

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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SOLIDARITY WITH ILA; RETAILERS GET NERVOUS

Retailers, manufacturers and other industry associations are getting nervous over the status of negotiations between port operators and East and Gulf Coast dockworkers represented by the ILA. ILA recently broke off talks with the U.S. Maritime Alliance (USMX) over the issue of automation, which has prompted talk of a potential strike when the contract expires on September 30.

150 groups including the National Retail Federation, National Association of Manufacturers and the US Chamber of Commerce are asking the White House to "provide any and all support to the parties in their negotiations" to get them back to the bargaining table and reach an agreement. The associations raised fears that a potential work stoppage could cost the economy half a billion dollars a day.

ILA has pointed out that it kept the ports open and commerce flowing during the COVID era as companies racked up record profits. They note that A.P. Moller-Maersk "earned nearly \$62 billion in 2021, a jump of almost 56 percent from the previous year...In 2022, APM Terminals revenues grew by nine percent to \$4.4 billion."

ILA canceled talks with USMX after finding out that management has been utilizing an Auto Gate system, which autonomously processes trucks without ILA labor. The M.E.B.A. stands shoulder to shoulder with our ILA brothers and sisters as they seek a fair contract.

The ILWU recently issued a statement of solidarity saying, "Over the past several years, USMX member companies have enjoyed record profits – in the billions of dollars. Yet, these companies continue to scheme to reduce or eliminate jobs for ILA members. ILA members are the workforce that made such huge profits possible and, therefore, deserve commensurate wage and benefit increases without fear of gamesmanship by employers to eliminate jobs."

MEDCERT APPLICATION BACKLOG

The National Maritime Center (NMC) is experiencing a backlog of medical certificate applications and recommends that you submit your application 90 days in advance of your current medical certificate's expiration. NMC processing times are currently close to 30 days for COMPLETE applications but may be longer for incomplete applications.

Processing times at the NMC have grown due to large e-mail volume. They noted that sending multiple e-mails for individual pages of the application or sending the same information multiple times only causes delays in processing for other mariners and will significantly delay the processing of your information. For example, during the week of 10-14 June, 2024, approximately 25 percent of all e-mails processed were duplicate medical certificate applications (CG-719K).

They issue the following guidelines to improve processing times:

- Review your application to ensure it is COMPLETE prior to submission. Please review the NMC [website](#) to avoid common medical certificate application errors.
- Check your medical certificate expiration date and apply 90 days before it expires.
- E-mail medical certificate applications (CG-719K or K/E) directly to MEDAIP@uscg.mil. (Other submission options include sending to an REC, fax or U.S. mail, but these options are not processed as quickly as direct submission to MEDAIP@uscg.mil.)
- Enter the e-mail subject line in the following format: LAST_NAME_FIRST NAME_MARINER REFERENCE NUMBER.
- Name your PDF file in the following format: LAST_NAME_FIRST NAME_REFERENCE NUMBER.
- Medical certificate applications (CG-719K) should be submitted as one PDF.
- JPEG and other formats are not accepted.
- Do not send drug test results with your medical certificate applications (CG-719K). Drug testing results should be sent with your MMC application to MMCAplications@uscg.mil.
- If necessary, e-mail medical-related documentation **other than medical certificate applications** (i.e., additional information) to NMCMedicalClerks@uscg.mil.

As a reminder, only COMPLETE medical applications are accepted for processing. Incomplete applications are returned to the mariner for correction and must be resubmitted, which delays the processing of your medical certificate application.

ITF CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO PROTECT SEAFARERS

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) along with global seafarers' unions are demanding immediate action to protect mariners in the wake of a spate of Houthi attacks on commercial shipping in the past few weeks. M.E.B.A. is a member organization of the ITF, a global union federation fighting for the rights, equality and justice of 18 million working men and women in the transport sector around the world.

They noted that this year, Houthi rebels launched over 60 attacks on merchant ships in the Red Sea, sinking at least two, seizing another, and attacking dozens more resulting in multiple deaths and injuries.

ITF said that, "while we appreciate expressions of solidarity and condemnation, words are not enough. The ITF demands urgent, concrete action to guarantee the safety and security of seafarers."

