7.577 million, compared to 7.167 million in the public sector. The public sector was more heavily unionized, with one of every three workers – state and local government workers, teachers, fire fighters, and federal workers – unionized, compared to one of every 16 (6.4 percent) in the private sector. Teachers and protective services, each with even higher percentages, led the way."

As usual, union members were concentrated in the Northeast, the Great Lakes and the Pacific Coast states. The most union-dense states last year were Hawaii (23.1 percent), New York (22.3 percent), Washington (19.8 percent), Alaska (18.5 percent) and Rhode Island (17.5 percent).

The biggest union numbers BLS calculated were in California (2.405 million, down 87,000 and with 14.7 percent density), New York (1.872 million, down 145,000, 22.3 percent), Illinois (786,000, down 86,000, 13.8 percent), Pennsylvania (701,000, up 36,000, 12.6 percent), Michigan (625,000, down 33,000, 14.5 percent), Ohio (639,000, up 4,000, 12.6 percent) and Washington (649,000, up 61,000, 19.8 percent).

According to Gruenberg, "Washington was the biggest numerical gainer, but BLS calculated many of the other gains were in the least-unionized area, the South. Florida (plus 38,000), Georgia and Alabama (plus 28,000 each), Louisiana (plus 11,000) and South Carolina (plus 3,000) all added union members."



MTD board members discuss the latest data on union membership.



# Free College

**The Union Plus Free College Benefit** offers working families an accessible, debt-free and convenient higher education opportunity. You, your spouse, children, financial dependents and grandchildren, can all benefit from this exciting program.

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**Class Photos**  
**Pages 4-5**

**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](http://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 2019 SEATU Meeting Dates

Membership meetings for the fourth 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 12	1 p.m.
Columbus	April 17	1 p.m.
Joliet, Ill.	April 18	1 p.m.
Honolulu, Hawaii	April 19	10:30 a.m.
Lawrenceburg/ MVG	April 24	1 p.m.
Maryland*	April 11	1 p.m.
New Orleans	April 16	1 p.m.
Riverside	May 8	1 p.m.
St. Louis/Alton, Mo.	April 19	1 p.m.

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

## Federation Urges Stronger Labor Laws

*The following statement was issued by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on March 14. SEATU President Michael Sacco is the longest-serving vice president of that executive council.*

Something is happening in America. In workplaces and on picket lines, at the bargaining table and the ballot box, working people are taking collective action to improve our jobs, our schools, our communities and our democracy. Fed up with decades of rigged economic rules that have held down wages and skyrocketed inequality, workers are turning to each other. The latest annual survey from Gallup puts public approval of unions at 62 percent, a 15-year high. And research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows half of nonunion members would vote to organize today if given the chance. That's more than 60 million people.

Yet this wave of worker activism is coming up against the cruel reality that our outdated labor laws no longer serve as an effective mechanism to accurately capture the aspirations of working people. Labor law changes were last made in 1947—and those were designed to make it harder to organize. Current law does far too little to prevent employers from bullying and harassing workers when

we try to form a union, and there is no binding process for reaching a first contract when a majority of workers make the decision to bargain collectively. The right of workers to make our voices heard through strikes, pickets and other activities continues to be fundamentally undermined by employers, politicians and the courts. Simply put, the system is broken and the time for comprehensive labor law reform is right now.

In 2017, delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention unanimously passed a resolution calling on candidates for public office to support and fight for changes to the National Labor Relations Act and other state and local laws to guarantee the freedom to bargain collectively to every single worker, free from fear and intimidation. That same year, comprehensive labor law reform bills were introduced as part of congressional Democrats' "Better Deal."

The Workers' Freedom to Negotiate Act of 2018 (H.R. 6080) would expand coverage of the National Labor Relations Act; bolster penalties against employers who break the law; provide a process for workers and employers to reach a first agreement; and protect the right to strike and eliminate "right to work" nationally. The Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act of 2018 (H.R.

6238) would ensure that all public-sector workers at the state and local levels have collective bargaining rights, and the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act (H.R. 4846) would extend basic collective bargaining rights to all first responders.

