

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. OFFICERS PART OF RESCUE OPERATIONS ON OSG VESSEL

The crew aboard an OSG-managed product tanker are being lauded for their humanitarian efforts in aiding desperate Cuban migrants who were enduring their 12th day at sea during a dash toward freedom.

On March 30th, on a run from Corpus Christi to Jacksonville about 185 nautical miles SSW of Southwest Pass, LA, the lookout on the OVERSEAS LONG BEACH spied a small craft about a mile and a half away loaded with a dozen Cuban citizens frantically waving their arms to get the vessel's attention.

The officer on watch promptly informed the Master, the crew was mustered and the vessel was diverted from its course to provide assistance. On their way to Mexico, the migrants had run short on water, food, fuel and were in need of medical attention.

The craft was brought alongside to assess the situation and the LONG BEACH crew provided them essential supplies like food, water, first-aid kits, blankets, flashlights, emergency signals, and life jackets while awaiting further guidance from Coast Guard Sector New Orleans.

Hours later, after further consultation with the Coast Guard, the LONG BEACH took the twelve Cuban migrants aboard until they could be transferred to a USCG cutter off Key West. Upon boarding, a security search and first-aid evaluations were undertaken. The migrants were set up in the Crew Lounge with mattresses, blankets, water, and food. One of the crew members acted as an interpreter and coordinated care for the migrants. The interpreter determined that the migrants had been at sea for 12 days, had only ½ gallon of water left, and had been without food for approximately 6 to 7 days. During the next 36 hours in transit to Key West, the migrants were fed, provided with showers, and given access to facilities to clean up and change. Each person received a basic medical evaluation and was determined to be in generally good health with no signs of dehydration or starvation. Two days later, they were transferred to the Coast Guard cutter near Key West.

The crew of the OVERSEAS LONG BEACH was rightfully lauded for demonstrating one of the best traditions of seafaring. Their efforts were commended by OSG CEO Sam Norton who said,

“...All on board chose to act with honest concern and empathy for those in need in a manner which affirms, in the most visible way possible, the standards of ethics and transparency that lie at the core of OSG’s culture. Thanks to the individuals involved for a job well done, for the care and attention that were offered those in distress, and for the level of professionalism exhibited by all in handling this matter effectively.”

The ship’s Deck officers are, as yet, unrepresented. SIU represents the unlicensed. M.E.B.A. permanents onboard the vessel at the time included C/E Brian Gerrish, 1st A/E Chris Waugaman and 2nd A/E Jonathan DiBacco.

M.E.B.A. & U.S. SHIPPING INDUSTRY PROMOTE POLICIES ON CAPITOL HILL

For the first time since 2019, a cross-section of maritime industry representatives, including the M.E.B.A., spent a full day on Capitol Hill promoting U.S. shipping as part of the Maritime Sail-In, normally an annual event. The COVID hiatus canceled the last three such events but on March 30th, over 100 industry representatives took part in the day-long maritime deluge of Congress to broadcast the importance of U.S.-flag shipping and solicit support for crucial maritime statutes and programs.

The cross-section of participants included representatives from maritime unions, shipping companies, state maritime academies and other organizations. They visited almost 150 House and Senate offices on both sides of the aisle to educate and promote federal policies advancing the U.S. Merchant Marine.

As Congress prepares its budget and spending priorities, industry leaders shared their expertise and personal stories on how protecting critical initiatives like cargo preference, the Maritime Security Program (MSP) and the Tanker Security Program (TSP) play a vital role in supporting our national defense and good-paying union jobs. Other critical issues that were highlighted among advocates included discussion surrounding the declining presence of the U.S. merchant fleet over the past 50 years in comparison to the Chinese fleet, as well as the importance of recruiting and retaining a highly qualified maritime workforce for the future. With the constant [turnover](#) in Congress, educating Members of Congress and their staff is one of the most important activities the Union conducts in support of its membership and jobs.

Representatives from M.E.B.A. included President Adam Vokac, Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha, Gulf Coast V.P. Adam Smith, Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan, Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway, retired Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, Government Affairs Director Erick Siahaan, and American Maritime Congress President Fair Kim.

REMINDER! ONLINE MEMBER PAYMENT & UPDATE PORTAL

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. 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.

M.E.B.A. PRIDE FOR JESSE CALHOON DAY

Members and retirees expressed appreciation and pride for the recently-celebrated Jesse Calhoon Day, an M.E.B.A.-specific holiday that was created by a member resolution in 2011. 2023 marked the second year that the April 4 birthday of M.E.B.A.'s modern patriarch was celebrated as a holiday for the Union halls, the first step toward a future fleet-wide contractual holiday. Before last year, Jesse Calhoon Day was informally observed for a decade. The ILWU and ILA, among others, also have union-specific observances honoring their labor leaders (Harry Bridges, Teddy Gleason, etc.) and M.E.B.A. members expressed appreciation that the nation's oldest and finest maritime union is finally recognizing one of their own.

