The-Also available online at www.seatu.org

SERVICE • HOSDITALITY • GAMING

Labor Movement Loses Leader in Trumka

Somehow, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka managed to be simultaneously larger-than-life and eminently approachable.

Likely due to the former quality, the initial reaction among SEATU officials and staff to unofficial news of Trumka's death on Aug. 5 primarily consisted of disbelief. Trumka's high-energy personality and regular appearances on television (promoting workers' right) as recently as that same week seemingly precluded his departure, and there had been no hints of health problems.

Unfortunately, confirmation soon followed: Trumka, 72, apparently succumbed to a heart attack while on a camping trip with family.

Outpourings of sympathy began the same day, including comments from President Biden, Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-New York), and fellow labor leaders from throughout the movement.

SEATU President Michael Sacco enjoyed a genuine friendship with Trumka.

"Rich and I worked together for decades, going back to the 1970s, when we were involved in labor disputes in Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois," Sacco stated. 'Throughout his entire career, no one worked harder for America's working families.

"Rich was fearless and down-to-earth, and even though he had plenty of formal education, at his core he remained a working-class union guy and a family man," Sacco continued. "He never forgot his roots with the Mine Workers. Those of you who were lucky enough to hear Rich give a speech in person know that he commanded a room like few others. His passion and intelligence and foresight always came through loud and clear.

He concluded, "The labor movement that Rich led and loved will move forward with heavy hearts – but we will move forward.... That's how we honor his legacy."

SEATU Vice President Augie Tellez said, "If you ever heard Rich address a crowd, you immediately knew what this man was about. His passion, fervor and compassion for the working men and women of this country was the hallmark of his being. Little doubt was left as he bared his soul in the struggle for equality both economically and socially. He was truly an American hero. He



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka 1949-2021

had a soft spot for the Seafarers going back to his Mine Worker days in the 70s, and many of us got to know him personally. The world has a lost a good man, but there is no doubt at all that his legacy will be carried on by millions.'

SEATU Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel stated, "With heavy hearts, we learned of the passing of Brother Trumka. Rich was a true leader and inspiration to many. Our heart goes out to Rich's family as well as the 12 million brothers and sisters in his extended family of the Federation. He will be missed."

President Biden described Trumka as "a dear friend, a great American, and a good man. I will miss him as will the countless workers whose lives he made better, and the labor movement he led with daring vision. As I told his family after we heard the news, Jill and I send our love -today and always.'

On the Senate floor the morning of Aug. 5, Schumer said, "The working people of America have lost a fierce warrior, at a time when we needed him most. Just yesterday, Rich was lending his support to the striking miners in Alabama. Following in his father's footsteps, he worked in the mines. He went to Penn State, earned his law degree – but he didn't practice, didn't go to some fancy place, he went right to work for the United Mine Workers, which he led for so many years.

"He had in his veins, in every atom of his body, the heart, the thoughts, the needs of the working people of America," Schumer continued. "He was them. Rich Trumka was the working people of America. He never had any airs, he never put it on, and he cared about his fellow workers so. He was a great leader, and he knew that the labor movement and working people had to expand and be diverse. One of his passions as a leader was immigration reform, which I talked to him about repeatedly, because they were working people, too. No matter where they came from, or what they look like.... We have just lost a giant, and we need him so. We will remember him forever, and his memory will, I know, importune all of us to do even more for the working people of America who Rich Trumka so dearly and deeply

Trumka served as president of the federation since 2009. In 1982, at age 33, he ran on a reform ticket and was elected the youngest president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

There, he led one of the most successful strikes in recent American history against the Pittston Coal Company, which tried to avoid paying into an industry-wide health and pension fund.

Trumka was elected AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer in 1995, and held that post until 2009, when he was elected

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Shuler First Woman to Serve as AFL-CIO President



SEATU President Michael Sacco (left) and AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler in 2017.

With SEATU President Michael Sacco chairing the proceedings, the AFL-CIO Executive Council on Aug. 20 elected Liz Shuler, a visionary leader and longtime trade unionist, to serve as president of the federation of 56 unions and 12.5 million members. Shuler is the first woman to hold the office in the history of the labor fed-

The executive council also elected United Steelwork-(USW) International Vice President Fred Redmond to succeed Shuler as secretary-treasurer. Redmond is the first African American to hold the number two office.

Tefere Gebre will continue as executive vice president, rounding out the most diverse team of officers ever to lead the AFL-CIO.

Sacco is the longest-serving member of the council. The election of Shuler and Redmond comes after the unexpected and untimely passing of Richard Trumka, who served as AFL-CIO president from 2009 until his death on Aug. 5, capping a more than 50-year career of dedication to America's unions and working people.

