

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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NEW AGREEMENT WITH BOSTON MARINE TRANSPORT

Members working for Boston Marine Transport, Inc., a tug and barge outfit primarily operating in the New York area, have ratified a new three-year contract. M.E.B.A. represents Captains, Mates, Engineers, Bargemen and Deckhands in the bargaining unit. The agreement secures wage increases in each year of the contract as well as an increase to Medical Plan contributions.

Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan negotiated the new agreement along with Boston Representative Stuart Fay. Thanks to Shop Steward Chris Williams who provided helpful insight throughout the process.

Boston Marine is also covering the Pension contribution and improvements were made in other areas such as travel reimbursement and meal & linen allowance, and increases were negotiated for Training, Joint Employment Committee (JEC) and American Maritime Congress (AMC).

The Memorandum of Agreement took effect on Monday and runs until June 30, 2027. It is available for review at the M.E.B.A. Union halls.

M.E.B.A. VESSELS SUPPORTING MSC RIMPAC EXERCISE

Military Sealift Command is relying on a series of M.E.B.A.-crewed vessels to support the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024 maritime exercise throughout the month of July in Hawaii. RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise, hosted by the U.S. Navy's Indo-Pacific Command. The exercise involves naval forces from multiple countries, aiming to enhance interoperability and strategic cooperation among participating nations.

MSC fleet replenishment oilers USNS PECOS and the MSC dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS WASHINGTON CHAMBERS will provide logistics services including aviation fuel, diesel ship fuel, dry, fresh and frozen food equipment and supplies to the ships participating in the exercise. MSC Civilian Mariner Engineers aboard those vessels are represented by the M.E.B.A.

MSC is also utilizing a pair of commercial tankers for the exercise that were chartered from M.E.B.A.-contracted companies. The MT OVERSEAS MYKONOS (OSG) and MT ALLIED

PACIFIC (Patriot Contract Services) will provide fuel to the MSC combat logistics ships during replenishment-at-sea events. With the closing of the Navy's Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility, the tanker replenishment events will allow the Combat Logistics Force ships to receive fuel at sea, enabling them to provide logistic services to exercise participants as needed, without delay.

MSC rescue and salvage ship USNS GRASP, with M.E.B.A. CivMar engineers aboard, will deliver two decommissioned Navy ships to the designated target area in preparation.

SPACE STILL AVAILABLE IN UPCOMING CMES COURSES

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School announced that it has additional space available in four of its upcoming courses:

- August 5–9 - Programmable Logic Controllers
- August 19–30 - Machine Shop
- September 9–12 - Small Arms
- September 9–13 - Tankerman DL

Applications can be sent via the CMES website (www.mebaschool.org), by fax (410) 822-7220, or by email to applications@mebaschool.org

CMES ADDS ADDITIONAL “LNG AS A FUEL” COURSE TO 2024 SCHEDULE

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School announced that its has added an additional Combined Basic & Advanced IGF Code Operations (LNG as a Fuel) Class to its 2024 Schedule due to membership needs.

The newly scheduled four-day course will run from September 23-26 (Monday-Thursday.)

Applications can be sent via the CMES website (www.mebaschool.org), by fax (410) 822-7220, or by email to applications@mebaschool.org

The CMES recently won additional Coast Guard approval for its Combined Basic & Advanced IGF Code Operations courses that is providing great advantage for the M.E.B.A. membership. Thanks to the new approvals, students taking the class can satisfy requirements for two of the three fuel transfers needed within the confines of the course, instead of onboard ship, using the simulator at the Calhoun School.

Specifically, the course partially satisfies the Fuel Transfer requirements contained in CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21, Enclosure (2) Paragraph (2)(b)(1) and Enclosure (2) Paragraph (5) giving credit for two Fuel Transfers.

