

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*



## M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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### **M.E.B.A. REAFFIRMS AFFILIATION WITH ALADS**

M.E.B.A. recently renewed and re-affirmed our relationship with our longtime affiliate, the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS). Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha, Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini and L.A. Branch Agent Rich Doherty recently worked with the Deputy Sheriffs to revise and modernize our affiliation agreement.

ALADS is the certified bargaining unit for deputy sheriffs and district attorney investigators working in California's L.A. County. One of the largest and most powerful law enforcement associations in the Western United States, ALADS has been an M.E.B.A. affiliate since April 1983. They are one of two of our law enforcement affiliates - the other is the L.A. County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA). L.A. Branch Agent Rich Doherty has done an excellent job of maintaining a good working relationship with our six L.A.-area affiliates (ALADS, APDI, CAPE, LACoLA, PPOA and MCIA).

M.E.B.A. strongly values our relationship with ALADS and looks forward to continue fighting for them and all our affiliates.

### **NEW CONTRACT WITH DYNAMIC CONCEPTS**

M.E.B.A. negotiators secured new language with Dynamic Concepts Corporation (DyCon) in a recently-signed five-year agreement with the company that performs ship management, maritime staffing and vessel crewing services. Among other things, DyCon supplies licensed deck and engine officers to Excelerate Technical Management for their international fleet of LNG vessels.

The new MOU is retroactive to Oct. 1, 2021 and stretches out to 2026. Among other things, the new agreement improves wages and benefits for mariners working under the contract and provides for employer contributions to the defined benefit pension plan. M.E.B.A. Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan oversaw the new agreement with assistance from M.E.B.A. Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher. The MOU will be sent to the Union halls by the end of the week.

### **USS HONORS MARINERS FOR AT-SEA RESCUES**

At the maritime industry's most prestigious awards event last week, the Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) honors, lifetime achievement awards were presented to several lions of the industry. They

included Maersk Line. Ltd. President Bill Woodhour, SIU Secretary-Treasurer/ITF official Dave Heindel and Chamber of Shipping of America President Kathy Metcalf. American Maritime Officers Service President Tony Naccarato also received a special AOTOS award.

As is the annual tradition, the United Seamen's Service which hosted the event in New York City, also honors U.S. mariners involved in rescues at sea. Two M.E.B.A.-crewed vessels were selected as honorees and invited representatives accepted AOTOS Honored Seafarer Awards on behalf of the crews.

HORIZON RELIANCE Captain Mark Tuck was in attendance at the ceremony, a month after his vessel and crew were singled out for recognition at a Congressional event in Washington D.C. and a year after the Pasha/Sunrise containership rescued two pilots who crash landed into the Pacific after suffering an engine failure. The Chief Engineer on that voyage was Justin Raby.

Also honored at the AOTOS function was the crew of the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS PATUXENT who successfully carried out a dramatic rescue of 15 mariners from a sinking ship in the Gulf of Aden. Boatswain James Terry represented his shipmates at the AOTOS event and accepted the award.

### **M.E.B.A. JOB CALL REVERTS TO "3 BUSINESS DAYS" IN NEW YEAR**

M.E.B.A. will be returning to more uniform dispatching procedures in the New Year as vaccine mandates are implemented by the contracted companies. As of January 1, 2022, the standard job call will revert to "3 business days" prior to boarding/flying.

M.E.B.A.'s Coastal Vice Presidents will still maintain the discretion to call jobs earlier, particularly for harder-to-fill work or for jobs with extra requirements.

As the January 1 date approaches, the halls will again be reminded of the reinstatement of the 3-day policy and updated with any additional information.

As the COVID situation is continually evolving, we recommend you check with your Union hall or officials to get the most up-to-date information on job call timing and requirements.

### **BCTGM WORKERS REJECT PROPOSED CONTRACT WITH KELLOGG'S**

1,400 workers represented by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM) continue their strike against the cereal company Kellogg's after they "overwhelmingly" rejected a tentative five-year agreement with the company. That agreement featured 3% wage increases, cost of living adjustments and protected health care benefits but failed to address a two-tiered wage system that many workers pinpointed as an issue of contention. BCTGM International President Anthony Shelton said, "The members have spoken. The strike continues. The International Union will continue to provide full support to our striking Kellogg's members."

Striking workers at the four affected plants produce the company's most popular cereal brands including Frosted Flakes, Froot Loops, Rice Krispies and Raisin Bran. Many of those brands are in short supply now at stores around the country. In condemning the vote, the company said that the union "created unrealistic expectations" for employees. Kellogg's is now attempting to hire scabs to replace striking workers.

## **SHIPPING ORGANIZATIONS WARN AGAINST OMICRON OVERREACTIONS DAMAGING SUPPLY CHAIN**

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and other shipping and global transportation organizations are warning world leaders that overly restrictive rules put in place to guard against Omicron, the latest COVID variant, could put the overloaded supply chain at greater risk of collapse.

A week after the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the new Omicron strain of COVID-19 as a "variant of concern," over 56 countries reimposed travel restrictions in some form. The organizations said that cross-border transport workers including seafarers, air crew and drivers must be able to continue to do their jobs, and cross borders without overly restrictive travel rules, to keep already ailing supply chains moving.

The ITF, along with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) jointly called on governments to end rushed and fragmented approaches to travel rules and begged them not to reimpose border restrictions that further limit the freedom of movement of international transport workers.

ITF General Secretary Stephen Cotton said, "The same governments that have blocked global vaccine access are now the first to lock down their borders to keep the Omicron variant out. Instead of pursuing a global solution to this pandemic, their decisions further risk supply chain collapse. It's not only morally reprehensible, it's economic self-destruction. We need universal access to vaccines now. It's imperative for all of us to tell governments to stop bowing down to big pharma and pave the way so that every country can produce the vaccines needed to end this pandemic."