"I am humbled, honored and ready to guide this federation forward," Shuler said after her election. "I believe in my bones the labor movement is the single greatest organized force for progress. This is a moment for us to lead societal transformations – to leverage our power to bring women and people of color from the margins to the center – at work, in our unions and in our economy, and to be the center of gravity for incubating new ideas that will unleash unprecedented union growth.

'I could not be more excited to get to work with President Shuler so we can build on the labor movement's legacy of change, writing a new chapter that brings the promise of union membership to workers across this country," Redmond said. "This is the right team at the right time to help bring about the economic and social justice America is hungry for."

'Our country is at a crossroads. Now more than ever, the labor movement is the best vehicle to fight inequality, systemic racism, and attacks on our basic rights and freedoms," said Gebre. "I am honored to work with our historic team led by President Shuler and look forward to fighting every day for working families."

Shuler grew up in a union household. Her father, Lance, was a power lineman and longtime member of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 125 at Portland General Electric, and her late mother, Joyce, worked as an estimator in the company's service and design department.

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President's Column

Remembering Rich Trumka

Whether you're reading this column online or in print, you know that the entire labor movement is mourning the unexpected passing of our friend and leader, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

As someone who worked with and knew Rich since the 1970s, I want all of you to know that all of the tributes written and spoken about him are accurate and well-earned.



Michael Sacco

He was one-in-a-million, and I'm blessed to have been not only his colleague, but his friend.

If you met Rich even once, you know that when it came to personal energy, he was an 11 on a scale of 1-to-10. For that reason, I hesitate to describe him as rejuvenated following last year's presidential election, but there's no doubt he had taken his work and his leadership to another level. He was exceptionally fired up about the very real op-

ally fired up about the very real opportunities we have before us for labor-law reform and for growing our movement.

There's a decent chance you saw him on television in recent months, promoting workers' rights and trade unionism. Be 100 percent certain that those appearances were exclusively about the work at hand, rather than having anything to do with personal publicity. Rich was all about workers and their families.

In practical terms, you cannot say that someone is one-in-a-million and then expect our movement to not miss a beat. That's just not realistic. Throughout the AFL-CIO – from headquarters to the affiliate unions like the SIU, to the state labor federations and central labor councils to individual locals – we all have to step up to help fill that void. It's a tall order.

Nevertheless, I am completely confident in AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, who, like Rich, came up through the ranks and earned everything she got. Liz is the one who reminded us that we're allowed and expected to mourn, but we're not permitted to slack off. As she said, Rich wouldn't allow it.

Rest in peace, my dear friend. You are missed.

Vaccine Mandates

As of this writing around Labor Day, more and more businesses – along with the Defense Department – are requiring COVID-19 vaccines for their employees. I think this was inevitable, and it bodes well for our country.

Our deep-sea mariners are required to be vaccinated as of October 1, and we have implemented the same rules for the employees at the hiring halls, at union headquarters and at our affiliated school in Piney Point, Maryland. It's time.

Many of the discussions between people who favor vaccines and those who oppose them can be frustrating. For the most part, that's because those same individuals aren't getting their news from the same sources.

To those who remain hesitant, I understand concerns about longer-term side effects and whether or not the vaccines were "rushed." But it's important to remember that scientists have worked on coronavirus vaccines for decades. Think of it this way: If a brand-new make and model of automobile rolled off the line in 2022, no mechanic ever would have previously worked on that specific make and model. But mechanics have worked on cars for a century.

Remember also that millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines, and no long-term side effects have been detected (the vaccine trials started more than a year ago). No "non-live" vaccine has ever been shown to cause side effects years later. The COVID-19 vaccine is non-live.

The mandates signify another big step toward finally putting this pandemic behind us. If you're not precluded from taking the shot for medical or religious reasons, please get it done. Your families and your shipmates will appreciate it, and it'll give you peace of mind along with tangible, proven protection from COVID-19.



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Labor Leader Richard Trumka Dies

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His commitment to improving life for working people began early. He grew up in the small coal-mining town of Nemacolin, Pennsylvania. Nearly all the men in his family, including his father and grandfather, were coal miners. Trumka followed them into the mines, working there as he attended Penn State and Villanova University Law School.

Then-Acting AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said, "Rich was a legend, from his early days as president of the United Mine Workers of America to his unparalleled leadership as the voice of America's labor movement. Rich loved workers. And he knew there was nothing more powerful than workers standing together for a better life.

"If you ever watched Rich at a rally or on a picket line, his face would light up with excitement and hope," she continued. "He never forgot who he was working for. He never forgot who he was fighting for. America's working people were his guiding light for more than 50 years.... We are not done yet. Rich would never allow it. Now more than ever, we must come together, as one federation, to carry out the mission Rich devoted his life to."

UMWA President Cecil Roberts said Trumka "was more than the leader of the American labor movement, he was an unequaled voice for the workers around the world.... Richard and I were partners in leadership at the UMWA for many years, but we were more than that. He was my brother, he was my friend, he was my confidant."