UPDATED MMC FORMAT

In March, the U.S. Coast Guard began issuing Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMCs) in a new single-sheet format that replaced the legacy passport-style red book and associated endorsement labels. Based on processing observations and customer feedback, the stock used for the new MMC is being upgraded to one that is significantly more tear resistant. All other appearance and security features remain the same. The new MMC remains formatted on 8.5” x 11” waterproof and tear-resistant synthetic stock and is far more durable than the previous paper licenses or passport-style

books issued in years past. To learn more about the new MMC, visit the National Maritime Center (NMC) website at https://www.dco.uscg.mil/national_maritime_center/

The updated MMC document will be issued for all approved applications, to include credential endorsements, beginning July 8, 2024.

To validate a new MMC, use the Coast Guard's credential verification tool at MMLD Credential Verification (uscg.mil). For a document search, select "MMC" as the document type and enter the document number. On the new MMC, the document number can be found on the red cover section beneath the corresponding barcode and will have the prefix "Z".

FOC LOSES POWER IN NEWLY REOPENED BALTIMORE PORT

Following the months-long saga of the foreign-flag vessel DALI's destruction of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge and the reopening of the port, another large vessel experienced a power failure near the terminal, this time without additional drama. Early Monday morning, the 965-foot Liberian-flag cargo ship BELLAVIA briefly lost power as it left the Seagirt Marine Terminal at the Port of Baltimore. The ship departed the terminal around 2:30 a.m. but encountered difficulties almost immediately.

Both the BELLAVIA and the DALI were constructed by Hyundai and are of similar length, although the DALI is slightly wider. A significant difference in these incidents is that the BELLAVIA quickly regained power and safely returned to a berth. Additionally, tugboats were still attached to the Liberian-flagged vessel when it lost power, ensuring its safety as a "dead ship." Tugboats had also assisted the DALI initially but were not required to escort it under the Key Bridge. The BELLAVIA's power loss is at least the third instance of a deep-draft ship losing power in Maryland waters since the bridge collapse. In addition to the Key Bridge collapse, a similar incident occurred in Charleston, S.C., where a 997-foot ship lost engine control, leading to a bridge closure. The Coast Guard has since launched an investigation to assess the impact of larger vessels and changing maritime traffic patterns on port infrastructure.

KEEP HQ UPDATED WITH YOUR LATEST CONTACT INFO

As a reminder, you should keep the Union updated with your current contact information including mailing and email address. If you haven't filled out an M.E.B.A. Database Update Form – or if your information has changed – grab the form off the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) located in the "Documents & Member Notices" section. Update Forms should be sent to the HQ Membership Dept. by e-mail (membership@mebaunion.org) or even regular mail. The HQ database is NOT LINKED to the databases at the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore OR the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School. To update your information with Plans, you can find the "M.E.B.A. Address Change Form" on the Plans website (www.mebaplans.org) under "Forms, Documents & Notices" then "Medical Plan Forms."

WEST COAST HALLS CLOSED FRIDAY FOR BLOODY THURSDAY

West Coast M.E.B.A. halls will be closed tomorrow 7/5 in observance of "Bloody Thursday." Bloody Thursday commemorates the 1934 longshoremen labor action led by Harry Bridges that culminated in street fighting and clashes with police. Hundreds were injured and several were killed in the riots that came to a head on July 5, 1934. Following a general strike and federal intervention,

the longshoremen won a coast-wide contract, union hiring halls, and various improvements to wages and conditions.

M.E.B.A. HQ ONLINE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY – SIGN UP NOW

The monthly town-hall style M.E.B.A. Headquarters informational meeting will be held online utilizing “Teams” - with no voting and no resolutions introduced - on Wednesday, July 10, at 1300 (Eastern Time). This is not an actual membership meeting, but it is an excellent opportunity for Members, Applicants and Retirees to discuss M.E.B.A. business, exchange information and learn more about the latest Union initiatives.

Members, applicants and retirees need to register in advance for this meeting to mebahq@mebaunion.org. Upon confirmation of your status, the Teams access link will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting.

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

Monday, July 8 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, July 9 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.**

Wednesday, July 10 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, July 11 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

Friday, July 12 – **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. The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School can be contacted at (410) 822-9600 or www.mebaschool.org. M.E.B.A. Plans is at (410) 547-9111 or www.mebaplans.org