

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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In this issue//Reopener Agreement with OSG//Pasha Gives Back to Hawaii//M.E.B.A. Presence on KP Advisory Council//DOL Rule is a Win for Workers//AI Threatens Jobs, CEOs Profiting//Quality of Life Issues for Foreign-Flag Mariners//Marines to Assist Commercial Shipping Near Iran//Back-to-School the Union Way//Unions Power America Sweepstakes//Database for Near-Miss Incidents//

REOPENER AGREEMENT WITH OSG

M.E.B.A. negotiators, including rank and file, have successfully concluded reopener talks with Overseas Ship Management (OSG) for new economic terms. The overall contract covers 13 vessels in the OSG U.S.-flag fleet. Our agreement with the company runs until June 15, 2026.

Reopener talks were led by Gulf Coast V.P. Adam Smith and included Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway. Headquarters Contracts Rep. Mark S. Gallagher also contributed to the process as did rank-and-file members Vinny Quinones (OVERSEAS SANTORINI), Pat Ryan (OVERSEAS MARTINEZ) and Greg Feeney (OVERSEAS CASCADE).

Reopener contract details will be forthcoming and retroactive pay is currently being processed. Salient points will be sent to the Union halls shortly and made available to the OSG crews. The full reopener agreement will be placed in the September meeting packet for member review.

MĀLAMA IA HAWAI'I! PASHA BENEFITS LOCAL COMMUNITY

M.E.B.A.-contracted Pasha Hawaii continues to support the local community in the Aloha State as they celebrate the addition of the beautiful newbuild JANET MARIE to their fleet.

The 774-foot LNG-powered vessel completed her maiden voyage to her homeport of Honolulu late last week beginning her regular service in the Hawaii/Mainland trade. The initial M.E.B.A. crew of the vessel included C/E Eric White, 1st A/E Thomas Norton, 2nd A/E Alec Sieving, 2nd A/E Anthony Nappi, 3rd A/E Zachary Silva and 3rd A/E Maurice Welsh.

In honor of the vessel's arrival to the Aloha State, Pasha practiced some "Mālama ia Hawai'i" (take care of Hawaii) by presenting a \$25,000 check to Kupu, a local non-profit organization that supports environmental stewardship while empowering young people.

In addition, Pasha noted that employees along with sister company Hawaii Stevedores, partnered with Kupu "to help restore Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor) by clearing invasive mangrove and preparing planting areas."

“Like my dad, my mom had tremendous aloha for the people of Hawaii,” said George Pasha, IV, President and CEO of Pasha Hawaii. “She was also very passionate about the health and well-being of our youth. Kupu’s mission and its accomplishments align perfectly with what my mom would have wanted to support. We are very grateful for the partnership we’ve developed with Kupu and look forward to exploring additional ways we can support their efforts.”

USMMA ADVISORY COUNCIL BEGINS WORK

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) Advisory Council conducted its first public meeting on Monday (August 7) at Kings Point. M.E.B.A. Executive Vice President Claudia Cimini is one of the 13 inaugural members of the newly created Council. The group consists of Department of Transportation-appointed members from academia, the maritime industry, experts on education, diversity and SA/SH prevention. Five of the appointees, including Executive V.P. Cimini, are Kings Point graduates.

It was a good start for a group that looks to advance the Kings Point mission to ensure the Academy continues to cultivate young men and women of exemplary character to be tomorrow’s leaders at sea and ashore. The group met in person, toured the school, began discussions and set up subcommittees. At the inaugural meeting they were joined by USMMA Superintendent Rear Admiral Joanna Nunan and Maritime Administrator Rear Admiral Ann Phillips, among others.

The Council provides independent advice and recommendations on improving the Academy, including the areas of curriculum development and training programs; diversity, equity, and inclusion; sexual assault prevention and response; infrastructure maintenance and redevelopment; midshipmen health and welfare; governance and administrative policies; and other matters. As part of this work, the Council will develop strategies and recommendations to address the issues identified in the 2021 National Academy of Public Administration’s Comprehensive Assessment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy report.

