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SEATU SEAFARERS / AFI-CIO The-Also available online at www.seatu.org

SERVICE • HOSDITALITY • GAMING

Vaccinations Slow Global Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is on the decline in the United States, as vaccines become more widely available and restrictions on businesses have relaxed somewhat. However, the COVID-19 virus has taken a serious toll on the country, and the effects aren't

As of press time, the pandemic has killed 578,500 in the U.S., and infected 32.5 million Americans. Since the beginning of May, the rolling weekly average of new reported cases has dropped to fewer than 50,000, and 260 million vaccine doses have been administered.

In addition, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 44 percent of Americans over the age of 18 have been fully vaccinated, with 58 percent having received at least one dose of a multiple-dosage vaccine. The percentage of fully vaccinated people over 65 in America is up

At press time, there are three different vaccines approved by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect against the virus. While the longterm efficacy of the vaccines is unknown, what is certain is that all of the vaccines have been thoroughly researched and approved by the CDC as safe and effective.

Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines are reported to be relatively mild and shortlived, lasting up to 48 hours, and can occur after the first or second dose. Once vaccinated, it can take up to 12 days for protection to be in full effect; however, at this time, vaccinated persons must still wear face masks and follow all state and local health and safety guidelines. Physical distancing, washing hands with soap and water or the use of hand sanitizer, good respiratory hygiene, and use of a mask remain the main methods to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Abundant information about the vaccines is available on the CDC website: https:// www.cdc.gov/





Members working aboard the Pride of America in Honolulu received COVID-19 vaccines at a clinic set up at Pier 2. Above and left, SIU Wiper Yeilyn Martinex waits to receive her shot, while at right, SEATU Hotel Delegate Lucia Colon receives her second dose of the vaccine.

SEATU Pitches in During COVID Relief Event in KC



Above, Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill (center) pauses for a photo with volunteers at the event, including SEATU Representative Amber Gibson (right).

On March 31, SEATU Representative work to end hunger tomorrow. We are a re-Amber Gibson pitched in - along with several community groups, union members of northwestern Missouri and northeastand NFL star Tyreek Hill - to help those ern Kansas. Harvesters provides food and impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic related household products to more than in the Kansas City, Missouri area. The event, Keeping Our Communities Safe Drive-Thru, was used as both a drive-thru vaccination center and a distribution point for food and other donated goods to those in need. It was hosted by the Harvesters Community Food Network and the Community Builders of Kansas City (CBKC).

Vaccinations were administered by Swope Health, and Hill - wide receiver for the Kansas City Chiefs - stopped by the drive as a volunteer, helping to load cars with donated food and aid.

As stated on their website, "Harvesters' mission is to feed hungry people today and gional food bank serving a 26-county area 760 nonprofit agencies including emergency food pantries, community kitchens, homeless shelters, children's homes and others. We also offer education programs to increase community awareness of hunger and teach about good nutrition.

According to their website, "CBKC is Kansas City's largest urban core developer strengthening families and transforming communities. A not-for-profit community development corporation, we personally work with the neighborhoods we serve to build meaningful relationships, acting as community convener, facilitator and resource for services."

What's Inside

- AFL-CIO Releases Annual Report Page 3 - Class Photos Pages 4-6

President's Column

PRO Act: The Time is Now

You may be aware of polling from the past couple of years that reflects a very favorable view of unions in the United States. Around 65 percent of Americans approve of labor unions, which is the highest percentage in almost 20 years.

I didn't know until recently that those same surveys indicate almost half of non-union/unrepresented work-



Michael Sacco

ers also say they would vote for a union if given the chance. That's a huge increase compared to when a similar poll was conducted many years ago.

Our movement and indeed our country have a chance to turn these numbers into something positive for America's working families, specifically by enacting the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. That legislation has been passed by the House,

and President Biden enthusiastically backs it, including during his recent address to Congress.

If the PRO Act were law, I firmly believe that the recent union election in Alabama, involving workers at an Amazon warehouse, would've turned out differently. By the way, some of the reporting that followed the vote indicated, more or less, that it was a "resounding" defeat for the union. I don't believe that for a second. Those workers endured months of illegal activities by the employer (as charged by the union, in a case that's under review). And it wasn't just any employer, but one with virtually unlimited resources that were used to bully, intimidate and brainwash. All of it happened in the deep south, and yet more than 700 people stood up and voted to join a union. To me, that's something to build on.

