

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
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APL WELCOMES NEWBUILD PRESIDENT ADAMS INTO FLEET

M.E.B.A.-contracted company American President Lines has begun the rejuvenation of its fleet with the addition of the PRESIDENT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, the first of at least seven newbuilds the company will bring into the fold replacing older vessels. The ships are part of a massive 22 ship order APL parent CMA CGM placed with China Shipbuilding Corporation with most of the vessels bound for the company's international fleet.

L.A. Branch Agent Rich Doherty went down to the ship which made a San Pedro stop and visited the initial M.E.B.A. crew on the vessel. M.E.B.A. Engine Officers on the ADAMS include C/E Tom Stillwachs, 1st A/E Trevor Fuller, 2nd A/E John Gaylan and 3rd A/E Jacob Paxton.

The JQ ADAMS replaces the aging PRESIDENT TRUMAN which de-flagged in Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico earlier this week.

Last year, the company replaced the APL GULF EXPRESS with the 14-years younger APL EAGLE taken from the CMA CGM international fleet. The year before, the CMA-CGM DAKAR took the place of the aging APL SAIPAN. In 2021, the CMA CGM HERODOTE (since renamed APL ISLANDER) took over for the old APL GUAM.

Next up will be the addition of the newbuild PRESIDENT GRANT in early June. That vessel will replace the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT which is currently scheduled to de-flag in late June.

Other newbuilds expected to join the APL fleet at some point this year include the PRESIDENT REAGAN, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT MONROE and PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

In all cases, the new ships are expected to assume the Maritime Security Program chits from the outgoing vessels. M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFOW mariners will continue to crew the replacement ships under the existing agreement with APL.

TWO MORE COUNTRIES ADDED TO TAX-DODGING FOC LIST; ONE REMOVED

Two ship registries associated with ‘dark fleet’ transportation – Gabon and Eswatini – are the latest additions to the International Transport Workers’ Federation’s “Flags of Convenience” (FOC) list. The FOC list catalogs countries that take registration fees but avoid flag state responsibilities. Companies often register ships in low regulation countries to hide ownership, reduce tax obligations, employ cheap labor or skirt safety standards – with profound implications for seafarers working on those vessels. The two new additions are accompanied by the removal of Tonga from the 76-year-old list, bringing the total number of FOCs to 43.

ITF President Paddy Crumlin said, “It’s a toxic industry – registering ships in countries where there is no regulation, no oversight and no accountability. It allows for exploitation and the abandonment of seafarers. The aim is to provide a shortcut for shipowners to generate money without necessarily complying with best practice risk mitigation and due diligence through regulatory accountability.”

Some 50 percent of the world fleet is registered in FOC states. The top three contributors – Panama, Liberia, and the Marshall Islands – alone account for over 40 percent of the international fleet

ITF’s Seafarers’ Section Chair Dave Heindel said: “The whole flags of convenience system is complex on purpose...Flag registers should not be allowed to operate as businesses using lower standards than traditional national registers. Until that’s stopped, seafarers’ rights will continue to be abused with impunity.”

Both Gabon and Eswatini’s registries are believed to be involved in the growing, so-called ‘shadow’ or ‘dark fleets’ transporting sanctioned oil. Gabon’s registry has grown exponentially since international sanctions came into effect following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

BEST FEEDERS IN MSC FLEET

Four Military Sealift Command ships received the 2023 Captain David M. Cook Foodservice Excellence Award for their healthy meal options that offers multiple entrée choices, side dishes and delicious desserts. The winners were honored at the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation’s (NRAEF) annual Military Foodservice Awards dinner and ceremony, held in Chicago on May 17.

MSC’s Captain David M. Cook Foodservice Excellence Award recognizes the best of the best in four categories: Winning in the Medium Afloat category was fleet replenishment oiler USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS. Dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS WILLIAM McLEAN won in Large Afloat, rescue and salvage ship USNS GRASP won in the Small Afloat category and USS MOUNT WHITNEY won in the Hybrid Afloat group. While McLEAN is a first-time winner, GRASP took the honor four times in 2008, 2009, 2022 and 2023. HUMPHREYS has won the last three consecutive years, in 2021, 2022 and 2023. MOUNT WHITNEY has won four times in the Hybrid category in 2016, 2020, 2022 and 2023.

