

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*  
**M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES**  
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## **MORE JOBS FOR MEMBERS AS M.E.B.A. BRINGS IN NEW SHORESIDE EMPLOYER**

The M.E.B.A. has reached an agreement with a new employer that secures additional shoreside job opportunities for our membership. Charleston Industrial and Marine Repair LLC based in North Charleston, South Carolina performs repair work (including Government-contracted jobs) on vessels around the country. Our MOU with them kicks in on January 1, 2024 and is similar in nature to the contracts and rates we have with current M.E.B.A. shoreside employers ACME and Blue Point Engineering. The company is owned by M.E.B.A. Chief Engineer David Willison who serves as its President.

M.E.B.A. will supply Port Engineers as well as licensed officers and unlicensed personnel performing labor for the company on an "as-needed" basis.

This new agreement is a continuation of the M.E.B.A. Administration's efforts to further diversify work opportunities for our membership with full benefits.

Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan brought in this new work for the Union. The Memorandum of Understandings will be sent to the Union halls as soon as they are finalized.

## **SENATE BILL WOULD HELP BUILD U.S. OFFSHORE WIND WORKFORCE**

Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) recently re-introduced a bill establishing a \$25 million federal grant program to address the growing demand for hiring workers in the offshore wind industry through apprenticeship programs, maritime centers of excellence and institutions of higher education.

The Offshore Wind Jobs And Opportunity Act (S. 3226) would direct the Secretary of Labor to identify the offshore wind industry's workforce needs by engaging with the offshore wind industry, maritime industry, eligible entities, local governments, ports, and nonprofit organizations.

The legislation differs from previous iterations by specifically making maritime training institutions - such as the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) - eligible to receive these grants to help satisfy the demand of U.S. qualified mariners and U.S. flag vessels that will be needed to install, operate and maintain offshore wind farms over the life of the projects.

## **CONTINUED MARINER UNEASE IN RED SEA WATERS**

Increased peril confronts commercial mariners, including our members, sailing in Red Sea waters and off the Yemeni coast as armed groups continue carrying out attacks. The Navy thwarted an attempted hijacking of the M/V CENTRAL PARK in the Gulf of Aden over the weekend after five armed Somali pirates tried to subdue the commercial vessel. The USS MASON, part of a coalition counter-piracy task force, responded to the ship's distress call and was able to pursue and capture the escaping pirates.

Ballistic missiles were reportedly fired from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen toward the general location of the Navy ship while it was responding, though the shots were woefully off-target. There was no damage or reported injuries from either vessel during the attempted hijacking and Navy vessel response.

This was another in a series of attacks in Middle Eastern waters, coinciding with the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas that erupted on Oct. 7. The most recent seizure occurred on Nov. 19 when Houthis took control of the car carrier and crew of the GALAXY LEADER and redirected them to a Yemeni port. In both these incidents, the targeted vessels allegedly had ties to Israeli business owners.

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) urged an immediate halt to such attacks and the release of innocent seafarers, emphasizing that these vessels were exercising their right to freedom of navigation and innocent passage. In response to heightened threats to secure transit of global trade in the Arabian and Red Seas, Israeli container shipping line ZIM Integrated Shipping Services announced it would re-route some of its vessels from risk areas, which will extend transit times to ensure the safety of their vessels, cargo and crews.

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

“No one looks back on their life and remembers the nights they got plenty of sleep.” 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 get funky first with an onslaught of merrymaking immediately after the membership meeting on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. **M.E.B.A. Charleston** transforms meeting day into a scintillating soiree on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. They graduate to the party portion of the program at 4 pm when festivities get started at Holy City Brewing, 1021 Aragon Ave. in North Charleston. Members and guests can fill their faces with food until 6 pm.

The good times roll in the Big Easy on Wednesday, December 6 with an onslaught of merrymaking immediately after the **M.E.B.A. New Orleans** membership meeting when the party portion of the program prevails. The Cajuns will be ragin' from 2 pm until whenever!

After their own membership meeting, **M.E.B.A. Los Angeles** members will converge down the street from our San Pedro hall on Thursday, December 7 at Big Nick's Pizza. The cork pops at 2 p.m. at 1110 North Gaffey Street. The merrymaking will be unyielding in its ferocity.

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 7 before they go full force on a free-form fiesta (around 2 pm).

The party pace gets frenetic and the holiday hoopla goes into hyperdrive for **M.E.B.A. Norfolk** at the hall on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 pm. **M.E.B.A. Tampa** gets into the act on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> after the meeting. Members will “get their groove on” at Gaspar's Grotto beginning at 3:30 p.m. at 1805 E 7th Avenue.