The campaign in Alabama underscored a point that we in the labor movement have made for a long time. If so many workers say they're interested in union membership, why don't they have it? The truth is that our current labor law, which is supposed to not only protect but in fact promote the right of workers in the private sector to organize, in practice makes it an uphill climb. They face too many hurdles while employers can and often do get away with illegal interference, without consequence.

The PRO Act repairs many of the biggest shortcomings with current law. Enacting the legislation would signal a major step forward when it comes to restoring workers' ability to organize and negotiate for better wages, benefits and workplace safety and fairness.

This is a lesser-known problem outside the labor movement, but it's common for employers to challenge the makeup of the bargaining unit, which Amazon did. The bill addresses employer stalling tactics and clearly spells out that the decision about the proper bargaining unit should be made by workers and the NLRB, not rigged by employers.

Far less surprising is that employers often hire third-party, anti-union consultants to push against unionization. This happens in three-quarters of organizing campaigns, and it's not cheap. Employers in recent years have spent an average of \$340 million per year on anti-union consultants, who often stay hidden from the workers (even while pushing their lies). That's a lot more money than it would cost to give workers the wage and benefit increases they seek.

The PRO Act requires timely disclosure of unionbusting activities and closes the loophole through which employers and consultants have avoided reporting.

Getting the PRO Act passed in the Senate is a challenge, but it's doable. Our country will be much better off when it becomes law.



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N.H. House Rejects Anti-Worker Bill

Working families scored an important win June 3 when the New Hampshire House of Representatives first rejected and then voted to indefinitely postpone S.B. 61, a bill that aimed to make the Granite State the first so-called "right to work" state in the Northeast. The final vote on the bill itself was 199-175. All Democrats voted against the bill, and they were joined by 20 members of the Republican majority who did not support the position of their leadership.

Immediately afterward, the chamber voted by 197-178 for indefinite postponement, effectively tabling the legislation until at least 2023.

AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka congratulated New Hampshire union members on the win.

"While today's victory is a testament to the strength and will of working people, the reality is we should not have to fear that big corporations and anti-worker politicians are going to pass this legislation in New Hampshire — or anywhere else," Trumka said. "That's why we need the PRO Act because it would eliminate right to work, putting it in the ash heap of history where it belongs."

According to the AFL-CIO, for more than six months, "labor leaders and union members across the state have been speaking out, rallying and contacting their representatives about the dangers of this bill, which would have deprived workers of our freedom to join together and form strong unions if we choose to. Dozens of New Hampshire union leaders and members gathered outside of the New Hampshire Sportsplex in Bedford, where the House was hosting its final session, to protest right to work (for less). New Hampshire AFL-CIO President Glenn



Richard Trumka AFL-CIO President

Brackett (IBEW), New Hampshire AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Dave Pelletier (UA) and New Hampshire Building and Construction Trades Council President Mike Smith (Ironworkers) were all present at the rally."

"The New Hampshire AFL-CIO applauds the New Hampshire House of Representatives for voting to indefinitely postpone S.B. 61," said Brackett. "For more than 40 years, New Hampshire's labor movement has been sounding the alarm on 'right-to-work' laws. These bills are nothing more than out-of-state corporate interests looking to take advantage of our lawmakers, our businesses and our workers. They deprive workers of their freedom to join together and form strong unions if they choose to. And they have no business being a part of how we do things here in New Hampshire."

The fight garnered national attention from corporate interests and the Virginia-based National Right to Work Committee after Democrats lost control of the New Hampshire House and Senate last November. Gov. Chris Sununu had supported right-to-work (for less) in the past and indicated he would sign it if it reached his desk.

A state senate version narrowly passed (13-11).

Prior to the House vote, it was announced that around 200 people from New Hampshire had signed on in support of the bill on the NH General Court website while more than 1,700 had signed on in opposition to it.

"The only purpose of this bill is to increase corporate power at the expense of working people," IBEW Local 1837 Business Manager Tony Sapienza testified during the hearing. "Obviously, wages and benefits will erode faster or grow slower if corporations are empowered and collective bargaining rights are eroded."

In addition to workers and their unions, other opponents of the bill testifying included faith leaders, economists, small business owners and larger companies that rely on union apprenticeship programs for a reliable source of skilled workers.