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten stated, "Rich Trumka was our brother in the truest sense of the word. His sudden passing is a tremendous loss for the entire labor movement, and for working families across the country. From his first mining job in the late 1960s, to joining the staff of the United Mine Workers of America and eventually becoming president, to his fierce and courageous leadership of the AFL-CIO for more than a decade, Rich fought his entire life for dignity and respect for American workers. He practiced what he preached, and he brought the voices of working people to the forefront of our nation's consciousness with deep humility and an abiding belief in the power of collective action. President Trumka was a beloved colleague and friend, and his legacy will endure for generations."

Liz Shuler Elected AFL-CIO President

From Page 1

In 1993, Shuler was hired as an organizer at Local 125. When energy giant Enron Corp. tried to muscle electricity deregulation through the Oregon Legislature, Shuler worked with a broad-based coalition of labor, community and environmental activists to challenge and ultimately overcome Enron's powerhouse lobbying campaign, a victory that sparked her passion for mobilizing workers to make change even when faced with overwhelming odds.

In 1998, Ed Hill, then-secretary-treasurer of the IBEW, assigned Shuler to California where she mobilized IBEW members to help defeat Prop. 226, the so-called paycheck protection initiative that threatened to silence union members in the political process. That victory prompted John J. Barry, president of the IBEW at that time, to hire her as an international representative in the union's political/legislative affairs department in Washington, D.C. In that role, Shuler ran grassroots political mobilization efforts and lobbied Congress on a range of issues important to working families. In 2004, she was promoted to assistant to the international president, where she served Hill, who had succeeded to that position, in driving the agenda of the nearly 1-million-member union.

In 2009, she joined forces with Trumka, becoming the first woman elected to the position of secretary-treasurer at an AFL-CIO convention and the youngest woman ever on the federation's executive council. As secretary-treasurer, she also served as the chief financial officer, turning deficits into surpluses and steering the federation through multiple fiscal crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to her stewardship of the federation's finances, Shuler led the AFL-CIO's initiatives on the future of work, retirement security, the clean energy economy, public safety reform, workforce development, and empowering women and young workers. She is committed to busting myths about labor, leveraging the labor movement's diversity for innovative approaches to social justice and making the benefits of a union voice on the job available to working people everywhere.

Redmond has been a USW member since 1973, when he went to work at Reynolds Metals Co. in Chicago. He became active in his local union almost immediately, serving as shop steward and eventually vice president. He served three terms as local president.

For decades, Redmond served the USW in various staff and leadership roles, assisting local unions, developing and conducting training programs, and bargaining contracts.

As international vice president for human affairs, Redmond oversaw the civil and human rights department, as well as the union's shipbuilding, health care and public sector bargaining, and worked with USW allies across the country in responding to attacks on voting rights and in combating economic inequality. Redmond has a long history of leadership on various boards, including the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the A. Philip Randolph Institute. In 2021, Redmond was elected president of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, a prestigious international post.

The terms of the three executive officers run through June 2022, when delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention in Philadelphia will elect leaders for new four-year terms.

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Hollywood Casino Kansas City Ratifies New Contract

On July 14, the SEATU members working at Hollywood Casino Kansas Speedway unanimously ratified a new, nine-year agreement with the property.

SEATU Representative Amber Gibson said, "This is the first time in over a decade of being a business representative for SEATU that I have ratified a contract with zero 'no' votes. Everyone voted yes on this." Gibson highlighted a few standout features of the new contract, including improvements to the attendance point system, increased holiday pay, and negotiated pay raises over the first three years of the contract.

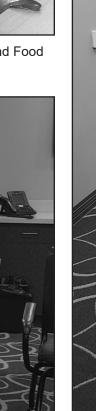
She continued, "I always appreciate the hard work and long hours put in by all parties during negotiations. The delegates did a wonderful job representing the SEATU membership and there was informative, respectful dialogue from the SEATU Bargaining Committee and the Hollywood Bargaining Committee. With the challenges we all face with COVID-19, the shut down and re-opening of Hollywood Casino Kansas Speedway, the staffing changes/shortages, the safety protocols put in place, and the hours of operations for various venues being adjusted, this was a great contract with some substantial gains.... I can't thank everyone enough for all of their hard work."





Count Room member Mindi Lux (left) and Cage Delegate Crystal Malone





Update on Pride of America Renovations, Upgrades

At press time, the SEATU-contracted *Pride of America* - operated by Norwegian Cruise Line - is in dry dock in Portland, Oregon. There, the vessel is undergoing upgrades and modernizations, in preparation for the return of passenger service in between Hawaiian Islands.

The photos below show some of the stateroom renovations in progress. In the photo at right: Stateroom Stewards Norman Hagarap (standing, left), Junnel Tubesa (sitting, left) and Marta Rojas (sitting, right), along with SEATU Delegate Lucia Colon (standing, right).









