

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"
Number 34 – August 24, 2023



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G&W FUND SUPPORTING MEMBERS AFFECTED BY FIRES, STORMS

Recent disasters like the wildfires in Hawaii and tropical storms in the Southwest have been all over the news -- and the Atlantic hurricane season is just getting started.

In the past, our Good & Welfare Fund has been there for M.E.B.A. families following devastating storms and disasters, and through the years following cases of illness and death. With the catastrophic chaos unleashed by the storms and fires, M.E.B.A. is ready to assist those in need. If you or one of our brothers or sisters need a helping hand from the fund during hard times, you should contact your local M.E.B.A. hall.

The G&W is a wonderful cause, but we need to continually replenish the fund to allow additional assistance to members and retirees in times of hardship. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the Good & Welfare Fund is exempt from Federal Income tax. Stop into a Union hall and see how you can help. In addition, you can support the Fund on the M.E.B.A.'s Member Payment and Update Portal (PUP) that is also used to pay dues and service charges as well as contribute to the Political Action Fund. Visit www.mebaunion.org to access the portal where you can also view and update your M.E.B.A. records, including contact information, credentials, and sea time. Please consider making a contribution today to allow the Good & Welfare Fund to lend a hand to M.E.B.A. families now and into the future.

MAUI HELP FROM UNION PLUS

Members hard-hit by the fires in Hawaii may be eligible for financial assistance through the Union Plus Disaster Relief Grant program. 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.

Union Plus Disaster Relief Grants of \$500 are available to eligible participants of any of the following programs: Union Plus Credit Card Program; Union Plus Mortgage Program; Union Plus Personal Loan Program; Union Plus Life Insurance; Union Plus Accidental Death Insurance; Union Plus Auto Insurance; and the Union Plus Retiree Health Program. Grant eligibility has recently been

expanded, so eligible applicants can receive up to three grants per lifetime, but no more than one Disaster Relief Grant per year.

To qualify for a Union Plus Disaster Relief Grant, your primary residence must be located in a county or parish affected by a natural disaster listed in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Declaration offering “Individual Assistance.” To check if your county has been designated as an area eligible for individual assistance, visit FEMA’s disaster declaration page.

You must have a Union Plus Credit Card or Teamster Privilege Credit Card for at least three months, Union Plus Mortgage, Union Plus Life or Accidental Death Insurance, Union Plus Retiree Healthcare or Union Plus Auto Insurance policy for at least 12 months, or Union Plus Personal Loan for at least six months with the account or policy in good standing (be up to date on payments).

Contact Union Plus to initiate a claim for a grant within 24 months of the incident date. The Union Plus Disaster Relief Fund has provided nearly \$1 million in assistance to union members facing hardships following hurricanes, flooding, and other natural disasters. Head to the Union Plus Disaster Relief Page to learn more about the benefits and eligibility requirements.

REP. STAUBER HONORED BY GREAT LAKES GROUP

The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) has named Congressman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) as its Great Lakes Legislator of the Year for his ongoing efforts to benefit the Great Lakes navigation system. GLMTF is a labor/management coalition that includes the M.E.B.A.

The Task Force said that Congressman Stauber continues to champion the miners that work on the northern tier of the Great Lakes supplying the critical raw materials that drive the national economy and make the Great Lakes region America’s industrial powerhouse. The millions of tons of iron ore extracted from Minnesota’s Mesabi Range is transported by U.S.-owned, U.S.-crewed, and U.S.-flagged vessels, including by M.E.B.A.-contracted company Interlake, to steel mills in the southern Great Lakes contributing to more than 147,000 American jobs and \$36 billion in economic impact.

“As someone who has spent their entire life living around Lake Superior, I understand the powerful impact these incredible bodies of water bring to our local and national economies,” said Rep. Stauber. “Ensuring safe and reliable shipping through the Great Lakes is one of my top priorities serving in Congress, from advocating for the creation of a new lock at the Soo Locks in Michigan to supporting our hard-working union workforce in the shipping industry to ensuring our Coast Guard is well-equipped with icebreakers for winter. I am honored to be named the Legislator of the Year by the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force and will always advocate for our Great Lakes,” he said.

MAJORITY SUPPORT FAIR DEAL FOR STRIKING WRITERS & ACTORS

As the Writers Guild of America (WGA) and the Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) continue to stand their ground in strikes against Hollywood moguls, a new poll shows that a majority of Americans support their cause.

Recent data, sourced from a comprehensive poll conducted by Data for Progress, reveals a heartening trend: a majority of likely voters not only support the unions’ strikes but also staunchly

stand behind their core demands. The unions are seeking equitable compensation and comprehensive employment safeguards from the major studios.

A resounding 67% of likely voters expressed their endorsement of the ongoing WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes, while a mere 18% voiced opposition. Notably, even among those who hold an unfavorable view of labor unions, a significant 48% still lend their support to the strikes, underscoring the compelling nature of the issues being fought for.

