

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*  
**M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES**  
*The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"*  
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## **RANK-AND-FILE COMMITTEE TO BE SELECTED MONDAY FOR M.E.B.A. ELECTION COUNT**

If you're near one of the six Union halls holding a Special Membership Meeting on Monday (Nov. 25), stop by to help elect five members and one alternate to form a six-person Rank-and-File Election Tallying Committee. Union halls hosting Nov. 25 Special Meetings will be held at halls in *New York/New Jersey, Tampa, Houston, Norfolk, Seattle* and *San Francisco (Oakland)*. The elected Oakland member will serve as the Alternate on the Committee if all six members attend. The Committee will help oversee the tabulation of District election ballots on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Houston hall will have their meeting at their new location - 6604 South Loop East. The Tampa Union hall will hold their meeting at Coppertail Brewing Company (2601 E 2nd Ave in Tampa).

*Each of the six halls will hold their Special Meetings following job call*, but make sure you contact that particular hall to confirm in advance because times could vary. A quorum for a special membership meeting is five or more members. The election of a Tallying Committee member will be the only item on the agenda at these Special Meetings. Please urge members to attend and participate in the Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> Special Meetings.

## **DUFFY APPOINTED TO HEAD DOT**

President-elect Donald Trump announced many of his leadership picks for his second administration including the selection of Sean Duffy as the next Secretary of Transportation. The 53-year old Duffy represented Wisconsin's 7<sup>th</sup> District in Congress from 2011 to 2019. He is a former prosecutor and television personality who co-hosts a business segment on *Fox News*. He served on financial and oversight committees during his Congressional career but was relatively inactive on maritime issues. The industry is optimistic that he will understand the importance of the U.S.-flag fleet to our national and economic security and we look forward to collaborating with him on those issues once confirmed.

Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL) was tapped to serve as Trump's national security advisor, the top security policy role in the White House. A former Green Beret, Waltz previously worked as a defense policy

director under Secretaries of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates. Elected to represent Florida's 6<sup>th</sup> District in 2019, Waltz currently sits on the House Armed Services Committee. He has been a vocal advocate on behalf of U.S.-flag shipping and, along with Senators Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) as well as Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA), co-authored the "Congressional Guidance for a National Maritime Strategy," legislation to return the U.S. to shipping prominence while bolstering the Jones Act fleet and revitalizing U.S. shipyards.

### **TRUSTEES ENACT PENSION PARITY ENHANCEMENT**

At their November meeting, the Board of Trustees of the M.E.B.A. Pension Plan formally approved the pension parity benefit enhancement described in the December 2023 membership meetings and via Plan Office correspondence regarding Plans Office 2.0. The pension improvement affects members with service both before 2012 and after 2012. It will take effect for those who retire on or after Jan. 1, 2025.

The Trustees – both union and employer – continue to work together to modernize the Plan Office, which is expected to result in substantial administrative cost savings while enhancing the ease and efficiency of member interactions. Enhancements include software upgrades, simplified contributions and improved options for Annual Physicals.

You will receive more information directly from the Plan Office and receive additional details at the upcoming December membership meetings.

### **PORTS AWARDED MORE THAN HALF A MILLION IN MARAD PIDP GRANTS**

The Maritime Administration (MarAd) announced that it has awarded almost \$580 million in Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) awards, funding 31 projects in 15 states and one territory. MarAd's PIDP, received \$2.25 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve port infrastructure to meet the nation's freight transportation needs. The \$580 million in grants awarded include a cargo terminal replacement in Anchorage, Alaska and a terminal modernization in Oakland, as well as numerous smaller projects at ports around the country. Read the full list [here](#).

### **THE LOWDOWN ON THE THROWDOWNS: UPCOMING M.E.B.A. HOLIDAY PARTIES**

Someone said, "Live for the nights you'll never remember with the friends you'll never forget." Work be damned, it's time to bust loose and make merry – M.E.B.A.-style. Here's your key to enjoying the M.E.B.A.-sanctioned festivities:

M.E.B.A. **Boston** members fire up the party engines as a fiesta unfolds immediately after the membership meeting at the hall on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. M.E.B.A. **Charleston** transforms meeting day into a scintillating soiree on Tuesday, December 3. They raise a ruckus during the party portion of the program at 4 pm when festivities break loose at Holy City Brewing, 1021 Aragon Ave. in North Charleston. Guests can fill their faces with food until 6 pm. The Big Easy goes hog wild on Wednesday, December 4 as pandemonium reigns right after the M.E.B.A. **New Orleans** membership meeting when the party portion of the program prevails. The Cajuns will be ragin' from 3 pm until whenever!

The party pace gets prolific on Thursday, December 5 with four Union halls spreading cheer and causing a Christmas commotion. After their membership meeting, M.E.B.A. **Los Angeles** members

will converge down the street from our San Pedro hall on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Big Nick's Pizza. The cork pops at 2 p.m. and they amp up the energy at 1110 North Gaffey Street. The riotous romp keeps rolling right on until 4 pm.

