

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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M.E.B.A. ENGINEERS HAVE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH APL

M.E.B.A. negotiators have reached tentative 5-year agreements with American President Lines covering the Licensed Engineering Officers (Deep-Sea) as well as Port Engineers. The tentative Memorandums of Understanding will be put to member ratification votes at the October meetings. The tentative MOUs will be available for review at each of the Union halls.

Member participation and input was invaluable in the bargaining process. Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini led negotiations with the company joined by our current Oakland Patrolman as well as input from Gulf Coast V.P. Adam Smith. Rank-and-file members involved in talks included Tommy Stillwachs, Kevin Parsons, Tony Aiello and the incoming Oakland Patrolman. Check the meeting schedule at the bottom of this issue to see if you can attend one of the thirteen upcoming membership meetings to participate in the vote.

BUSINESSES BRACE FOR ILA STRIKE

Negotiations for a new contract between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) are stalled as the September 30 deadline approaches, ushering in the inevitability of a strike that would disrupt U.S. supply chains. The ILA represents 65,000 dockworkers at ports along the East and Gulf Coasts, handling about 43% of U.S. imports.

The ILA is pushing for higher wages, better benefits, and stronger job security guarantees but the main point of contention appears to be automation, with the union opposing further implementation due to concerns over job loss. ILA released a statement saying they "will not stand by while employers show disrespect to our hardworking members. After October 1st, they will never again be able to bench our members for sixty or ninety days over minor infractions. We are done with this system of profits over people. We will not accept automation replacing the men and women who built this industry with their blood, sweat, and sacrifice."

A strike could have catastrophic effects, leading to shipping delays, higher costs, and shortages during the holiday season. Businesses have been taking steps to mitigate the risk, including diversifying supply chains and increasing inventories, but these efforts come at a cost. The federal government is monitoring the situation, though its ability to intervene is limited. Some companies

have already shifted cargo to West Coast ports to reduce exposure to the potential disruption. ILA noted, “Strikes are never easy, but in today’s world, with labor laws stacked against us and corporate greed at an all-time high, it remains one of the most powerful tools we have in our fight for justice. And make no mistake, we will be on the right side of history.”

FINAL VOYAGE: CMES INSTRUCTOR LARRY O’LOANE

Larry O’Loane, Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School graduate, expert engineer, and esteemed CMES instructor sailed into the sunset last month at the age of 70 in Ketchikan, AK. Born in Exeter, NH, Larry spent his youth in Rochester, NY. He headed to Alaska in 1974, working on the North Slope and the Beaufort Sea doing seismic readings for oil exploration. He attended Oregon Tech, getting his degree in Diesel Engineering then attended and graduated from the CMES cadet school on Light Street in Baltimore, MD. Larry sailed around the world as a ship engineer until the mid-1990s when he returned to the Calhoon School to impart his extensive engineering knowledge as an instructor.

In 2002, he moved to Ketchikan and served as Port Engineer for vessels in the Alaska Marine Highway System. He later developed the Qualified Member of the Engine Department Program at University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) which helped to change the lives of countless Alaskans. Besides being an engineer and a gifted teacher, he was also an adventurer, mentor, woodworker, proud union member, expert chef, environmentalist, curiosity seeker, deep-water scuba enthusiast, cave diver, loyal friend, brother and martini aficionado. He is survived by sisters Anne Lakota and Marian Ivan, brother Philip O’Loane, nephews and nieces Damien Ivan, Kristin and Sarah Hancock, Phoebe and Eloise O’Loane and his former wife of 39 years Deb LaPlante.

The family plans a service in conjunction in the early spring of 2025 to spread his ashes on the seas he loved surrounding Ketchikan.

\$20 MILLION GRANT TO DRBA TOWARD NEW HYBRID FERRY

The Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) has won a \$20 million grant from the Department of Transportation that will help cover efforts to procure a new diesel-hybrid vessel to lower the age of the M.E.B.A.-crewed Cape May-Lewes Ferry fleet. Delaware’s Congressional members noted that the diesel-hybrid ferry that the grant will help afford will operate with lower emissions compared to a diesel ferry and allow zero-emission operations while near port and while docked. The hybrid and all-electric operating modes are estimated to achieve the following annual reductions: 2,025 tons in carbon dioxide, 102.7 tons in nitrogen dioxide, 1.51 tons of fine particulate matter, 1.03 tons of hydrocarbons, and 5 tons of carbon monoxide. The new engines will also reduce fuel consumption by 35 percent. “We requested \$20 million to fund the construction of the first vessel. Over the next five to ten years, we plan to build at least three new ferries, with each estimated to cost around \$75 million. This grant covers a significant portion of that,” said Jim Salmon, Public Information Officer for the DRBA. Construction of the first vessel is expected to begin next year.

