

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
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WHITE HOUSE NOMINATES SADLER TO LEAD MARAD

The Trump administration has selected retired U.S. Navy submariner Brent Sadler as its nominee to head the U.S. Maritime Administration (MarAd). A retired Navy captain, Sadler currently serves as a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation. His background includes multiple deployments across the Indo-Pacific region during his time on active duty. If confirmed, Sadler would take charge of MarAd at a critical juncture, as the U.S. continues to grapple with challenges in recruiting and retaining civilian mariners — a key issue for the U.S. Merchant Marine's operational readiness.

His nomination coincides with broader discussions within the Trump administration to advance U.S. flag shipping and shipbuilding. Recently, the White House established a maritime industrial base office within the National Security Council, signaling a renewed focus on strengthening the industry. The administration is reportedly considering a sweeping restructuring of both commercial and military maritime operations to bolster the U.S. fleet amid China's expanding shipbuilding capabilities. Sadler's nomination now heads to the Senate, to undergo committee review before a confirmation vote.

M.E.B.A. APPLAUDS EFFORTS TO COMBAT CHINESE MARITIME DOMINANCE

The M.E.B.A. recently issued strong support for proposed actions targeting China's aggressive policies in the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors, which have long undermined American competitiveness and national security. After a petition from U.S. labor unions, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) investigated, then concluded that action is needed to counteract the unfair labor practices, heavy state subsidies and preferential sourcing policies that has undermined U.S. maritime capabilities and cost American jobs. The USTR proposed new fees on vessels entering U.S. ports, including charges of up to \$1 million per entry for Chinese-operated ships and \$1.5 million per call for ships built in China, regardless of the carrier's nationality. Additional fees would be imposed on carriers based on the percentage of their new ship orders fulfilled by Chinese yards.

In submitted comments, M.E.B.A. strongly backed the USTR's findings and the proposed relief measures aimed at restricting the influence of Chinese-built vessels and Chinese operators in U.S. maritime trade. They note that the proposed USTR countermeasures would help stimulate significant investment in the American maritime industrial base, reviving shipbuilding and fleet expansion efforts within the U.S. However, the M.E.B.A. urged careful implementation to prevent unintended

consequences that could negatively impact U.S.-flag shipping companies employing American mariners. Given the current scarcity of U.S.-built vessels available for international trade, it is critical to ensure that the restrictions don't inadvertently harm domestic operators. Instead, relief measures should be provided to U.S.-flag carriers that invest in American mariners and American shipyards for fleet maintenance, repair, and new ship construction.

M.E.B.A. emphasized that “cargo is king” in the maritime industry and strongly supports policies that prioritize the transport of U.S. goods on U.S.-flagged vessels. The Union urged the administration to implement mandates ensuring that a portion of key exports, such as LNG and fuel oils, are transported on U.S.-built and U.S.-flagged ships. They said a phased approach to these requirements, coupled with tax and trade incentives, would create consistent demand for U.S.-built and U.S.-flagged ships and ensure long-term viability for domestic shipbuilders and maritime workers.

To level the playing field against foreign competitors, the M.E.B.A. proposes tax incentives for U.S. importers and exporters that utilize U.S.-flagged vessels. One such measure is a 200% tax deduction for the cost of shipping goods internationally if the shipper chooses to use U.S.-flagged vessels on the ocean leg of the journey. This would be an optional mechanism to achieve lower costs for private shippers and encourage greater utilization of American-flagged ships, helping to offset the financial advantages currently enjoyed by foreign-built and foreign-flagged vessels. By increasing demand for U.S.-flagged ships, such incentives could drive further investments in American shipbuilding and fleet expansion. They note that the proposed actions represent a crucial first step toward securing America's economic and national security interests as long as the measures are balanced with policies that support U.S.-flag shipping companies and maritime workers.

The M.E.B.A. comments concluded, “By implementing thoughtful policies, providing targeted relief, and fostering strategic partnerships, the United States can revitalize its shipbuilding industry, expand its maritime workforce, and strengthen its economic resilience. M.E.B.A. stands ready to work with the Administration, Congress, USTR, and other relevant agencies to support these efforts and to help secure a robust and prosperous future for American maritime workers and industries.”