A WIN FOR WORKERS: DOL DAVIS-BACON REVISION STRENGTHENS PREVAILING WAGE

A final rule issued by the U.S. Department of Labor alters the method of computing the “prevailing wage,” potentially resulting in construction crews on federal projects seeing thousands of additional dollars in their annual earnings. The revision modernizes regulations that implement the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts and restores a more worker-friendly definition of prevailing wage that was tilted away from workers during the Reagan administration.

Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su said, “This updated rule will create pathways to the middle class for more families and help level the playing field for high-road employers because companies who exploit their workers, or who don’t pay workers fairly, should never have a competitive advantage.”

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler commended the labor-friendly rule and noted that it will also improve legal protections from wage theft for more than 1 million workers on federal construction projects. “This rule will guarantee that workers in new and existing jobs, emerging infrastructure, and clean energy sectors are paid fairly,” she stated. “Every job created through these historic investments should be a good family-supporting job.”

CORPORATE FATCATS CONTINUE TO PROFIT EXCESSIVELY AS AI THREATENS WORKERS

As CEOs rush to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) in their businesses in ways that can hurt workers and drive inequality, executive pay remains unacceptably high, according to this year's AFL-CIO Executive Paywatch website paywatch.org. In 2022, the average CEO-to-worker-pay ratio of companies in the S&P 500 Index was 272-to-1.

“The choice about how we use AI is before us right now. Will AI be used to enrich corporate CEOs and tech billionaires? Or will the productivity gains of AI be shared with working people to make our jobs easier and raise living standards?” said AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond. “Performers are being asked to sign away the rights to their own likeness as a condition of employment so that the studios can add to their profits by digitally creating new content without them. Writers not writing. Actors not acting. And their fight is our fight.”

Average S&P 500 Index CEO compensation was \$16.7 million in 2022—the second-highest level of executive pay in history—and data shows that over the past decade, CEO pay increased by \$5 million. Assuming a 45-year career, S&P 500 Index company employees would need to work more than five lifetimes to make what the average CEO receives in just one year. The advent of AI and its impact on society has become a growing inflection point for working people as CEOs implement new technologies to monitor, evaluate, control and even fire workers. The report spotlights how the top 10 highest-paid CEOs in the Executive Paywatch database are incorporating AI into their business models. Despite conventional wisdom that CEOs create jobs and reinvest profits to help grow the economy, the report highlights how AI is being adopted in ways that can undermine workers and increase inequality.

QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FOREIGN-FLAG MARINERS IS DOWN, REPORT SAYS

The latest edition of the Seafarers' Happiness Index reveals that the average quality of life along with inflation-adjusted pay in foreign-flag shipping are less attractive than they were before the pandemic.

In the latest index survey, happiness levels fell across all categories, driven by the persistence of the challenges of the pandemic era. COVID-19 may be over as a major public health concern, but some of the unpopular working policies that began as an adaptation to COVID are still in place. Cost-efficient extended work rotations have become the new normal, according to the survey, and seafarers are still on board for longer stints than they were before COVID.

During the reporting period, seafarers expressed their struggles at not yet seeing working and living conditions fully return to pre-pandemic standards, particularly in areas such as crew changes, time spent on board, wages, and shore leave. Other key issues raised by respondents included unmanageable workloads, limited internet access, and inadequate gym facilities. A major concern was the shortage of available drinking water.

U.S. LOOKS TO ENSURE SMOOTH SHIPPING IN STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Newly deployed Marines in the Middle East are currently undergoing training for their roles in safeguarding oil tankers and other commercial vessels against potential Iranian threats at sea. The Pentagon announced that the U.S. is increasing its presence in support of partners and allies in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding areas where Iran has disrupted commerce with harassing behavior and attacks on merchant vessels.

According to reports, approximately 100 Marines are undergoing specialized defensive training in Bahrain. Their training involves forming teams dedicated to the protection of commercial ships, accompanying them briefly as they navigate through and near the Strait of Hormuz.

