

2025 SEATU Convention Celebrates Growth, Honors Legacies



The official 2025 convention theme and artwork.

The 2025 SEATU Convention returned to the traditional in-person format on September 10-11, with SEATU executives, representatives, delegates and guests all gathering to map out pathways for continued growth. In keeping with the convention's theme, "Strategies for Success," each speaker offered their respective insight as the union heads into an exciting period of expansion.

The triennial event took place at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, located in Piney Point, Maryland.

SEATU President David Heindel opened the convention with a solemn

reminder that there has been a death in the union family since the last convention: "Right off the bat, I want to acknowledge that there's one big absence compared to our previous conventions, and of course that's our late President Mike Sacco. Even though we're coming up on two years since Mike passed, this is our first SEATU convention without him. I find it very appropriate that we all saw his bronze bust in the lobby and we're meeting in a state-of-the-art building named in his honor. Mike laid the groundwork for our success and he never let up. I knew him quite well, and I'm confident that while he would

appreciate this remembrance, in the next breath he'd tell us all to get on with our work."

In that spirit, the speakers that followed provided updates on past and present SEATU efforts along with upcoming plans. Those in attendance heard reports from representatives from each region, as well as remarks from SEATU Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski, Vice Presidents Augustin Tellez and Bryan Powell, National AVP Todd Brdak, and AVP Shane Sterry.

The guest speakers included industry partners from the Cordish Gaming Group, Norwegian Cruise Line America,

Penn Gaming and Union Plus, as well as SIU/SEATU Legislative Director Brian Schoeneman and MTD Secretary-Treasurer Britannie Potter. Delegates approved ten statements covering topics including workers' rights, grassroots action, the potential impacts of artificial intelligence in the workplace, and more.

Additionally, those gathered nominated the existing leadership team to be re-elected for another term, with Heindel, Orzechowski, Tellez and Powell all accepting the nominations before being sworn into office.

More coverage on Pages 3, 6 and 8.



As part of the convention proceedings, the SEATU executive board take the Oath of Office after being re-elected (from left to right): Vice President Bryan Powell, Vice President Augustin Tellez, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski, President David Heindel and Chief Counsel Leslie Tarantola (administering the oath).



President David Heindel gives his opening remarks at the convention.



Attendees enjoyed two days of presentations and breakout sessions.

What's Inside

- President's Column

- Class Photos

Page 2

Pages 4-5

President's Column

Strategies for Success

The following are excerpts from President Heindel's address to the SEATU representatives and delegates in attendance at the 2025 SEATU Convention in Piney Point, Maryland.

Back in 2022, remarkably, we had weathered a lot of the COVID-19 pandemic storm and were on our way to climbing back to full membership numbers. The biggest exception at that time was the *Pride of America*.



David Heindel

But today, we're all the way back, as you'll hear in some of the other reports. Brothers and sisters, this didn't happen by accident. It required hard work and dedication. It required creative thinking and collaboration. It required "Strategies for Success."

Those strategies – and their implementation – involved all of us, from our rank-and-file members to our shop stewards and delegates, and from our regional representatives to our vice presidents. You cannot succeed in the labor movement without an entire team, and I'm happy to say we've got a winning team here in SEATU.

One of the main things that stood out to me when I was reviewing the representatives' reports for this convention is how many great contracts we've secured in the last three years. This is truly a credit to everyone involved, and I would include many if not most of our contracted employers. We have always embodied the belief that you can sit on opposite sides of the bargaining table and still pull in the same direction. Put another way, we've always worked to help ensure that a strong foundation supports the whole house. Our companies usually understand and agree with the sentiment, in the same way that our union realizes we cannot succeed unless our employers succeed....

Before I move on to the next point, I want to say a word about our host facility, the Paul Hall Center. I realize some of you have been here before, and others may have seen SEATU class photos in our newsletter. But what you may not know is that this is the nation's premier training facility for United States Merchant Mariners. If you have a family member or know a young man or woman looking for a rewarding career, encourage them to speak with one of our representatives. They'll get answers to their questions and guidance through the application process. We're recruiting nationwide, and we'd be proud to see someone you know join the ranks of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

For SEATU, Piney Point is a vital location. Thousands of members have trained at our fire fighting and safety school just up the road over the years, while lodging here on the main campus. The training is a prerequisite for working aboard the *Pride of America*, due to Coast Guard regulations. So, welcome back to those of you who've previously visited, and if you're a first-timer, I hope the school makes a good impression.