An overwhelming 87% of respondents agreed with the proposition that actors and writers should be rightfully compensated as long as their work continues to generate revenue for corporations through reruns or streaming. This sentiment extends to 85% of voters who believe that actors should retain control over their images, voice, and likeness. Additionally, these voters demand that consent and fair compensation be ensured whenever artificial intelligence is utilized in conjunction with these attributes.

The issue of streaming revenue, a cornerstone in the ongoing struggle, has found resonance with the electorate. A resolute 82% of respondents backed the unions' call for major Hollywood studios and streaming platforms, including names like NBC Universal, Netflix, Amazon, Disney, and Paramount, to guarantee equitable compensation for screenwriters, actors, and other media professionals in relation to the revenue generated from their content on streaming platforms.

In a nod to the evolving technological landscape, 74% of those polled advocated for a ban on Hollywood studios replacing human writers with artificial intelligence tools for content creation purposes in movies and television shows. This clear stance underscores a collective concern for the integrity and creativity of the industry.

Reacting to the poll, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said, “Voters understand that this isn’t just about one industry—this is about all of us—and unions need to have a seat at the table to take on the existential threat AI poses to our livelihoods and economy.”

UPS TEAMSTER MEMBERS RATIFY LANDMARK AGREEMENT

A new five-year agreement lauded as a victory for transportation workers across the country has been ratified by Teamsters’ union members working for UPS. The new contract reached last month shortly before a deadline that would have resulted in a strike protects and rewards more than 340,000 UPS Teamsters nationwide, raising wages for full- and part-time workers, creating more full-time jobs, and securing important workplace protections, including air conditioning.

An overwhelming 86.3 percent of those casting a ballot voted in favor of the contract. ITF General Secretary Stephen Cotton believes the historic agreement set an expectation for transportation companies the world over. “...This win was about much more than pay, it was about respect for transport workers, and for workers who keep our world moving, who keep our supply chains moving, and who work day-in, day-out despite pandemics and other crises,” he stated.

All supplemental agreements - except one - were ratified. A Florida Local covering 174 members will need to have its outstanding issues with the agreement worked out before the national master agreement goes into effect. Upon resolution, the adjusted supplement would be voted on by those selective UPS Teamsters in-person in their area.

“Our members just ratified the most lucrative agreement the Teamsters have ever negotiated at UPS. This contract will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers,” said Teamsters General President Sean O’Brien. “Teamsters have set a new standard and raised the bar for pay, benefits, and working conditions in the package delivery industry. This is the template for how workers should be paid and protected nationwide, and nonunion companies like Amazon better pay attention.”

“This is the richest national contract I’ve seen in my more than 40 years of representing Teamsters at UPS,” said Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Zuckerman. “There are more gains in this contract than in any other UPS agreement and with no givebacks to the company. But the hard work doesn’t end here. We will continue to fight like hell to enforce this contract and make sure UPS lives up to every word of it over the next five years.”

LABOR MARKS 60th ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Monday, August 28th will mark the 60th anniversary of the famous March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a 1963 event particularly remembered for Martin Luther King’s rousing “I have a dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

He told the crowd that he dreamt of a day where “this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed,” where children “will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” There will be events this weekend and on Monday in Washington DC to commemorate the historical event, but also to shine a light on issues of the day that still need to be overcome.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler and Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond released a statement in advance of the anniversary and said, “the work that began six decades ago is far from finished.” They noted that hard-earned gains on civil, human and workers’ rights are still under attack. “Now is the time for working people to come together and take bold action,” they noted.

“As thousands of working people mobilize and organize at unprecedented rates nationwide, it is clear we are ready for change that can only be won by stepping off the sidelines and raising our collective voice. We are demanding our rightful seat at the table; together with our friends and allies in the civil rights movement, we are working to preserve our democracy for generations to come.”

REMINDER! ONLINE MEMBER PAYMENT & UPDATE PORTAL

M.E.B.A.’s online Member Payment and Update Portal (PUP) allows the membership the ease of making online monetary transactions and gives them the opportunity to verify their credentials and contact information on file, as well as submitted sea time.

Members and applicants can use the Member PUP to pay their dues or service charges by credit card, debit card or through their checking account. They can also set up a recurring payment schedule to automatically keep them current. The site also allows users to view their transaction history online in a secure manner.

Visit www.mebaunion.org where you can click on the Member PUP banner to get started. In addition, the PUP allows members, applicants and retirees to make contributions to the M.E.B.A.’s Good & Welfare and Political Action Funds that support so many members. Contributions to the

Good & Welfare Fund are tax deductible. This fund has provided essential assistance to members and retirees in their time of need. The PAF keeps M.E.B.A. jobs afloat by affording us a crucial lifeline to policymakers who help determine the fate of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

You'll find the online Portal to be the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing and extend a needed monetary infusion to vital Union programs.

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

Monday, September 4 – Labor Day – *All Halls Closed.*

Tuesday, September 5 – Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300

Wednesday, September 6 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org

Thursday, September 7 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, September 8 – Honolulu@1100.

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***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.