The primary objective is to send a strong message to Iran, demonstrating the U.S.'s commitment to ensuring the unimpeded passage of ships through the strait and adjacent waters. The selection process for which ships will receive this additional security layer involves factors such as the vessel's origin, destination, cargo type, and ownership country. Teams will only join the vessels upon the request of the shippers and after thorough evaluation of qualifying criteria.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL THE UNION WAY + PARENT RELIEF

A new school year is right around the corner and you can help the cause by buying school supplies that help working families. Once you're all set to get those little freeloaders back to school, parents can keep the dying days of summer rolling along by relaxing with a cold one. Here's the list:

Folders, Notebooks, and More - ACCO brands (CWA); Five Star Reinforced Filler Paper (CWA-USW); At-A-Glance Academic Daily Planner (CWA-USW); Mead Spiral Notebook (CWA-USW); Trapper Keeper Folders (CWA); Roaring Spring Pocket Folders (USW); Industries for the Blind Inc. Composition Books (IAMAW); Swingline Stapler (CWA). **Clothing** - All American Clothing (IBEW); Carhartt (IBT); Union Jeans (IBT); Wigman (IBT). **Tissues** - Kleenex Tissues (USW); Puffs Tissues (UFCW). **Drinks** - Dasani (IBT); Gatorade (UAW); Minute Maid Juice (IBT, UAW); Mott's Juice (IBT, UAW, UFCW); Snapple (UAW, IBT, UFCW); Tropicana (UAW); Welch's Juice (IBT, UAW). **End of Summer for Parents** - Anchor Brewing Company (ILWU); Bass (IAM); Beck's (IAM); Blue Moon (IUOE, IBT); Budweiser (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Coors/Coors Light (IUOE, IBT); Dundee (IBT); Goose Island (IBT); Hamm's (UAW, IAM, IBT); Henry Weinhard's (IUOE, IBT); Keystone (IAM IUOE); Kirin (IAM); LandShark Lager (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Leinenkugel (UAW, IUOE, IBT); Mad River (IAM, IBT); Mendocino (IBT); Michelob (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Miller (UAW, IAM, IUOE, IBT); Miller Genuine Draft (UAW, IAM, IUOE, IBT); Miller Lite (UAW, IAM, IUOE, IBT); Natural Ice (IAM IUOE, IBT); O'Doul's (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Pabst (UAW); Red Stripe (IUE-CWA); Rolling Rock (IAM, IBT); Sam Adams (IBT, IUOE, SEIU); Schlitz (UAW); Shock Top (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Stella Artois (IAM).

UNIONS POWER AMERICA – SWEEPSTAKES – ENTER NOW!!!!

Members can still take advantage of the Union Plus sweepstakes that is awarding over \$236,000 in prizes to union members through August 17th. Grand prize winners will receive as much as \$40,000. You can enter at unionplus.org/laborday It only takes a moment to enter, but if you complete quick online activities, you'll earn additional entries. They're awarding \$80,000 total in cash prizes. Winners will be announced on Labor Day - September 4.

Union Plus programs, which are available to M.E.B.A. members, applicants, retirees and our affiliates, provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services. The M.E.B.A. is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts. Visit unionplus.org/laborday to access the entry form and for more details.

DATABASE TO STORE “NEAR-MISS” INCIDENTS

U.S. federal authorities will urge the maritime sector to share information with the government regarding incidents that come close to causing ship collisions in an effort to enhance safety measures. The creation of the Safe Maritime Transportation System (SafeMTS) is underway, a database to store voluntary “near-miss” incidents. The effort is being developed by the Maritime Administration and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS).

SafeMTS is intended to serve as a tool to proactively detect potential safety hazards and issues, revealing latent risky conditions that might not have been evident through the analysis of reported accidents and occurrences. The establishment of this database is intended to bridge a safety gap within the maritime industry, contributing to the prevention of fatal accidents.

NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS *(All times are local)*

Monday, August 7 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, August 8 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**

Wednesday, August 9 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, August 10 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

Friday, August 11 – **Honolulu@1100.**

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



***M.E.B.A. does not tolerate assault, or harassment of any kind.
If you see something, say something – The M.E.B.A. Emergency Hotline
can be reached at 1-888-519-0018.***

The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. M.E.B.A.'s expertise and demonstrated track record of readiness, safety, and loyalty in answering America's call to action in times of both peace and war is unrivaled in the world. M.E.B.A. HQ – Phone: (202) 638-5355; mebahq@mebaunion.org. For publication and related inquiries (and to send photos & hot news tips) contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.