Finally, brothers and sisters, I want to thank all of you for your efforts to keep our union strong. From time to time, I've been asked what it's like to serve as president following so many years in other roles. My answer is always the same: My job is easy when the rest of the team is working effectively and efficiently. And even though no person or organization is perfect, I believe we're ahead of the game far more often than not.

I look forward to diving into our convention these next two days, as we further refine our Strategies for Success.

Political Director Encourages Convention Attendees

SEATU Political and Legislative Director Brian Schoeneman, one of the featured speakers at the 2025 SEATU Convention, spoke to those assembled on the current political climate American workers are facing.

"For all of us, hope is something that I think we're lacking these days," he began. "It's very easy to get cynical. It's very easy to look around and see how partisan things are in Washington, how difficult it is to get things done, how people are fighting more than they've ever fought before, and to lose hope. And I want to tell all of you, don't do that. Because no matter how bad it looks on TV, no matter how bad it looks like it is in Washington, how much we're fighting with each other, how much the Democrats and Republicans are going at it, and everybody else is wondering what's going to happen ... it's not as bad as it looks. The reality is, this is politics."

He continued, "Politics is about the art of the possible. Too much these days, politics has become, 'How much louder can I yell than the guy next to me?' But that's not what it's supposed to be about. In the end, what we're doing in this room is as much political as anything that's going on in Washington, because what are we doing here? We're serving our members. We're serving as representatives. We are working together to benefit the people that put us in these positions, that expect us to work for them, because that's our way.... That's all they're supposed to be doing in Washington. Now, it's not as easy as it used to be. It's not as simple, but it's always been messy."

He then touched on the possibility of a government shutdown due to a lack of funding, which as of press time is ongoing, before reiterating that politics is never easy: "This is the new way of doing business. This is what [SEATU Vice President Augie Tellez] and myself and the rest of the folks on our Washington team have to deal with. We are constantly put in a position where the process doesn't work the way that it's supposed to. But in the end, regardless of whether it works the way it's supposed to on paper, it has to work, because everybody's counting on Washington to get this done."

Focusing on the political division in America, Schoeneman noted, "Americans have been partisan

since the very beginning the revolution. We had Loyalists and we had Patriots. We had people that were fighting against the British, we had people that were fighting for the British.... From the 1820s until now, we've had two political parties in the country. People have had to pick a side. And even those who don't want to pick a side, want to be neutral, who don't care about politics, which, let me be frank, is the vast majority of Americans, politics is background noise to them. They don't like it. They don't want to be involved in it. They put up with it because they have to you.

"There are a couple of things that I would suggest that we can all do better to make our democracy strong," he continued. "And you'll hear a lot about threats to democracy. People are worried about democracy. They're worried about things the president is doing. They're worried about changes to election law. They're worried about gerrymandering and changes to districts across the country.... It's very easy for us to get sick and say we can't do anything.

But that's not true. Number one, the most important thing all of us in this room can do is vote. Period. Do not let anybody tell you that your vote doesn't count. Do not let anybody tell you that voting does not matter.... The other thing I want to suggest, and I know this is hard because I am a big fan of social media, is to turn it off. Put it down. You don't need to be on Twitter 24 hours a day. You don't need to be doom-scrolling Instagram at two in the morning."

He concluded, "As SEATU President David Heindel says, the union is not partisan. We work with whoever supports us. And that means I could be having breakfast with Ted Kennedy, and I have done that, and the next day I am sitting down and talking to Ted Cruz. I have done that, too. It's just the nature of how we do business, but (it's important to) learn the argument. Learn the other side. Take a chance.... Because, after all, whether we're union members or non-union, whether we're Republicans, whether we're Democrats, men, women, it doesn't matter. In the end, we are all Americans."