Party-goers at the M.E.B.A. **New York/New Jersey** hall will wait for the final gavel of their membership meeting on Thursday, December 5 before they unleash the energy (around 2 pm). They're going to party, Karamu, fiesta (forever). A high-powered holiday hullabaloo goes into hyperdrive for M.E.B.A. **Norfolk** at the hall on Thursday, December 5 at 2:00 pm. M.E.B.A. **Tampa** makes waves on Thursday, December 5 after the meeting. There will be a glorious, gratifying, and grandiose gathering at Gaspar's Grotto beginning at 3:00 p.m. at 1805 E 7th Avenue and grooving until 6 pm.

There's no sanctioned revelry at the M.E.B.A. **Cleveland** hall - though Cheryl will keep the cookie tray loaded up with goodies. So, stop by and put your paws on some sweet treats. M.E.B.A. **Oakland** members will raise a ruckus and throw a hoo-ha with holiday hubbub at the hall on Friday, December 6 at 12:30. The merrymaking will be unyielding in its ferocity until 3:30 pm.

Charm City revelers will kick off a rager at the **Baltimore** hall on Wednesday, December 11. There will be life-affirming fun from 12-5 p.m. The shindig shoves off at 5:30 pm on Thursday, December 12 for M.E.B.A. **Headquarters** & the **American Maritime Congress** as they go full force on a free-form fiesta at the rollicking rooftop reception. There will be an onslaught of jollification on Friday, December 13 for M.E.B.A. **Jacksonville** as holiday revelers go full ahead on a bow-to-stern portside party replete with sea shanties, gourmet grub from the galley and merrymaking mayhem. You can partake in the partying pandemonium at Pat's Lounge from 2-5 p.m. on 4870 Highway Avenue.

M.E.B.A. **Seattle** members run amok and raise the roof on Friday December 13 at our Union hall in Fife where the instant gratification begins at 12:30. In the Aloha State, the "Big Kahuna" of parties cuts loose on Monday, December 16 at the M.E.B.A. **Honolulu** hall. The muumuu-sized loco luau lights off at 10 a.m. on Hawaiian time The hula hopping ho'olaule'a will rage on until 2 pm. And finally, members will go turbo with a super-charged celebration at the M.E.B.A. Houston hootenanny as they floor it with a full-throttle fiesta on Thursday December 19. The party engine powers up at M.E.B.A.'s new Union hall located at 6604 South Loop E. where they'll crank up the chaos and turn up the power for hours.

Winnie the Pooh said, "We didn't realize we were making memories. We just knew we were having fun." So, don't be tardy for the party, Marty! Stop on by. Catch up with old shipmates, meet new friends and raise a glass to those who can't attend. Be safe!!! And make it a joyful holiday season!

### **BOSTON HALL'S FAY MOVING ON; NEW REP. SOUGHT**

Boston Union hall Representative Stuart Fay will be stepping down from the position at the end of the year following almost eight years of service. The Union extends thanks and appreciation to Stu for his years of hard work as he departs to pursue new opportunities.

M.E.B.A. is accepting résumés from an energetic and supportive member interested in serving as the next Representative at our Boston Union hall. This is a rare and exceptional opportunity. Those who wish to be considered for this position should send a cover letter and résumé to our Atlantic Coast

Vice President as well as Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha at [rrexha@mebaunion.org](mailto:rrexha@mebaunion.org) The selected candidate will assume the role in Boston at the beginning of the new year.

### **CMES ADDS JANUARY RT-FLEX TRAINING COURSES**

As promised, the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School, in conjunction with Wartsila, has finalized dates for Flex Engine classes to be held in January. The following courses are now available:

- RT Flex Basic (3-day course, Wednesday - Friday) - No time required on a flex engine - January 22-24.
- RT Flex Operator (5-day course) - Pre-requisite: Time on a flex engine or have taken the Basic course - January 27-31.

The 3-day RT Flex Basic class starts on Wednesday and ends on Friday. Students should expect to be in class until 4 pm on Friday.

Additional classes will be forthcoming once everything has been finalized with Wartsila. Applications can be sent via the CMES website ([www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org)), by fax (410) 822-7220, or by email to [applications@mebaschool.org](mailto:applications@mebaschool.org)

### **SPACE IN UPCOMING CONTAINER REFRIGERATION COURSE**

There is still space for the upcoming December 2–13 Container Refrigeration class at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School. Applications can be sent via the CMES website, faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to [applications@mebaschool.org](mailto:applications@mebaschool.org).

### **VACATION BENEFITS – 2024 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 2024 in the Outports and the Plan Office is Tuesday, December 17, 2024.
- **DIRECT DEPOSIT:** The final Direct Deposit Transfer for 2024 will be made on 12/18/2024 and the funds will be deposited into bank accounts on 12/20/2024.
- Any requests for Port Relief and Vacation checks received after 12/17/24 at 12:00 PM EST will be paid in the order received beginning 1/2/2025.

Any member who requires that his/her check be dated in 2024 must file before this deadline. Remember, Wednesday, December 25, 2024 and Wednesday, January 1, 2025 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 2024 and 2025**

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 2024 and a second in 2025. The 12/17/2024 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.