WMU-OUIS SURVEY ON WORK-LIFE BALANCE

The World Maritime University (WMU) is calling all seafarers who are currently working on any commercial ship or have worked on such ships during or after 2013, to participate in a survey on work-related aspects, psychological well-being, and career intentions. WMU is conducting a survey in collaboration with the Officers' Unions of International Seamen (OUIS). The insights gathered will help the maritime community to consider improvements.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain completely anonymous. You are welcome to share the survey link with seafarers in your network. The participation deadline is June 30, 2025. You can fill out the survey by following this link: <https://wmuhq.questionpro.eu/seafarersworklifebalancesurvey>

MSC CIVMARS RECOGNIZED WITH MARITIME EXCELLENCE AWARD

Civilian mariners aboard four Military Sealift Command vessels have been honored by the MSC with the Maritime Excellence Award for their service during calendar year 2024. MSC named crews aboard the fleet replenishment oiler HENRY J. KAISER, fleet replenishment oiler USNS PATUXENT, rescue and salvage ship USNS SALVOR and fast combat support ship USNS SUPPLY for their above

and beyond efforts which will be further recognized when their respective MSC area commanders present the crews a plaque and pennant to fly aboard the vessel. MSC CIVMARS are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

The Maritime “E” Award promotes competition and recognizes ships that achieve the highest degree of operational readiness, performance, reliability, and safety during the calendar year. “I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and heartiest congratulations to the Civil Service Mariners who crew each of these great ships for their outstanding performance and professionalism during 2024,” said Rear Adm. Phillip Sobek, MSC Commander. “Keep up the great work!”

REINSTATEMENT OF FIRED PASS WORKERS

The FAA was ordered to reinstate 132 employees, represented by M.E.B.A. affiliate PASS (Professional Aviation Safety Specialists), who were abruptly dismissed on Valentine’s Day as part of the Trump administration’s broader strategy to reduce the size of the federal workforce. PASS represents more than 11,000 FAA and Defense Department workers throughout the air traffic control system.

The decision to reinstate the workers came after a U.S. District Court in Maryland ruled in favor of 20 Democratic attorneys general, mandating that federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) rehire the affected employees. The reinstated FAA workers, which include aeronautical information specialists, maintenance mechanics, aviation safety assistants, and environmental protection specialists, will receive back pay starting from February 15.

PASS National President David Spero said, “this is a win for public safety and for a critical workforce dedicated to the FAA’s mission. Haphazardly eliminating positions and encouraging resignations creates a demoralizing effect on the workforce. The fact that these excellent civil servants, many of whom are veterans and all are members of our communities, can now return to duty and collect a well-deserved paycheck for their professional skills will lift their spirits and those of their colleagues immensely. More importantly, although their termination email indicated they were being let go for performance reasons 'not in the public interest,' PASS has learned from managers and supervisors that this could not be further from the truth, and we are pleased that the expungement of these letters referencing the false performance claims allows these employees to continue their service to the American flying public without this unsubstantiated blemish on their work record. These dedicated employees chose to serve their country, and they will be able to get back to their important work on behalf of the American flying public.”

MARAD AUTHORIZES DELFIN LNG DEEPWATER PORT

The Maritime Administration has issued a license authorizing to Delfin LNG, LLC, to own, construct, operate, and eventually decommission a deepwater port, to export Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from the United States. The Delfin port facility will transport LNG to the global market from U.S. waters off the coast of Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

This deepwater port project will be the first offshore LNG export project in the United States.

NJ AREA MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND JUNE FAMILY FUN DAY

Members and applicants in the NY/NJ area are invited to take part in the M.E.B.A family fun day at the Monmouth Race Park in New Jersey on June 7. The Union has a trackside picnic area reserved

and is honoring Tony Galante, a former Staten Island Ferry Captain who died of 9/11-related cancer in December of 2022. Tony was one of the many M.E.B.A. members who worked tirelessly after the fall of the World Trade Center to help survivors escape the devastation and to bring first responders to the scene.

M.E.B.A. is sponsoring the first race at the track (at 12:30 pm) in Tony's honor and family members will get to go into the winner's circle for photos with the winning horse and jockey. All are welcome including children. You can get further details from M.E.B.A.'s Patrolman in the NY/NJ hall Capt. Kenny Smith. Call the hall or email him at ksmith@mebaunion.org

WEST COAST HALLS CLOSED ON MONDAY FOR CESAR CHAVEZ

Union halls will be closed on Monday, March 31st to observe the birthday of labor giant Cesar Chavez. Chavez was an American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist. He was known for his use of non-violent tactics and made the farm workers' struggle a moral cause and gained nationwide support. His family lost their farm in Arizona during the Great Depression and he moved to California and became a migrant farm worker facing much adversity during those 14 years. In 1952, he became an organizer and effective voice for the Community Service Organization, a civil rights group. Four years after becoming the CSO Director, he left the organization and along with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers. He led his union on a series of strikes and work actions that led to extraordinary gains and protections for farm workers across the country.

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

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

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

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

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

Friday, April 11 – **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. Website: www.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