Brian Schoeneman
SEATU Legislative Director

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Farewell and Mahalo to Longtime Delegate Lucia Colon

Editor's note: The following speech was written by SEATU Representative Amber Akana, and read aloud as an introduction to the ceremony.

Lucia Colon's name is spoken with admiration aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pride of America*. For more than two decades, Lucia has exemplified professionalism as a stateroom attendant and served as a steadfast advocate for her fellow crew members in her role as a delegate with the Seafarers Entertainment and Allied Trades Union (SEATU).

Lucia's maritime journey began in the early 2000s with American Classic Voyages, where she sailed aboard the *M/S Patriot* under American Hawaii Cruises. From the beginning, she distinguished herself with a strong work ethic and a deep sense of solidarity with her crewmates.

In 2004, Lucia joined Norwegian Cruise Line, becoming part of the launch teams for the *Pride of Aloha* and later the *Pride of Hawaii*. These formative years connected her to the U.S.-flagged cruise ships and introduced her to the strength of a unionized workforce supported by SEATU.

When NCL consolidated its Hawaii operations in 2008, reducing its U.S. fleet to one vessel, Lucia made a defining choice: she joined the *Pride of America*, where she has remained for the past 18 years.

Aboard the *Pride*, Lucia continued to deliver exceptional service as a stateroom attendant – ensuring every guest cabin met the highest standards. But it was her commitment as a SEATU delegate that truly set her apart. She became a trusted voice for her fellow crew members, standing up for fairness, respect, and support in the workplace.

Whether helping a new hire understand their rights or providing guidance during challenging times, Lucia's



Delegate Lucia Colon was surprised during the convention with a retirement ceremony, complete with mementos and tokens of appreciation from multiple members of SEATU's leadership team. From left to right: Vice President Bryan Powell, Vice President Augustin Tellez, President David Heindel, Delegate Lucia Colon, Paul Hall Center Apprentices Wynton Smith and Jadelyn Watling, Representative Amber Akana, Delegate Angelia Hinton and Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski.

calm and principled leadership earned her the respect of crew and management alike.

As one fellow crew member put it, “She’s someone who genuinely cares, not just about her own job, but about everyone around her. She doesn’t just talk about unity; she lives it every day.”

Balancing the demands of her job with the responsibilities of union representation was never easy, but Lucia did so with grace, humility, and heart. Her efforts have led to meaningful improvements in working conditions, crew morale, and the overall experience for those serving aboard the *Pride of America*.

As Lucia prepares for retirement, her legacy endures in the lives she has touched, the colleagues she has mentored, and the many improvements she helped bring about over the years. She has built more than a career; she has built a legacy rooted in fairness, strength, and solidarity.

Lucia Colon's story is a powerful reminder of what leadership grounded in service can achieve. Her 20-plus years at sea stand as a beacon for all who believe in the power of unity and the dignity of labor.

From all of us at SEATU, fair winds and following seas, Lucia, as you embark on your next chapter.



The photos above, taken throughout Colon's career, were submitted by Representative Amber Akana, and were included as part of a slideshow displayed during the ceremony.

LIVE! Praises Importance of SEATU Partnership

One of the featured speakers at the 2025 SEATU Convention was Howard Weinstein, executive vice president of labor relations for the Cordish Gaming Group. Cordish Gaming operates the various LIVE! properties across the country, including multiple facilities where SEATU members work.

Setting the tone for his good-natured and informative remarks, Weinstein stated, “I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to talk to you, and provide a brief overview of what’s been happening between LIVE! and SEATU. But before I get started – and [SEATU President David Heindel] mentioned this – this is my third time speaking at this convention, and I can’t help but notice that every time, I am slotted in the same spot: I stand between you and lunch. I do not take that responsibility lightly. I hope to keep you very entertained, do a brief presentation and have you at your food as quickly as possible.”

He pointed out that the union and the company have worked together since 2011. At that time, Weinstein served as the chief legal counsel for a family-owned real estate developer that was brand new to the gaming industry. Despite the company’s hesitations about organized labor, Weinstein and others facilitated the eventual signing of a labor peace agreement that included SEATU.