One of the last people to testify against the bill at the House hearing was Pat Moran, a troubleshooter for Eversource NH and a chief shop steward for IBEW Local 1837.

"I feel strongly that Senate Bill 61, the so-called right-to-work bill does not belong in New Hampshire. I believe this is a means to break unions," Moran said. "The name itself is a lie. Right to work doesn't give anyone any rights or any work. It is meant to hurt unions financially in the hope that they will wither and die."

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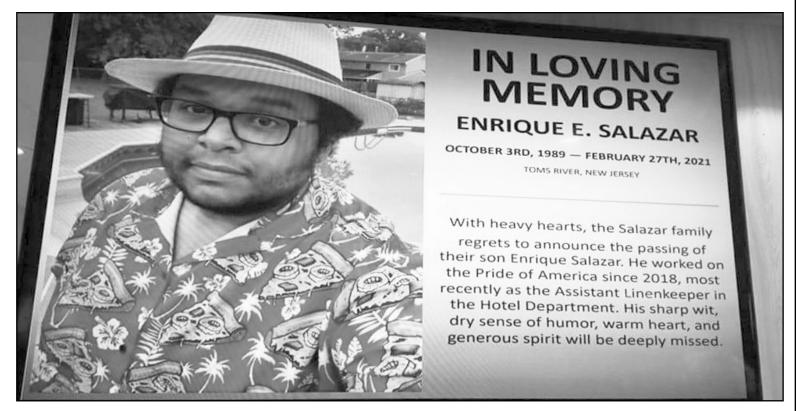
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Pride of America Mourns Death of Member

SEATU Member Enrique Salazar, who was serving as an Assistant Linenkeeper aboard the Pride of America, unexpectedly passed away on February 26. Salazar, 31, joined the union in 2018, and was on leave in his home state of New Jersey when he passed away. His cause of death is unknown as of press time.

Melissa Sherlock, human resources operations manager for Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) - who operates the Pride of America - spoke highly of Enrique, saying that he was a truly genuine nice guy and loved by many onboard.

NCL put a digital memorial in place aboard the ship, and provided the picture at right.



Federation's Push to Pass PRO Act Continues in Labor-Friendly Events in States Across Country

Demands for passage of the Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act continue to make headlines across the country as the AFL-CIO's phone-banking initiative targeting voters and urging them to call their senators has kicked into full swing.

Initially launched April 26, the "PRO act Blitz" took center stage May 1 during May Day marches, teach-ins and other actions from coast to coast. The AFL-CIO reported more than 700 events were planned, and suggested that count may be low, because individual unions checked in with their own marches, meetings and other assorted activities

The U.S. House of Representatives on March 9 passed H.R.2474 – the PRO Act of 2019. The legislation is considered by many to be the most wide-ranging, proworker rewrite of labor law since the original National Labor Relations Act of 1935. It previously was approved by the House in 2020, but the then Republican-controlled Senate failed to take it up. The House passed it again in early March by a vote of 225-206, largely along party Democrat opposed it.

The measure currently is stalled in the U.S. Senate, where winning approval figures to be difficult, unless Democrats in that chamber do away with or evade the filibuster. The fillibuster would allow a minority of senators to hamstring the bill by requiring 60 votes for passage. This scenario provided the impetus for the federation's phone banking initiative as well as the other activities taking place across the country.

We're not going to let a minority in the Senate stop" the PRO Act, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka vowed in a video press conference with lawmakers and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights just before House debate on the PRO Act began.

"If people (lawmakers) know corporations are too strong and workers are not strong enough" economically, "and they make corporations stronger" anyway, by defeating the PRO Act, "they do so at their peril," Trumka warned. "And in an era of extreme polarization, nearly

lines. Five Republicans voted for the bill, while one two-thirds of Americans - 65% -- approve of labor unions, so it's not surprising workers would form unions if they were given the chance. That's 60 million people knocking on our doors. The PRO Act would let them in."

President Biden during his first address before a joint session of Congress on April 28 called for the passage of the PRO Act and for a \$15 federal minimum wage.

'The American Jobs Plan is a blue-collar blueprint to build America, that's what it says. And, it recognizes something I've always said. The guys and women on Wall Street ... didn't build this country. The middle class built this country. And unions build the middle class,

"And that's why I'm calling on Congress to pass the Protect the Right to Organize Act, the PRO Act, and send it to my desk to support the right to unionize. By the way, while you're thinking about sending things to my desk, let's raise minimum wage to \$15," he added. "No one, no one working 40 hours a week should live below the poverty line.