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. In each photo on the following pages, all members are listed in alphabetical order.



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.



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.

Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center





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



Above: Francisco Flores, Ebony Gay, Khalil McMillian and Christopher Ramirez.



Above: Cecilia Castillo, Julio Fererra Borrero, Khalil McMillian, Jasmine Meler, Jessica Scheno, Charles Styrbicki and Sarah Thomas.

Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center





Pictured alongside additional upgraders: Alyssa Adams, Cecilia Castillo, Tara Chavez, Bryce Cooper, Katrina Maynard, Khalil McMillian, Iman Tabaei and Douglas Urbach.



Above: Jatia Jameisha Alston, Aaron Clements and Remekia Handy.

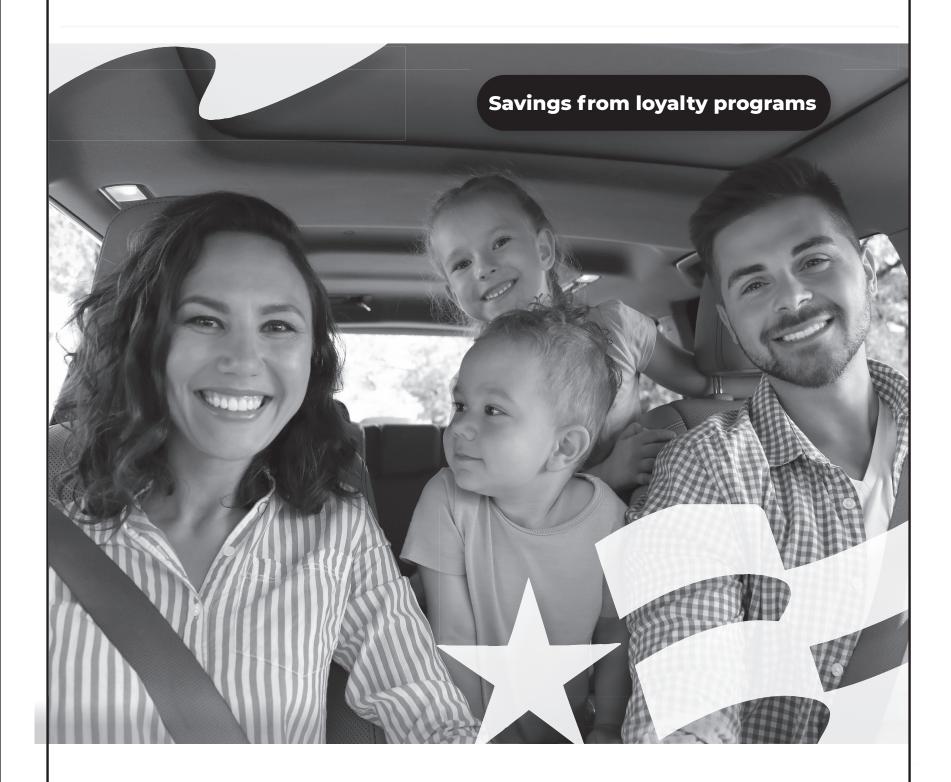


Above: Omnia Koumi and Marquette Murdock.





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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 re-quest that they be invoked when

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

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.

Biden: Unions are 'America's Heart and Soul'

Editor's Note: Full coverage of President Biden's Labor Day address will be featured in the next issue of The Entertainer.

"Everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity. And that's what the labor union is all about: dignity."

President Biden credited his late father with regularly reinforcing that message, and the commander in chief shared it during his remarks at a Sept. 8 White House ceremony celebrating Labor Day. Also speaking at the event were Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh (a former union member) and AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, among others.

Biden, always enthusiastic when discussing the labor movement, expressed strong confidence in Shuler, who recently was elected to lead the federation after the unexpected passing of AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

"I know you didn't expect to be in this role at this moment," Biden said to Shuler during the ceremony, "but as I told you before, I believe that the future of American labor is in very good hands. I really mean it."

He continued, "In my White House, labor will always be welcome. I intend to be the most pro-union president leading the most pro-union administration in American history."



MTD Secretary-Treasurer Daniel Duncan, left, poses with President Biden

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 Delegates:

Restaurant: Seeking volunteers Hotel-Housekeeping: Lucia Galley/F&B: Seeking volunteers Bar/Gift Shop: Seeking

Kansas City

volunteers

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

SEATU Notebook 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 Časino Perryville Food & Beverage: Beth Knight Table Games: Jackie Holstein Poker Dealer: Bill Monahan

Food & Beverage: Glory **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

Miami Valley Gaming

Cage: Kyle Bauer Count Room: Daniel Estle **Gaming Attendants:** Gwen Nevin, Gina Fumi-Fiamawle Gaming Technician: Shawn

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