“We signed that labor peace agreement, and the next month, Maryland LIVE! opened,” he recalled. “We had tedious negotiations, but we successfully negotiated our first CBA in 2012.”

He also outlined some of the major expansions to the Maryland LIVE! property over the years, including

the hotel in 2018 and concert venue in 2019, both of which meant new jobs for SEATU members. He added that additional LIVE! facilities are in the works in multiple states.

“There are future properties that we’re looking at right now, to go from one to five properties in roughly 14 years,” he said. “That may seem slow, but it is an enormous amount of expansion. And the owners are destined to be like the Caesars’, the Bally’s, the MGM’s in the casino industry, and they are well on their way.”

“The big property is Maryland LIVE!,” he said. “I don’t know if many of you have been there, but it is on par with Atlantic City and Las Vegas. It is really a top-tier casino property, and due credit to the owners, they put their money up and have built just some phenomenal properties.”

He then related the professional working relationship between SEATU and LIVE! to famous duos throughout history, before concluding, “There are many opportunities where there is good, healthy disagreement – and sometimes fervent disagreement – but we follow the Warren Buffett style of working things through. Buffet said, ‘Good partners never argue. They debate. Sometimes openly, emotionally, unemotionally, pretty fervently, but the outcome is always better,’ and I think that’s true of the relationship that I have developed with Bryan (SEATU Vice President Bryan Powell) and with Tommy (SEATU Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski). We agree, we frequently will disagree, and we will work our way through it. But I have to mention, there is no one who tells me I am wrong more



Howard Weinstein
EVP of Labor Relations,
Cordish Gaming Group

often, other than my wife, than (SEATU Legal Counsel) Stan Dubin.”

Weinstein wrapped up his remarks by offering kudos to SEATU Assistant Vice President Shane Sterry, whom he credited with “Herculean efforts” in grassroots outreach promoting pro-worker legislation. Those endeavors included helping coordinate massive rallies as well as testifying before state legislatures.

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 one-week course includes training specified by the vessel operator and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, and includes 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.



Among those pictured above: Ramon Ballesteros, Kayla Barnes, Claire Barton, Achref Bejaoui, Adrian Bravo, Brandon Butler, Richard Del Cristo, Baron Diego, Jayln Dortch, Ke'Thaviour Hampton, Genisis Hernandez, Jacqueline Hernandez, Maureen Hodges, Savannah Horn, Faith Kroma, Randall Newell Jr., Octavia Penn, Saivon Perkins, Benjamin Placek, Edinance Poletto, Francheska Ramirez, Mark Solano, Cenk Tezil and Elijah Walker.



Among those pictured above: Roland Agustin Jr., Shawn Belton, Ariany Chuquillanqui Cosme, Jessica Curl, Sharon Globus, Katherine Hammond, Jerome Hill Jr., Brayden Howard, Khari Hughes, Kylee Misar, Ryan Moran, Roland Ong, Jonathan Ramsten, Angel Sanders, Diana Torres Cervantes, Tre'viun Turner, Giovanni Uriostegui and Marcus Walker.



Not all are pictured: Talibah Adenouga, Priscilla Agbaje, Hayden Alsept, Arlene Belisario, Errol Benjamin II, David Boring II, Edwin Campbell Jr., Hsiu Chien, Richard Del Cristo, Danielle DeVito, Christy Elswick, Devon Forrest, Zane Godbehere, Andrew Gorkin, Stephen Griffin, Devon Harrell, Mikaela Healy, Dwayne Johnson, Amber Jolley, Graham Levens and Ronald Lopez Garcia.



Not all are pictured: Jessica Arner, Ericka Guincho, Tameika Latin, Rina Mewa, Grant Meyer, Delia Milano, Karina Mitchell, Jeremiah Moore, Kimberly Nordgren, Carlos Penaherrera Franco, Jarett Porras, Chelsea Rhodes, Curtis Robinson Jr., Helen Selassie, Stephon Smalls, Benjamin Smith, Jessica Steele, Tierra Strickland, Benjamin Voss, April Ward, Sophia Woodard and Marticia Wright.