M.E.B.A., MARITIME COALITION HOSTING OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL FORUM

The Oakland Union Hall will serve as the backdrop for a City Council Candidate Forum next month, providing local voters an opportunity to hear firsthand from candidates about their vision and commitment to the Port of Oakland. The event is sponsored by the Oakland Maritime, Access, Sustainability, and Trade (O-MAST) coalition in partnership with the M.E.B.A. and ILWU. O-MAST is a federation of maritime, transportation, logistics, labor, and community stakeholders

supporting the long-term viability of the Port of Oakland. The event will take place at our Oakland hall (548 Thomas L. Berkley Way) on Tuesday, October 15 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. City Council candidates will discuss issues relevant to Oakland's working waterfront, including:

- Prioritizing and protecting the 98,000 jobs and \$174 billion in annual economic impact for the region generated by Port operations.
- Enhancing infrastructure for the movement of goods and protecting access to the Port of Oakland.
- Promoting resources to help Port stakeholders reach their sustainability goals.

Each candidate will provide a brief statement on O-MAST's priorities and their intentions regarding the Port if elected. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to mingle with candidates and ask questions both before and after statements are given. Put it on your calendar if you're in the area!

YOU CAN USE THE ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL TO KEEP CURRENT

Members are strongly urged to ensure their dues status is secured through the end of the year to guarantee their participation in important Union business, including this year's officers' election. Only members in good standing are permitted a voice at the monthly membership meetings. The By-Laws state that no member shall be entitled to any benefits of the Union or be considered in good standing unless his or her dues are paid in full for the current calendar quarter or paid in accordance with the dues check-off (DCO) system. In addition, when members who pay by DCO take vacation or (in the case of the Government fleet) Leave without Pay (LWOP), there are lapses in payroll where dues aren't automatically submitted.

M.E.B.A.'s online Member Payment and Update Portal (PUP) allows the membership the ease of making online monetary transactions and gives them the opportunity to verify their credentials and contact information on file, as well as submitted sea time. Members and applicants can use the Member PUP to pay their dues or service charges by credit card, debit card or through their checking account. They can also set up a recurring payment schedule to automatically keep them current.

When paying dues or service charges, the site enables online payers to choose their preferred Union hall, ensuring that payments are correctly indexed and correlated for record-keeping purposes. The site also allows users to view their transaction history online in a secure manner. Visit www.mebaunion.org where you can click on the Member PUP banner to get started. In addition, the PUP allows members, applicants and retirees to make contributions to the M.E.B.A.'s Good & Welfare and Political Action Funds that support so many members. Contributions to the Good & Welfare Fund are tax deductible. This fund has provided essential assistance to members and retirees in their time of need. The PAF keeps M.E.B.A. jobs afloat by affording us a crucial lifeline to policymakers who help determine the fate of the U.S. Merchant Marine. You'll find the online Portal to be the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing and extend a needed monetary infusion to vital Union programs.

LATEST MSC OILER CHRISTENED AT NASSCO

Fleet replenishment oiler USNS LUCY STONE, the Military Sealift Command's newest ship, was christened during a ceremony at the General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego, Calif., last week. The ship honors American suffragist Lucy Stone, who petitioned for suffrage and abolition in

the 19th century. Her efforts as a founder of the Women's National Loyal League were essential to the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.