The same energy that working people took to the streets to win economic and social justice in 2018 brought a wave of pro-worker legislators to Congress, and now we have a chance to make real progress on these landmark bills. We must begin by educating new members of Congress and staff about the importance of unions and collective action to our communities, our economy and our democracy. To accomplish this, the AFL-CIO is partnering with the Economic Policy Institute to conduct "Labor 101" briefings on Capitol Hill over the next several months.

To finally make labor law reform a reality, we will need the help and commitment of every affiliated union, state federation and central labor council. Candidates running for office in 2019 or 2020 should not expect labor's endorsement unless they are willing to support comprehensive legislation to strengthen and expand the right of every worker to join a union and negotiate for a better life.

## SEATU Notebook

**Algonac/Detroit Metro**

Current Delegates:

**M/V Detroit Princess**  
**Bar Staff:** CaSandra Houston  
**Wait Staff:** Seeking volunteers  
**Kitchen Staff:** Anthony Young

**Boston**

Current Delegates:

**Plainridge Park**  
**Food & Beverage:** Rob Bergeron, Jenee Jenee, Russ Selvitella, Stephen Stern  
**Player Services:** Jim Didio  
**EVS:** Keith Hayward  
**Seeking Delegates: Mutuels, Deep Cleaners, Cooks, Barbacks, Stewards**

**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:** Matoya Coleman  
**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:** Seeking volunteers  
**Bar/Gift Shop:** Seeking volunteers

**Kansas City**

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

**Food & Beverage:** Lewie Hunt, Abbey Heller  
**Slots:** Alfonso Hernandez, Kariena Persons  
**Slots Steward:** Celeste Hawkins  
**Maintenance:** Donna Miller  
**Player Services:** Crystal Malone

**Lawrenceburg**

Current Delegates:

**Slot Attendant:** Carl Marting  
**Slot Technician:** Nick Hall  
**EVS Steward:** Warren Walls  
**Cage & Credit:** Linda Richter,  
**Food & Beverage:** Cassandra Cole  
**Guest Services:** Seeking volunteers  
**Wardrobe/Gift Shop:** Seeking volunteers  
**Hotel:** Linda Hensler  
**Maintenance:** Kyle Callahan

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

**Maryland**

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to call 410-537-5987.

Current Delegates:

**Hollywood Casino Perryville**  
**Food & Beverage:** Beth Knight  
**Table Games:** Seeking volunteers  
**Poker Dealer:** Bill Monahan

**Maryland Live! Casino**

**Food & Beverage:** Glory Warrick  
**EVS:** Seeking volunteers  
**Housekeeping:** Seeking volunteers

**Baltimore/Washington International Airport**

**Lead Delegate:** Shauntae Dawson

**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:** Seeking volunteers  
**Bell/Luggage Attendants:** Seeking volunteers  
**Maintenance:** Tony Blanks (chief delegate)  
**Boat:** Trina Hester

**Ohio**

**Miami Valley Gaming**

**Cage:** Kyle Bauer  
**Count Room:** Daniel Estle  
**Gaming Attendants:** Gwen Nevin, Gina Fumi-Fiamawle  
**Gaming Technician:** Shawn Brown  
**Facilities:** Andrew Johnson  
**Food & Beverage:** Carlos Mendez, Kerri Gates  
**Player Services:** Tom Cox  
**Warehouse:** Tabitha Stephens  
**Hollywood Gaming Dayton**

**Raceway**

**VLT:** Nieawna Russel  
**F&B:** Jackson Wolph  
**Facilities:** Scott McCane  
**Cage:** Amy King  
**Mutuals:** Linda Yeatman

**Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley**

Current Delegates:

**Food & Beverage:** Nilsa Lipscomb, Dasia Flenoury  
**VLT:** Justin Teaque  
**Facilities:** Mike Morris,  
**Retail:** Joyce Pishkur

**Riverside**

Current Delegates:

**Cage:** Pam Knapp  
**Food & Beverage:** Jaime Edge, Pam Lewis  
**Hotel:** Cathy Estrada  
**Maintenance:** T.J. Curtis, Jim Adams  
**EVS:** Jackie Hibbs

**St. Louis/Alton Metro**

Current Delegates:

**Food & Beverage:** Maggie Roy, Dennis Baker, Lisa Longo  
**Housekeeping:** Georgetta Sanders  
**Cage & Credit:** Hope Jones  
**Marine Crew:** Merle Caselton  
**Count Team:** Chloe Lake