

Inland Bargaining Units Confer at ITC Meeting

Members representing ferry and inland waterways bargaining units across the country converged at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School on Wednesday. They pored over related topics, addressed challenges facing our members in those sectors and considered strategies to strengthen their hand. Inland groups represent almost one third of the total M.E.B.A. membership.

Union officials rounded up representatives from a diverse mix of M.E.B.A. inland groups for the third conference in recent years of the group known as the “Inland Transportation Coalition.” The ITC was formed in 2012 to help lend a voice and further extend assistance to our members serving those sectors.



The ITC 2017 gathering included (l-r) Randy Aurella (FOSS); Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo; HQ Contracts Rep. Mark Gallagher; Roland Rexha (Staten Island Ferry); Chris Ferrara (Staten Island Ferry); Nickolas Tapley (Washington State Ferry); Mark Wolf (DRBA - Cape May-Lewes Ferry); Melissa Velli (DRBA - Cape May-Lewes Ferry); Capt. Stacy Shonk (Golden Gate Ferry); M.E.B.A. Staten Island Ferry Rep. Mike O’Toole; Executive V.P. Adam Vokac; M.E.B.A. Washington State Ferry Rep. Isaac Seidman; M.E.B.A. Juneau/CBJ Rep. Ben Goldrich; Eric Downer (AMHS); Daniel Lindberg (Woods Hole Martha’s Vineyard Steamship Authority); Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram; M.E.B.A. Boston Rep. Pete Tsarides; Capt. Denault Donovan (Boston Marine); Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan; President Marshall Ainley; M.E.B.A. Political Director Matt Dwyer and Eric Winge (WSF).

Washington State Ferry Rep. Isaac Seidman and Staten Island Ferry Rep. Mike O’Toole organized the one-day conference and helped secure participation from a dozen M.E.B.A. inland members. Also in attendance were several other key Union officials who oversee inland contracts of

bargaining units that were not able to send a representative. They included Seattle Branch Agent Jeff Duncan, Boston Rep. Pete Tsarides and Juneau Rep. Ben Goldrich. M.E.B.A. Contracts Rep. Mark Gallagher and Political Director Matt Dwyer gave presentations in their areas of expertise. In addition, M.E.B.A.'s five-person District Executive Committee took part which helped supplement discussion and better isolate realistic approaches on items of interest.



A dozen rank and file members representing inland units around the country took part in a one-day ITC conference staged at the Calhoon School on Wednesday. They were joined by a handful of M.E.B.A. officials who oversee inland contracts as well as the five person District Executive Committee. Staten Island Ferry Rep. Mike O'Toole (at left) and Washington State Ferry Rep. Isaac Seidman are seen here with Labor Professor Kitty Conlan. Kitty gave an excellent presentation providing a rich history of unions and discussed other topics such as labor relations, leadership and communications.

Matters of mutual concern that were thrashed out included contract negotiations and enforcement, political concerns as well as union representation and administration. In addition, a presentation and subsequent workshop overseen by Labor Professor Kitty Conlan proved useful for attendees. Conlan provided a rich history of unions and delved into other topics such as labor relations, leadership and communications.