Above: Cindy Adcock, Mohamed Al-Samman, Tyler Bishop, Brandon Cockrell, Susan Daughtry, Brandon Fregoso, Miguel Hermisillo Sanchez, LaTabiya Howard, Staphany James, Musa Jammeh and Jacob Kitchell.



Above: Tonia Barnett, Kameron Evans, Griffin Gorski, Neufel Marsan, Casey McClelland, Akilah Perry, Mary Piccitto, Elle Plowman, Christin Rajsombath Jr., Tory Schmeir, Charisse Stewart, Kion Thomas and Jose Torres.



Not all are pictured: Isai Alvarez, Mikala Apelu, Robert Avitia, Ashley Campbell, Steven Carle, Cuentin Coleman, Rembert Ervin, Estefany Estrada, Hamze Hamda, Mariah James, Ali Livingston, Saribel Mateo, Daphne Muridan, Jyvone Nash, Jared Torres, Jason Turbyfill, Joshua Van Nort, Sean Walsh, Gary Wilkins Jr., Travist Williams, Robert Wright and Morgan Zachos.

Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center



Above: Luke Dahlman, Nathan Dimaano, Evander Etsitty, Joshua Gonzalez, Blake Grandon, Keyon Hurse, Damon Mondy, Jackie Newman, Samantha Pinkstock, Sia Proulx, Jody Roby, Rita Roman, Jadon Thornton, Andrea Thrasher, Emmanuel Volcy, Quentin Winstine, Andrea Wright and Melissa Yoder.



Above (not all are pictured): Deborah Anamah, Josiah Anderson, John Cantisano, Wynnette Christian, Matthew Floyd, Isaiah Hinton, Diamond Lingard, Abigail Littrell, Michael Manes, Angel Martinez, Ryan Massey, Darbey Mulvill, Jeffrey Sheppard, Joel Shrader, William Snellgrove, Jeshun Washington and Scott Weingarten.



Among those pictured: Jolene Ahlgrim, Jorelis Amaya Gonzalez, Carmen Araujo, Oscar Ciudad Real Montiel, Conner Dexter, Matthew Erickson, Melinda Galloway, Bangelo Garrett, Brent Hein, Malcom Jacobs, Charles Jennings III, Tylesha Johnson, ZhaQuan Jones, Jenny Kane, Joseph McFarlane, John Petty Jr., Emily Rainwater, Bryan Rossini, Brandon Speller and Christopher Spreng.



Above (not all are pictured): Monica Buchanan, Paul Chism Jr., Dorian Dume, Ashleigh Edwards, Brian Gorham, Tiffany Hajduk, Abir Hammoud, Brittney Harmon, Gabriel Harwood, Garrett Hill, Jaylynn Jones, Joshua Jones, Alexandria Loiseau, Rodrigo Marban, Arnulfo Rebancos, Nolma Rock, Daniel Rodil, Micha Romano, Shery Salonga, Ally Sinclair, Avery Smith, John Tyra and Bradley Wallace.



Above (not all are pictured): Obrian Bailey, Lakenya Davis, Rudolph Gary, Cordalius Graham, Andrew Hallums, Vitoria Hindersmann Mann, Jie Hu, Tracy Hyder, Kaitlyn Lewandowski, Eugene Mohamedhoesein, Yinka Nayre, Court- nie Velten, Matthew Waggle and Gary West.



Above: Garrett Crain, Pleszant Davis, Lynette Franczak, Ruby Hall, Jovan Kamara, Cedric Phillips, Sandra Rangel, Jordan Requilman, Tyler Smith, Jourdain Spivey and Rashad Turner.



Among those pictured: Eli Carr, Atlas Caston, Jermaine Chandler, John Crawford, Antania Divers, Dwayne Howard Jr., Anthony Jackson, Rising Sun Kalamid Din, Albert Luke, John Moen, Kymani Phillip, Henock Tegafaw, Benjamin Veslovsky, Daniela Vives-Flores and Irvine Wakefield.