MSC Civilian Mariners are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

MONDAY: NOMINATION PERIOD BEGINS

M.E.B.A.'s nomination period for the upcoming officers' election begins on Monday (June 3). Set by the By-Laws to begin on the first day of the June meetings, the nomination period will continue until July 12, the last day of the July membership meetings. Nominations received before or after the nomination period will be discarded, in accordance with the By-Laws. Nominations must be received at District Headquarters addressed to the Credentials Committee (c/o District President) no later than the close of business on July 12, 2024. Nomination forms and additional election information are available at M.E.B.A. Union halls, from HQ or on the M.E.B.A. website in the "Documents & Member Notices" section. It is not a requirement to use the nomination form - you may use your own form provided you meet all applicable requirements of the National Constitution and District No. 1-PCD, M.E.B.A. By-Laws. To further expedite the qualification process, it is recommended that nominees include a copy of their last Dues Receipt in their nomination packet instead of just the Dues Receipt number. The list of offices open for nomination has been forwarded to all the Union halls and offices and is also available on the website. The instructions available on the website describe how nominations can be emailed, if preferred.

A special election edition of the *Marine Officer* will be published in August 2024. Each candidate for office may submit a passport-style photograph (headshot) along with a campaign statement of up to 400 words. The statement should be designed to promote, educate and inform M.E.B.A. members about a candidate's qualifications and background. Statements and/or photographs are not a requirement for nomination. At the July 2024 membership meetings, Credentials Committee members will be elected. No officer or candidate for office is eligible for election to this Committee. The Committee is set to meet on July 16, 2024 to review and decide on the qualifications of each nomination received and will also review all statements submitted for the special election edition of the *Marine Officer*.

All members interested in running for a position are urged to review the National Constitution and District By-Laws. M.E.B.A. Halls & Offices have a copy of these documents, and both are available on the "Documents & Member Notices" page of M.E.B.A.'s website. Additional questions relating to the election can be forwarded to mebahq@mebaunion.org

ABOVE AVERAGE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON FORESEEN

NOAA National Weather Service forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center predict above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which spans from June 1 to November 30, predicts an 85% chance of an above-normal season, a 10% chance of a near-normal season and a 5% chance of a below-normal season.

NOAA is forecasting a range of 17 to 25 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 8 to 13 are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 4 to 7 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). Forecasters have a 70% confidence in these ranges.

The upcoming Atlantic hurricane season is expected to have above-normal activity due to a confluence of factors, including near-record warm ocean temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, development of La Nina conditions in the Pacific, reduced Atlantic trade winds and less wind shear, all of which tend to favor tropical storm formation.

ICONIC SNUG HARBOR STATUE RELOCATED TO SUNY

The Trustees of the Sailors' Snug Harbor have relocated the iconic statue of its founder Captain Robert Richard Randall to SUNY Maritime College near the athletic field. Randall founded the Sailors' Snug Harbor, a charity dedicated to helping retired merchant mariners. His will, purported to be written by Alexander Hamilton in 1801, endowed a charity to aid retired mariners. The charity continues today, annually aiding mariners across the country.

The statue stood from 1884 to 1983 at the retirement home that Snug Harbor operated on Staten Island from 1833 to 1976. The statue then went to the new retirement home in Sea Level, NC in 1984. Today Sailors' Snug Harbor has transitioned to helping mariners across the country from an office in Manhattan. Since the charity no longer operates a retirement home, the statue needed a new home.

SEAFARER HEALTHCARE QUESTIONNAIRE WILL AID STUDY

The Seafarers International Research Centre is undertaking a study to assist ports, employers, and governments in improving healthcare for working seafarers in the cruise and cargo sectors. The study aims to find out about the health of working seafarers and their access to healthcare while onboard.

If you are a seafarer regularly employed to work on cargo and/or cruise ships then they need your input. To participate in an interview, please register your interest in an email using the button below or the contact details provided.

Cruise ship mariners can fill out [this quick online survey](#) and cargo ship mariners can fill out [the questionnaire at this link](#). To participate in an interview you can email the Seafarers Centre at sampsonh@cardiff.ac.uk

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

Monday, June 3 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

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

Wednesday, June 5 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org

Thursday, June 6 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, June 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.***