AFL-CIO Releases Death on the Job Report

The AFL-CIO on May 1 released the 2021 edition of Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect, a report on the state of safety and health protections for America's working families. The release marked the 30th year that the federation has produced the narrative.

Since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 50 years ago, significant progress has been made toward improving working conditions and protecting workers from job injuries, illnesses and deaths, the federation pointed out. Federal job safety agencies have issued many important regulations on safety hazards, silica, coal dust and other health dangers, strengthened enforcement and expanded worker rights. These initiatives have undoubtedly made workplaces safer and saved lives, but much more progress is needed, according to the AFL-CIO

The federation further noted that the previous administration worked to dismantle these advancements, attacking workplace safety protections and longstanding structures for issuing future protections, cutting agency budgets and staff, and failing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in many workplaces.

The Democratic majority in the House of Representatives helped improved oversight, accountability and action on critical worker protections, and took opportunities to oppose anti-worker attacks by the previous administration, according to the report. However, the Senate blocked much-needed protections and reforms in job safety. Now, with a Democratic majority in both houses of Congress, there are more opportunities for action on long-needed worker protection legislation, the federation noted.

"The recent election of President Biden brings promise and hope to a nation and world decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to working people who have struggled for years under anti-worker policies that make their workplaces more dangerous," the AFL-CIO said when announcing the report.

Following are 18 key findings from the 2021 Death on the Job report. In 2019:

- 275 U.S. workers, on average, died each day from hazardous working conditions.
- 5,333 workers were killed on the job in the
- An estimated 95,000 workers died from occupational diseases. The overall job fatality rate was 3.5 per 100,000
- workers, the same as the previous year. Latino and Black worker fatalities increased; these workers are at greater risk of dying on the job than all other workers.
- Employers reported nearly 3.5 million workrelated injuries and illnesses.
- Musculoskeletal disorders continue to make up the largest portion (30%) of work-related injuries and illnesses.
- Underreporting is widespread the true toll of work-related injuries and illnesses is 7 million to 10.5 million each year.
- States with the highest fatality rates in 2019 were: Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, Montana and West Virginia.
- Industries with the highest fatality rates in 2019 were: agriculture, forestry, and fishing and hunting; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; transportation and warehousing; construction; and wholesale trade.
- America's workplaces have been a primary source of COVID-19 outbreaks, with thou-

- sands of workers infected and dying. However, information on workplace infection and outbreak is limited because there is no national surveillance system.
- Workplace violence deaths increased to 841 in 2019, while more than 30,000 violence-related lost-time injuries were reported
- Workplace violence is the third-leading cause of workplace death. There were 454 worker
- deaths that were workplace homicides. Women workers are at greater risk of violence than men; they suffered two-thirds of the losttime injuries related to workplace violence, and were five times more likely to be killed by a relative or domestic partner in the workplace
- Deaths among all Latino workers increased in 2019: 1,088 deaths, compared with 961 in 2018. Some 66% of those who died were immigrants.
- The Black worker fatality rate of 3.6 per 100,000 workers continues to be higher than the national average. In 2019, 634 Black workers died on the job—the highest number in more than two decades.
- Workers 65 or older have nearly three times the risk of dying on the job as other workers, with a fatality rate of 9.4 per 100,000 workers
- The cost of job injuries and illnesses is enormous estimated at \$250 billion to \$330 billion a year.

The full report is available at https://aflcio.org/reports/death-job-toll-neglect-2021.

Members Graduate From Classes At Statu-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. In each photo on the following pages, all members are listed in alphabetical order.



Above: Stella Baty, Kobie Bervaldi, Joshua Copeland, Benjamin Dean, Fernando Espada, Miguel Gonzalez, Shawn Kennedy, Andre Martinez and Melvin Spearmen.



Above: Lorianne Bridges, Holli Burton, Jennifer Castro, Verloyn Flowers, Russell Gregory, Nathan King and Rodger Uy.



Above: Carrie Alvarado, Kobie Bervaldi, Virginia Cox, Joshua Gilbert, Adam Grant, Michael Harris Jr., Timothy Heilers, Michael Kelly and Ma.giselle Lacson.

Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center





Above: James Lawrence, Aiene Leach, Riley Lopes, Dustin Mayer, Samantha Mehlman and Milagro Paula Robles.



Above: Cheryl Davis, Jesse Denison, Karen Devenport, Alterine Gono, Ken Kan, Shana McCarl, Milagro Paula Robles, Alejandro Rodriguez, Kory Schaub-hut, Cortney Smith, Val Tapuai, Heidi Wemette and Calvin Wilson.



Above: Connor Blais, Nakia Eddens, Tyrek Epps, Brandon Huff, Shalini Jain, Shannon Jones, Dequandre Maynor, Yumiko Ono, Samuel Reynoso Fournel, Sydney Shumate and Kevin Stella.

Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center





Above: Mychal Carter, Julio Corporan, Diondra Davis, Tonja Howard, Arsen Muhametaj, Yumiko Ono, Angus Porter, Andreya Saberon, Logan Sperr, Shelli Tardif and John Wilson.



Above: Juan Albin, Derrick Helms, Ana Hogan, Leslie Klusack, Aaron Lockett, Richard McGarvey, Cortney Smith, Kaj Turunen and Keith Williams.



Above: Samim Alekozay, Analisa Harvey, Leo Kovalik, Victor Ramos, Philomena Raymond, Antonio Robbs and William Vega.

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6/21

Also available online at www.seatu.org

Delegates Needed

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

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.

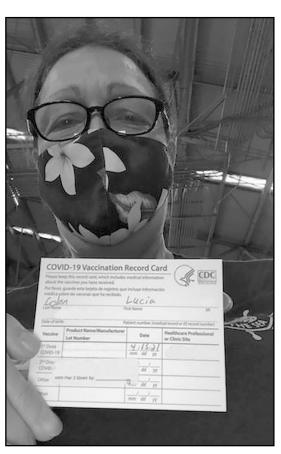
It is equally important to be aware of the company's policies and procedures where labor issues are concerned. Knowledge of both better enables members to invoke their rights as necessary and protect them when threatened.

Those desiring copies of their labor

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.

What to Do with Your Vaccination Record Card



SEATU Hotel Delegate Lucia Colon

Once a member receives their COVID-19 vaccination, they will also be given a paper vaccination record card. The card acts as both proof of your vaccination date and brand of vaccine received, and as a reminder of when to schedule your second dose if you receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

While the debate continues on the possibility of a U.S. government-backed vaccine passport, it would be prudent to make a copy of your COVID-19 vaccine card and keep it in a safe place. Experts recommend taking a photo of your vaccine card with your cell phone, or otherwise scanning a digital copy into a personal computer. After that, if you want to laminate your card, or otherwise protect it from damage, there are many affordable options available.

The CDC is also encouraging everyone who receives their vaccine to sign up for v-safe, a smartphone-based monitoring program used by the CDC to collect data on users' post-vaccination symptoms and remind recipients of a two-dose vaccine when to schedule their second appointment. However, it may also serve as proof of vaccination in the future.

While it is currently unknown if you will need to add a periodic COVID-19 vaccine to your list of reoccurring vaccinations, what is certain is that you should hold on to your paper vaccination record card like you would for any other important medical docu-

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: Russ Selvitella, Player Services: Seeking volunteers **EVS:** Seeking volunteers Racing: Jo Ann Smith Seeking Delegates: Mutuals, 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 Délegates:

Restaurant: Seeking volunteers Hotel-Housekeeping: Lucia 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: Susan Hunt **Slots:** Alfonso Hernandez **Maintenance:** Seeking volunteers

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.

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

Current Delegates:

Hollywood Casino Perryville Food & Beverage: Beth Knight **Table Games:** Jackie Holstein **Poker Dealer:** Bill Monahan Maryland Live! Casind

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

volunteers
Baltimore/Washington International Airport

Lead Delegate: Shauntae

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

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: Seeking volunteers Food & Beverage: Jaime Edge Count Room: Jackie Hibbs **Slots:** Sabrina Louthain Maintenance: Ahmad Alzaidi EVS: Eddie Heilman

St. Louis/Alton Metro

Current Delegates:

Food & Beverage: Maggie Roy, Dennis Baker, Lisa Longo Housekeeping: Seeking volunteers

Cage & Credit: Hope Jones Marine Crew: Seeking volunteers

Count Team: Chloe Lake