The 746-foot STONE is the fifth ship in the new John Lewis-class previously known as the TAO(X). This class of oilers has the ability to carry 162,000 barrels of diesel ship fuel, aviation fuel and dry stores cargo. The upgraded oiler is built with double hulls to protect against oil spills and strengthened cargo and ballast tanks and will be equipped with a basic self-defense capability. The Lewis-class of oilers will replace the current Kaiser Class fleet replenishment oilers as they age out of the MSC fleet. The ship will be manned by a crew of about 100 civilian merchant mariners, sailing under the operational control of MSC. MSC Civilian Mariners are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

ITF RAGES AGAINST UNJUST SEAFARER CRIMINALIZATION

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is condemning a decision to sentence two seafarers to 30 years' imprisonment, after drugs were found on a vessel docked in the Black Sea port of Ereğli, Turkey, in October last year. Captain Marko Bekavac and Chief Mate Ali Albokhari of the PHOENICIAN M, who have already spent almost a year in remand prison in Ankara, were sentenced to 30 years last week despite no evidence of wrongdoing. The court did not immediately explain the decision to punish them, stating that the sentence is based on 'command responsibility.' According to Turkish law, the reasons for this decision must be provided by the judge within one month.

The Panama-flagged vessel was transporting coal from Colombia when police found 137kg of cocaine on board. The drugs were initially reported as on board the ship in the aft peak tank and seized by the authorities in Colombia. An investigation was not launched at the time and the court did not seek any information from the Colombian authorities, despite the objections of lawyers in Turkey. The captain immediately informed the ship owner of the discovery before leaving port. However, upon arrival in Ereğli, Turkish police found more cocaine in the cargo hold 2. There is also no information in the file about how the police knew there were more drugs on board and where to find them. The crew learned of the destination of the ship only three days in advance, and Captain Bekavac claims to have requested additional cameras and security before loading the cargo in Colombia. The company did not respond to his request. No fingerprints belonging to the crew were found on any of the bags containing drugs on the ship.

Eight other members of the 20-person crew from the Philippines, Poland and Russia were also arrested and spent almost a year in prison, before all charges against them were dismissed at the hearing for lack of evidence. This raises question about why these crewmembers, some of who had no responsibilities relating to cargo loading, were held in prison for a year if there was not sufficient evidence to convict. ITF Seafarers' Section Chair and President of the Seafarers International Union of North America, David Heindel, said, "The criminalization of seafarers has become commonplace. We see case after case just like this one: seafarers are treated like criminals, held for months on end without trial, and handed outrageous sentences for crimes they did not commit - a gross abuse of their human rights. "This is the only profession in the world where people are guilty until proven innocent... We will fight this decision until acquittal."

SUPPORT GOOD UNION JOBS ONE BEER AT A TIME

September has ushered in a plethora of additional reasons to drink beer. The NFL is back, Oktoberfest has begun, and those kids are finally out of the house and back at school! Time to sit back and crack open a cold one! Here's a list of some good union-made beers for you so that you can support good jobs with each sip.

IPAs - Contact Haze; Goose Island; Humboldt Haze; Wicked Hazy by Sam Adams; **Lagers** - Beck's; Budweiser; Boston Lager by Sam Adams; Coors Light; Iron City; Killian's; Landshark; Michelob; MGD; Miller Lite; Pabst Blue Ribbon; Red Stripe; Rolling Rock; Stella Artois. **Ales** - Bass; Breakaway Blonde by Sam Adams; Jamaica Red Ale; Pumpkin Ale by Sam Adams; **Oktoberfest** - Genesee; Sam Adams. **Ales** - Bass; Breakaway Blonde by Sam Adams; Jamaica Red Ale; Pumpkin Ale by Sam Adams. The full directory of union-made beers can be found [here](#).

NMC EXTENDS CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS

Starting on Monday, the National Maritime Center (NMC) will be extending its hours of operation for its Customer Service Center. Its new hours will be Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The NMC phone number is 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

M.E.B.A. ELECTION: DUPLICATE BALLOT INFORMATION

TrueBallot, Inc. is serving as the Impartial Administrator for the 2024 M.E.B.A. Election. 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. Contact the Impartial Administrator at: TrueBallot, Inc.; 3 Bethesda Metro Center; Suite 700; Bethesda, MD 20814. *Email: 0212401@trueballot.com*

Please make sure you include your address to send the duplicate ballot. *As stated in the M.E.B.A. By-Laws, if the original ballot and duplicate ballot are both cast, neither ballot shall count.* If you have any questions, please feel free to contact M.E.B.A. Headquarters.

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

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

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

Wednesday, October 9 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mcbahq@mebaunion.org**

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

Friday, October 11 – **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.***