They called for shipping companies to protect their mariners by diverting ships away from danger areas such as the Red Sea. They noted, “Seafarers are not commodities but the backbone of the global supply chain. Their lives should not be risked for profit, nor should they have to perform their duties under the constant threat of violence or harm. We urge the international community to reflect on the invaluable contributions of seafarers to the global economy and to take action now to ensure justice, safety and security for those risking their lives at sea.”

MONTHLY CARGO IMPORTS ON THE RISE

Monthly inbound cargo volume at the nation’s major container ports is expected to reach its highest level in nearly two years this summer, according to the Global Port Tracker report released this week by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates.

Hackett Associates Founder Ben Hackett said an expected seven-month string of import levels above 2 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units – a level reached only twice since October 2022 – is partly due to changes in the annual “peak season” for shipping. U.S. ports covered by Global Port Tracker handled 2.02 million TEU – one 20-foot container or its equivalent – in April, the latest month for which final numbers are available. That was up 4.6% from March and up 13.2% year over year and was the highest number since 2.06 million TEU last October.

Ports have not yet reported May’s numbers, but Global Port Tracker projected that volume rose to 2.09 million TEU, up 8.3% year over year for the highest level since 2.26 million in August 2022. June is forecast to go even higher at 2.11 million TEU, up 15.2% year over year. July is forecast at 2.1 million TEU, up 9.5%; August at 2.17 million TEU, up 10.6%; September at 2.06 million TEU, up 1.7%, and October at 2.01%, down 2.3% from the same month last year.

FEWER CONTAINERS LOST SINCE LAST EVALUATION

The World Shipping Council (WSC) released its annual report on containers lost at sea, showing a significant decrease to 221 containers lost in 2023. While this is the lowest number recorded since the survey began in 2008, the WSC underscored the ongoing need for stringent safety measures and constant vigilance, as every container lost at sea is one too many.

The 221 containers lost at sea in 2023 (out of 250 million containers transported), represent a reduction from the previous lowest-ever loss of 661 containers in 2022. About 33% of the lost containers were recovered.

CELEBRATE AMERICA WITH UNIONS

Hey, it’s hot out there! Fire up the grill, ignite the fireworks, and celebrate Independence Day with a bang! Cool your buns and beat the summer heat with refreshing beverages and tasty treats, union-style! We present a partial list of union-made drinks, snacks, and more for a patriotic picnic. M.E.B.A. wishes all of its members and their families a happy and safe Fourth of July!

Union Beer - Budweiser (IBT, IAM); Beck’s (IAM); Coors (IUOE, IBT); Michelob (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Miller Genuine Draft (UAW, IAM, IUOE, IBT); Stella Artois (IAM). **Union Soft Drinks** - Coca-Cola (UAW); 7 Up (BCTGM); A&W (BCTGM); Dr. Pepper (UFCW, UAW). **Condiments** - French’s Mustard (UFCW); Gulden’s Mustard (UFCW); Grey Poupon (UFCW); Heinz Ketchup (IBT, UFCW); Vlasic Relish (IBT, UFCW). **Coolers** - Rubbermaid (IBEW). **Sunscreen** - Bain de Soleil (AFGE); Coppertone (IBT). **Hot Dogs** - Ball Park (UFCW, IBT); Butterball (UFCW,

IBT); Hebrew National (UFCW, IBT); Hormel (IBT); Oscar Mayer (UFCW, IBT). **Ice Cream** - Good Humor (IBT); Prairie Farms (IBT). **Snacks** - Cheez-It (BCTGM); Fritos (BCTGM); Mission Tortilla Chips (IBT); Ritz (BCTGM); Ruffles (BCTGM); Sun Chips (BCTGM, IBT); Triscuit (BCTGM); Wheat Thins (BCTGM, IBT).

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.”

HALLS CLOSED THURSDAY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY; WEST HALLS CLOSED ON BLOODY THURSDAY

The halls will be closed next week on Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day but the *Telex Times* will still publish as usual on that day. West Coast halls will continue to be shuttered on Friday, July 5th 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.

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