The day is dedicated to the man who headed up the Union in exceptional fashion for 22 years. Among many other achievements under Jesse Calhoon's administration, the Union established the training school which bears his name, merged the deep sea districts, Pacific Coast District and District 1 into a single all coast unit, and transformed M.E.B.A.'s pension plan into the best in the maritime industry. Born on April 4, 1923, Jesse made his final voyage on October 22, 2013 at the age of 90.

The resolution that was introduced during the April 2011 membership meeting at M.E.B.A.'s Seattle Union hall was approved by the membership the next month. It read, (in part), "Whereas, we the M.E.B.A. members should not forget all that Jesse Calhoon has done for the M.E.B.A. including, but not limited to, establishing the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School, the M.E.B.A. Pension Trust, the M.E.B.A. Medical Plan and the Money Purchase Benefit Plan, via collective bargaining."

"Be it Resolved, that April 4th of every calendar year starting in the 2012 calendar year shall be deemed an M.E.B.A. paid holiday, and this day shall be celebrated, respected and remembered by all of the rank & file M.E.B.A. members as Jesse M. Calhoon's birthday, and further that all M.E.B.A. Union halls shall be closed for business on this date."

1-888-519-0018; M.E.B.A. HOTLINE FOR EMERGENCIES

Since 2011, M.E.B.A. has maintained an emergency hotline set up for members with urgent needs and crisis situations requiring immediate attention. In most cases, either calling your M.E.B.A. Union hall or office during normal business hours or sending an e-mail is enough to get your concern resolved. *The Hotline should become an option only if the weight of the issue demands that it be addressed immediately and at the highest priority.*

Those who call the line should be prepared to fully brief the Hotline responder with extensive details of their issue as well as their contact information. Please leave a comprehensive message in the rare event that the official is away from their phone at the time of your call. The official fielding the call will route the concern to the appropriate M.E.B.A. contact taking into account the issue's magnitude. Please keep the number on hand if the need ever arises: 1-888-519-0018

M.E.B.A. SCHOOL NEEDS A FULL-TIME ENGINEERING INSTRUCTOR

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) is looking for a full-time engineering instructor to serve as part of the Faculty. This position will report to the CMES Academic Manager and be responsible for assisting current faculty as well as teaching courses as needed and determined by the Academic Manager. The preferred candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Unlimited Chief Engineer license with endorsements for Gas Turbine, Steam, and Motor
- Experience sailing at the management level on gas turbine, steam, and motor vessels
- Experience with instruction and adult learning techniques
- Experience on multiple vessels i.e., product bulkers, tankers, container ships, and LNG vessels
- Excellent communication and public speaking skills
- Have a USCG approved Train the Trainer course certificate
- Wartsila and/or Kongsberg Simulator assessment experience
- Proficient with Microsoft Office products I.e., Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.
- Experience with IMO course curriculum format and ability to write course curriculum

Minimum requirements:

- Unlimited Chief Engineer license with at least one propulsion endorsement
- Experience on multiple vessel types and classes
- Excellent communication and public speaking skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Office products
- Ability to become proficient at engine simulator products

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to: bjennings@mebaschool.org or ATTN: Bryan Jennings, Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School, 27050 St Michaels Rd., Easton, MD 21601

CMES CONTINUES TO ACCEPT RÉSUMÉS FOR ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) is accepting résumés for a variety of adjunct instructor positions. They are searching for the following disciplines:

- Steam Engineering
- Gas Turbine Engineering
- Diesel Engineering
- Refrigeration
- Container Refrigeration
- Advanced Fire Fighting
- Basic Training
- Proficiency in Survival Craft
- Electrical – various disciplines
- Any other relevant marine engineering experience

Qualifications: Candidates must hold either a Chief Engineer or Master's (BST subjects) license; Operational and/or sailing experience within the discipline willing to teach; 40-hr Train-the-Trainer certification is a plus but is not required for applications. Any candidates who are hired that do not have this certification will be required to take this course prior to being submitted for USCG instructor approval. Computer knowledge of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint is helpful. Please submit résumés via email to resume@mebaschool.org

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

Friday, April 7 – **Good Friday** – *All Halls Closed*

Monday, April 10 - **Honolulu@1100.**

Monday, May 8 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, May 9 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.**

Wednesday, May 10 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, May 11 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

Friday, May 12 – **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. 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.