2025 SEATU Convention Speakers



Sending video greetings and well-wishes to the 2025 SEATU Convention were (left) Jane Nguyen, VP of HR Operations at Penn Entertainment, and Britannia Potter, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

AFL-CIO Applauds as Protect America's Workforce Act Introduced in Senate

Editor's note: The following news release was issued by the AFL-CIO, to which SEATU is affiliated.

The AFL-CIO and affiliated unions representing federal workers applauded the introduction of the Protect America's Workforce Act in the U.S. Senate Sept. 17. The legislation would reverse two executive orders issued by President Trump and restore collective bargaining rights to federal workers.

Since Trump's first executive order in March stripped nearly 1 million workers of their collective bargaining rights, the administration expanded the attack to include more federal agencies just before Labor Day. The administration also has begun implementing the orders by canceling the contracts of nearly 450,000 workers at the departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Donald Trump's executive order launched the biggest act of union-busting in our history, ripping away collective bargaining rights from a million federal workers," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. "In the months since, his administration has expanded that order and unilaterally canceled union contracts for nearly 450,000 workers. These moves are an assault on our fundamental freedoms and undercut critical services people across the country rely on."

"We commend Sens. Warner and Van Hollen, and Minority Leader Schumer for bringing the fight to overturn the Trump administration's attack on workers to the Senate," she continued. "Bipartisan momentum is already building in the House, where lawmakers are collecting the final signatures on a discharge petition to bring this bill to a vote. The labor movement looks forward to working with senators to stop the senseless assault on workers who provide essential government services to communities across America. The labor movement stands united behind this bill, and we call on every senator—Democrat, Republican and independent—to keep their promise to workers by backing this legislation."

The Protect America's Workforce Act was introduced by Sens. Mark Warner (D-Virginia) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Maryland), and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York). In the House, the bill was introduced by Reps.

Jared Golden (D-Maine) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pennsylvania), with 221 additional co-sponsors. Organizing by the labor movement and members of Congress is also driving up signatures on a discharge petition, which will soon reach the requisite 218 to send the bill straight to the House floor.

"President Trump's March executive order stripping most of the federal workforce of collective bargaining rights represents the single most aggressive action taken by the federal government against organized labor in U.S. history, dwarfing any previous action against public or private sector working Americans," said American Federation of Government Employees

our union, and passage of this very important piece of legislation is key in reversing the attack on these civil servants. Federal workers are essential to the livelihood and prosperity of the U.S., and these workers rightly deserve the right of collective bargaining, which provides benefits like protections in the workplace and better service to the public."

"IFPTE was founded in 1918 by federal workers at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard as our nation was fighting World War I. At agencies that support military readiness, advance scientific breakthroughs and space exploration, and protect communities and commerce from environmental hazards, our federal sector

legislation has garnered broad bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and will surely do the same in the Senate. Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle understand that if this bill is not passed into law, their constituents will suffer the consequences. Thank you to Sen. Warner and the initial cosponsors of the legislation for their leadership on this critical issue."

"As nurses, we use our voices on the job every day to fight for safe staffing and the best possible care for our veterans," said Irma Westmoreland, RN at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta, Ga. and director of National Nurses United (NNU)'s VA division. "The Trump administration attempted to silence our voice by stripping collective bargaining rights from over a million federal workers, but we will not be silent. We thank Sen. Warner for introducing the Protect America's Workforce Act on the Senate side to restore our collective bargaining rights, and we urge the House and Senate to act quickly to pass this bill so nurses can continue advocating for the best care that veterans deserve."

"They protect the environment, care for veterans, and support public health and education. Characterizing these workers as a national security threat in order to strip them of their union rights and protections is shameful and a gross overreach by this administration," said Heather Conroy, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The Protect America's Workforce Act is necessary to restore their collective bargaining rights, including protection against illegal firing, discrimination or retaliation, particularly at this time in our country."

"Federal government employees play a crucial role in public service by keeping our transportation systems safe, investigating accidents, overseeing critical weather forecasts, and providing essential supplies to the U.S. military," said Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) President Greg Regan. "These workers already surrender many of the rights that private-sector employees enjoy, such as the ability to negotiate wages and benefits and the fundamental right to strike. Transportation labor urges the Senate to pass the bipartisan Protect America's Workforce Act and restore the basic collective bargaining rights of federal workers."