### **APPLICANTS SEEKING MEMBERSHIP MUST FORWARD DOCS BY END OF NEXT WEEK**

Qualified applicants trying to make membership in December must make sure they provide Headquarters with required documentation to ensure their inclusion on the next District Investigating Committee (DIC) report. The DIC meets twice a year to review applicants for membership and will issue a report in late November to be voted upon by members during the regular December membership meetings (December 2-6).

To make membership, an applicant needs the required sailing days or specified years of employment with a particular bargaining unit, must be current with service charges and must complete other necessary requirements which may include an initiation fee and/or letters of recommendation. Applicants should know that they are responsible for providing their local Union hall/Headquarters with the documentation demonstrating their fulfillment of the application requirements. Once they submit the requisite amount of sea time (or documented years of service) to Headquarters and have otherwise fulfilled the needed requirements as stated in the application packet they signed, they may be eligible for membership. Applicants who have fulfilled the necessary requirements should forward their information to Headquarters.

Applicants have been mailed letters from HQ referencing the missing requirements needed for that applicant to make membership. Referenced documents must be submitted to HQ before the DIC finalizes their report at the end of November if the applicant wishes to be considered for membership during this review period. If you have questions about your status, you can contact the Membership Department at [membership@mebaunion.org](mailto:membership@mebaunion.org). All questions about service charge payments should be directed to the M.E.B.A. Accounting Department at [accounting@mebaunion.org](mailto:accounting@mebaunion.org). Qualified applicants who fail to make the deadline will have to wait another six months – until the June 2025 report – to make membership.

### **M.E.B.A. ELECTION: TIME GETTING TIGHT TO GET A DUPLICATE BALLOT**

If you are an M.E.B.A. member and did not receive a ballot – or yours has been lost or destroyed – you can request a duplicate ballot in writing. There's not much time so you must act immediately. Our By-Laws state that duplicate ballots "shall be counted unless the original and duplicate ballot mailed to a member are both cast, in which event neither ballot shall be counted." Any written requests for duplicate ballots made to the M.E.B.A. will be referred to the Impartial Administrator: The quickest way to request a duplicate is by emailing TrueBallot at [0212401@trueballot.com](mailto:0212401@trueballot.com). *Please make sure you include your address to send the duplicate ballot. A reply email is not generated when the request is made. Duplicate ballots are typically delivered by mail within a week of request (dependent on the Post Office).* You should contact Marco C. at M.E.B.A. Headquarters - [marco@mebaunion.org](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org) for any follow-up questions.

### **UNION-MADE THANKSGIVING**

When you buy union, you're supporting good jobs in American communities, jobs that provide living wages and benefits, safe working conditions, and dignity and respect for work. Look for these quality products, produced by union members, when preparing your Thanksgiving feast!

Unions listed below include United Farm Workers (UFW); United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); Bakery Confectionery Tobacco and Grain Millers (BCTGM); International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT); International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU).

**Whole Turkey** - Butterball (UFCW, IBT); Foster Farms (UFW). **Ham** - Appleton Farms ham (UFCW); Butterball ham (UFCW); Cook's ham (UFCW); Farmland original pit ham (UFCW); Tyson ham (UFCW). **Potatoes/Sweet Potatoes** - Dole (IBT); Ore-Ida (UFCW, IBT). **Salad/Vegetables** - Andy Boy Broccoli, Cauliflower, Lettuce (UFW); Birds Eye Vegetables (UFCW, IBT); Del Fresh Mushrooms (UFW); Dole Salads (IBT); Fresh Express Salad (IBT). **Stuffing** - Stroehmann Bakery Products (BCTGM); Manischewitz (BCTGM). **Cranberries/Cranberry Sauce** - Dole (IBT); Ocean Spray (IAM). **Baking** - Alta Dena Eggs (IBT); Eco Eggs (USW); Clover Sonoma Eggs (IBT); Land O'Lakes (IBT); Pillsbury (BCTGM). **Bread** - Aunt Millie's breads (UFCW); Pillsbury Crescent Rolls (BCTGM); Stroehmann Bakeries' products (BCTGM); Bunny Bread (Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union [RWDSU]). **Pie** - Banquet fruit pies (UFCW); Entenmann's (BCTGM); Marie Callender's (UFCW); Pillsbury pie crust (BCTGM); Sara Lee (BCTGM). **Pie Filling** - Del Monte fresh apples (IBT); Food Club 100% Pure Pumpkin (UFCW); Kroger Bakery Fresh Goodness Pumpkin Pie (UFCW); Mott's Applesauce (RWDSU).

For more union-made products visit <http://labor411.org/listing-region/consumer-products/>

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

Monday, December 2 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, December 3 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.**

Wednesday, December 4 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)**

Thursday, December 5 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300** (Tampa meeting to be held at Coppertail Brewing Company - 2601 E 2nd Ave, Tampa, FL)

Friday, December 6 – **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. The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School can be contacted at (410) 822-9600 or [www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org). M.E.B.A. Plans is at (410) 547-9111 or [www.mebaplans.org](http://www.mebaplans.org)*