## **COAST GUARD WILL HELP ENSURE ONBOARD SA/SH SAFETY**

The U.S. Coast Guard will investigate and help prosecute sexual assault/sexual harassment cases aboard U.S.-flag vessels and encourages mariners to help ensure shipping is free from such predators. The Coast Guard's Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy Rear Admiral John Mauger said that, "Mariners have the right to work in a professional setting that is free from the threat of sexual offenses. Sexual assault is a crime. When it happens aboard a U.S. vessel it must be reported to the Coast Guard. Trained Coast Guard investigators will respond and we will hold offenders accountable."

He noted that the Coast Guard will investigate any report or tip alleging that a credentialed mariner committed a sexual assault. The Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) will initiate an investigation and gather additional information for all reports of sexual assault, or other crimes at sea. Coast Guard investigators work alongside Coast Guard attorneys to ensure they gather sufficient evidence to refer the case to the Department of Justice for potential prosecution. The Coast Guard has the authority to investigate and take enforcement action against a mariner's credential to preclude them from serving as a Coast Guard-credentialed commercial mariner.

"Coast Guard investigators follow all available leads," said Michael Berkow, Coast Guard Investigative Service Director. "But too often sex crimes are not reported. We encourage victims and witnesses of assault to reach out to the Coast Guard, CGIS, or local authorities to ensure the allegations are investigated."

To facilitate timely reporting, CGIS employs a mobile app called CGIS Tips. Individuals can anonymously communicate with an agent via the app while also having the ability to upload images

and additional information directly from a smart phone or computer. Reports can also be made on the CGIS website <https://www.uscg.mil/Units/Coast-Guard-Investigative-Service/> through the Tip Form, or by contacting any CGIS regional office.

### **VACATION BENEFITS – 2021 YEAR-END CLOSING**

Apply for Vacation and Port Relief Benefits early to avoid the year-end rush.

- **FILING DEADLINE:** The deadline for issuing checks dated in 2021 in the Outports *and* the Plan Office is Thursday, December 16, 2021.
- **DIRECT DEPOSIT:** The final Direct Deposit Transfer for 2021 will be made on 12/17/2021 and the funds will be deposited into bank accounts on 12/21/2021.
- Any requests for Port Relief and Vacation checks received after 12/16/21 at 12:00 PM EST will be paid in the order received beginning 1/3/2022.

Any member who requires that his/her check be dated in 2021 must file before this deadline. Remember, Friday December 24, 2021 and Friday December 31, 2021 are holidays and the Outports and the Plan Office will be closed. It is always wise to plan ahead, so you should verify the specific holiday schedule with the Plan Office Representative.

### **SPLIT YOUR VACATION PAYMENTS BETWEEN 2021 AND 2022**

You can submit an Application for Vacation Pay prior to the end of the year and request that the payment of your vacation benefits be split. Two checks will be issued to you, one in 2021 and a second in 2022. The 12/16/2021 deadline applies to split claims also. The vacation benefits paid in this manner **MUST** be a **continuous vacation period**. Please contact the Vacation Plan staff in Baltimore at 800-811-6322 or 410-547-9111 if you have any questions.

### **2021 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE – UNION-STYLE**

This Holiday Season, support good jobs by allocating at least 10% of your spending on goods produced by companies that treat their workers well. You'll find plenty of gift ideas in the Labor 411 Holiday Gift Guide Here's a few gift ideas to start. You can find more at <https://labor411.org>

**Fashion** - American Roots (USW); Bosca Fine Leather Goods (IBT); Carolina Women's Boots (IBT); Majestic Athletic Apparel (UNITE HERE!); Naturalizer Shoes (UFCW); Nunn Bush Shoes (UFCW); Pendleton Woolen Mills (Workers United); Timex Women's Watches (IAM). **Beauty Products** - Avon Cosmetics (UAW); Caress Beauty Products (UFCW); Dove Beauty Products (UFCW). **Sweets** - Ghirardelli Chocolate (BCTGM); Almond Roca Chocolate (BCTGM); See's Candies (BCTGM). **Wine and Spirits** - Chateau Ste. Michelle Wine (IBT); St. Supéry Wine (UFW); Columbia Crest Chardonnay (UFW); Eagle Rare Bourbon (UAW); Four Roses Bourbon (UFCW); Basil Hayden (UAW, IBT).

## REMAINING M.E.B.A. HOLIDAY PARTIES

That was a crazy week - but the fun's not done yet! There are still a few M.E.B.A.-sanctioned parties remaining as we go full-tilt into the holiday season. Here's what's left:

### Friday, December 10

**M.E.B.A. Jacksonville** – Party at Pat's Lounge from 2 - 5 p.m.(4870 Hwy Avenue).

**M.E.B.A. Oakland** – Party at the hall at 12:30 – 4 pm.

### Thursday, December 16

**M.E.B.A. Headquarters** – Party on the rooftop - 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.. Contact HQ if you can attend.

### Friday, December 17

**M.E.B.A. Houston** – Party at the hall – Starts at 1 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 22

**M.E.B.A. Honolulu** - Party at the hall at 10 a.m.

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

Friday, December 10 – Honolulu@1100.

Monday, January 3 – Boston@1200; Seattle-Fife@1300.

Tuesday, January 4 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, January 5 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online Headquarters  
“Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – **Register now at [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)**

Thursday, January 6 – L.A.-San Pedro@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, January 7 – 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](mailto: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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org). Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*