(AFGE) National President Everett Kelley. "AFGE members are grateful to Sen. Warner for introducing the Protect America's Workforce Act and standing up for the nonpartisan civil service, the women and men who serve in it, and the critical role that collective bargaining has played for decades in fostering a safe, productive, and collaborative workplace that serves the American people."

"Federal workers are essential to our nation's health and well-being, and when they have the freedom to collectively bargain for safe working conditions and strong public services, we all benefit. The billionaires running this administration are hell-bent on rigging our government to line their own pockets, and silencing federal workers is how they plan to do it," said AFSCME President Lee Saunders. "We thank Sen. Mark Warner for introducing this legislation, and we urge the Senate to quickly pass this bill."

"I thank Sen. Warner for introducing the Protect America's Workforce Act in the Senate," said IAM Union International President Brian Bryant. "Protecting the rights of the federal workers we represent is a priority of

local unions have a long and proud history of making sure federal employees and federal agencies can succeed and serve the American public," said International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) President Matt Biggs. "We know full well that the Trump Administration's Executive Orders to deny more than one million federal workers their bargaining rights on a bogus national security rationale makes this the most anti-labor, anti-worker administration in United States history. IFPTE applauds Sen. Warner, Sen. Van Hollen, and Leader Schumer for standing up for federal workers' union rights and for a government that works for America by sponsoring the Protect America's Workforce Act."

"NFFE is proud to endorse the Protect America's Workforce Act, which will restore union rights for over one million civil servants," said National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE-IAM) National President Randy Erwin. "The union-busting executive order signed by President Trump in March has proven to be detrimental to federal workers and the essential services they provide to the American people every day. This

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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, 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.

NCL America Touts SEATU Partnership

NCL America Senior Manager, Shipboard People Excellence (PX) Operations Shameika George (at podium) spoke to the attendees at the 2025 SEATU Convention. During her presentation, she praised the hard work and dedication of the SEATU members who work aboard the *Pride of America*, as well as the upgrades that have been made to the vessel.



SEATU Notebook

Algonac/Detroit Metro

Current Delegates:

M/V Detroit Princess

Bar Staff: Seeking volunteers

Wait Staff: Seeking volunteers

Kitchen Staff: Seeking volunteers

Boston

Current Delegates:

Plainridge Park

Food & Beverage: Seeking volunteers

Anyone interested in becoming a delegate or steward is encouraged to contact the union hall at 701-434-6000.

Chicagoland/Joliet

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

Hollywood Casino Joliet:

Celestina Olaleye

Ameristar: Jim Jasman

Honolulu

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

Current Delegates:

Restaurant: Keith Shufelt

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: Susan Hunt

Slots: Abbey Heller

Maintenance: Seeking volunteers

Main Bank: Crystal Malone

Lawrenceburg

Hollywood Lawrenceburg

Current Delegates:

Slots: Robyn Williams

Cage & Credit: Linda Richter,

LEC Front Desk: Brandi Coy

Food & Beverage: Charles Turner

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: Seeking volunteers

Table Games: Jackie Holstein

Maryland Live! Casino

Food & Beverage: Glory Warrick

Bartender: Jeff Wunk

EVS: Seeking volunteers

Housekeeping: Seeking volunteers

Baltimore/Washington International Airport

: Seeking volunteers

Rosecroft Raceway: Seeking volunteers

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

Gaming Attendants: Gina

Fumi-Fiamawle, David

Williams

Food & Beverage: Kerri Gates, Robert Rogers

Hollywood Gaming Dayton

Raceway

VLT: Nieawna Russel, Josh Steel

Facilities: Damon Boyd Jr.

EVS: Daryl Davis

Hollywood Gaming at

Mahoning Valley

Current Delegates:

Food & Beverage: Nilsa

Lipscomb

EVS: Ethel Smith

VLT: Keely Nance

Riverside

Current Delegates:

Cage: Seeking volunteers

Food & Beverage: Jaime Edge

Count Room: Jackie Hibbs

Slots: Sabrina Louthain

Maintenance: Ahmad Alzaidi

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