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 the roof and whoop it up with holiday hubbub at the hall on Friday, December 8 from 1-4 p.m. They're going to party, Karamu, fiesta (forever).

**M.E.B.A. Seattle** members let it all hang out (not literally) on Friday December 8 at our Union hall in Fife where the instant gratification begins at 12:30. Members shift into high gear for **M.E.B.A. Baltimore** on Thursday, December 14 from 12-5 p.m. where Charm City revelers will high step at the hall during a high-powered holiday hullabaloo.

The shindig shoves off at 5:30 pm on Thursday, December 14 for **M.E.B.A. Headquarters & the American Maritime Congress**. There will be life-affirming fun at the rollicking rooftop reception.

A fiesta unfolds on Friday, December 15, for **M.E.B.A. Jacksonville** as holiday revelers converge for some party business at Pat's Lounge from 2-5 p.m. on 4870 Hwy Avenue. In the Aloha State, the “Big Kahuna” of parties cuts loose on Tuesday, December 19 at the **M.E.B.A. Honolulu** hall. The muumuu-sized revelry lights off at 10 a.m. on Hawaiian time and rages unabated.

And finally, members will bust it up at the **M.E.B.A. Houston** hootenanny and ring in a wing-ding on Tuesday December 19 at the Karbach Brewery (2032 Karbach Street) where they'll turn up the power for hours.

Someone said, “You only have one life. But if you do it right, it's more than enough.” 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!

### **UAW TARGETS NON-UNION AUTOMAKERS**

The United Auto Workers (UAW) has launched an initiative to unionize the American plants of non-unionized automakers. A dedicated website has been introduced, allowing as many as 150,000 employees from 13 different companies to digitally endorse union authorization cards, marking the initial phase of their efforts to organize these manufacturing facilities. Targeted automakers include BMW, Honda, Hyundai, Lucid, Mazda, Mercedes, Nissan, Rivian, Subaru, Tesla, Toyota, Volkswagen, and Volvo.

The union leadership aims to leverage the substantial salary hikes secured in recent contracts with Detroit's Big Three automakers — Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis (Chrysler).

UAW President Shawn Fain, echoing his messages to Big Three workers earlier in the year, emphasized the disparity between corporate profits and the financial struggles of workers, advocating for a better quality of life through union membership. “To all the autoworkers out there working without the benefits of a union: now it’s your turn,” he said. “...The money is there. The time is right. And the answer is simple. You don’t have to live paycheck to paycheck. You don’t have to worry about how you’re going to pay your rent or feed your family while the company makes billions. A better life is out there.”

While previous attempts to organize non-unionized automakers have encountered obstacles, the UAW sees an opportunity to build on the momentum generated by the contract gains negotiated with the Big Three

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said that his company will have “failed” if his workers are allowed to unionize. “I think it's generally not good to have an adversarial relationship between one group at the company and another group," he said. “I disagree with unions because I don't like anything which creates a “lords and peasants” sort of thing. I think unions naturally try to create negativity at a company.”

Several non-unionized companies, including Honda, Toyota, Hyundai, and Volkswagen, have recently implemented double-digit pay raises for their U.S. workforce in what analysts interpret as a preemptive measure to thwart unionization efforts.

In response to the UAW's campaign, some automakers, such as Honda, Nissan, and Hyundai, asserted their commitment to providing competitive wages and benefits directly without the involvement of an external party. Subaru pledged to increase wages in January, emphasizing its commitment to employee well-being.

### **MEMBERSHIP ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Members and applicants are strongly urged to attend one of the fourteen December membership meetings taking place next week (Dec. 4-8) at the Union halls. Membership meetings are a great way for members, applicants and retirees to stay involved, get informed, and deliver input to help advance the business of the Union. There is another full agenda that will benefit from healthy meeting attendance and participation.

Among other items, there is important and positive news about M.E.B.A Plans office modernizations and improvements that will be included in the meeting packet. In addition, members will receive the latest updates on a new shoreside employer, contract negotiations, related legislative news and other topics of concern for our membership.

Those who cannot attend meetings next week should make sure they attend one in January. If you can't attend in person, we encourage you to participate in the Wednesday Online Informational Headquarters meeting that occurs during regular meeting weeks. This format has allowed members serving aboard ship to take part in meeting week, and we encourage those with sufficient internet or those in port to participate as their work may allow. Check the following schedule and see what works for you.

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

Monday, December 4 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, December 5 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.**

Wednesday, December 6 – **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 7 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

Friday, December 8 – **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.*