

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"
Number 53 – December 31, 2020



In this issue//Have a Safe & Happy New Year!//Message of Appreciation from Marshall Ainley//New Dispatcher in Seattle//WSF Opens First New Terminal in 40 Years//Apply for Union Plus Scholarships//Union-Made Hangover Cure//Document Checklist for Hall Visits//Members Should Check the Docs & Notices Site//Make Sure Your Email Address is On File//

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The M.E.B.A. wishes all of its members, applicants and retirees a happy and prosperous new year.

M.E.B.A. halls and offices are unsurprisingly closed tomorrow (Friday) for New Year's Day. The working week will resume at full force on Monday, January 4, 2021.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM MARSHALL AINLEY

M.E.B.A. sisters and brothers, it has been an honor and a privilege to have been in a position to represent our great Union and the membership over the past 7 years. It has also been challenging at times for all of us, but the solidarity and internal strength of our membership have provided the means for our Union to continue to achieve success where needed. During the last two Union administrations we have had to make difficult, but necessary, decisions to ensure the sustainability of our Union and the M.E.B.A. Plans. With change, there usually comes certain resistance, so I wanted to personally thank the membership for its understanding and support along the way.

Heading into 2021, with a New Year and more hope on the horizon, the M.E.B.A. is well-positioned to seek new opportunities, contracts and employment for our members. Much effort has been expended by many industry stakeholders to maintain and grow the US-flag fleet in recent years and hopefully we shall see those efforts pay off in the near term. Upon entering our industry in 1982, I knew from my training onboard only M.E.B.A.-contracted ships that our Union was the only place I wanted to be. The M.E.B.A. has provided me with excellent employment opportunities over the years, a full career and I would have had it no other way.

I wish nothing but continued success for our Union, the membership and the new administration. The Union will undoubtedly continue to be presented with considerable challenges in the future but I have full confidence the M.E.B.A. will meet any challenges head on, move forward and remain on course. U&F.

NEW DISPATCHER IN SEATTLE

The M.E.B.A. has welcomed aboard Joshua Hahn who took the reins as our new Dispatcher at our Seattle (Fife) hall earlier this month. Josh is a former Air Force Crew Chief native to the area with great outreach and organizational skills that will serve our membership well. He has done a terrific job in his first three weeks taking over for Kirsten Wilhelm who recently moved on to another

opportunity. Josh has adapted to the job impressively and his enthusiasm, dedication and know-how will help keep the Seattle hall running on all cylinders.

WSF OPENS FIRST NEW TERMINAL IN 40 YEARS

Washington State Ferries held the grand opening for its first new ferry terminal in 40 years that replaces the tired and limited 63-year-old nearby facility. Earlier this week, the Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal began welcoming ferry service on the Mukilteo/Clinton itinerary, one of the state's busiest, as over four million riders traverse that route each year.

The State held a virtual ceremony as part of the opening and Washington Governor Jay Inslee, WSF head Amy Scarton and others shared remarks and cut a ribbon by video to mark the occasion.

APPLY FOR UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIPS

M.E.B.A. families have until January 31, 2021 to apply for college education assistance money through Union Plus. M.E.B.A. members, retirees and their families - as well as members of affiliated M.E.B.A. unions - are eligible courtesy of the Union's enrollment in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to financing children's educations.

Visit unionplus.org/scholarship for more. Families of M.E.B.A. members or affiliated members are among past scholarship money recipients. Union Plus Scholarship are granted to students attending a two-year college, four-year college, graduate school or a recognized technical or trade school. Recipients are selected based on academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor.

Applications can be submitted up until Sunday January 31, 2021, at noon (EST). Those arriving after the deadline will not be considered. The award date is May 31, 2021. During the first week of June 2021, award recipients will be notified. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. The required essays can account for up to half your total score. Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators.

Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2021. Students may re-apply each year. Get the official application and all the details including eligibility criteria by visiting unionplus.org/scholarship Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$4.5 million to students of union families. Over 3,000 union families have benefited from the program.

UNION-MADE HANGOVER CURE

With a rough 2020 almost done, people are partying to say "good riddance" to this painful year. Labor411, which encourages the use of products made by union-friendly companies that treat their workers fairly and give them a voice on the job, has found the cure for the after-effects for New Year's Eve reveling. There are plenty of union-made items to help you get back to yourself and face 2021 with a clear head and some pep in your step. Fill up your system, your pantry and your medicine cabinet with these brands made by worker-friendly companies. Happy New Year!

Relief – Afrin; Aleve; Alka-Seltzer; Bayer; Milk of Magnesia; Pepto-Bismol. **That First Cup** - Eight O'Clock Coffee; Folgers; Kauai Coffee; Maxwell House; Millstone Coffee; USA Coffee Company. **Hydration** - All Sport; American Springs; Apothic Red; Dasani; DejaBlue; Mio; Nothern Fall's; Penafiel; Pocono; Poland Spring; Realemon; Realime; Venom Energy.

To view more union-made products, visit the Labor411 directory at <https://labor411.org/listing-region/consumer-products/>

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST FOR HALL VISITS

Members are encouraged to have their documents in order before showing up at their Union hall. Those who have recently upgraded their license should make sure their STCW reflects the upgrade. Your license, passport and other important documents should be valid for at least six months from the time you begin working aboard ship. Your drug-free certificates have to be valid at least until the day you join your ship.

If flying with your documents on the way to a hall, double-check that you haven't left any essential documents at home and make sure to keep your docs with you in your carry-on luggage. The primary documents you'll need include your Merchant Mariner Credential with current STCW, VSO or VPDSO endorsement, TWIC, Passport, USCG Medical Certificate, Annual M.E.B.A. physical card, Drug-free Certificate, Group Card and Dues Receipt. Permanent or relief employees should get their company clearance to the hall ahead of time. As you should know, no one can be dispatched to a job while on vacation or while receiving a paid vacation benefit without a waiver. The Union requires a return to work date when clearing for a vessel so make sure you have your vacation pay and vacation carry over statements, shipping discharge and port relief pay voucher for verification of Return to Work. It should also be noted that failure to obtain prior Union permission to return to work early, before the return to work date as listed on your carry-over or vacation statement, will subject you to a penalty.

Remember, a member or applicant cannot be dispatched for a job requiring STCW credentials if the Coast Guard Medical Certificate is due to expire prior to the completion of the job called. Members are encouraged to have their paperwork for the USCG Medical Certificate completed and to submit it for renewal at every annual physical in order to avoid an issue at job call. Certain jobs require proof of benzene or shot records, MSC Physical and MSC courses, GMDSS, High Voltage/Marine Propulsion, Crowd Control, Welding, or other courses to satisfy company requirements.

Mariners are reminded to keep their vaccination records with them when sailing – especially when shipping onboard MSC-contracted vessels. Keep your documents with you at all times when travelling and NEVER leave them in your car. If unsure what is required, it is a good idea to check with an M.E.B.A. clinic. If you have questions about your documents, direct them to your local hall.

MEMBERS SHOULD KEEP A CHECK ON DOCS & NOTICES SITE

Members and applicants are reminded to make use of the “Documents & Member Notices” section of the M.E.B.A. website (www.meunion.org) to find important notices and forms relating to the Union and our industry. There you'll find hall and operational notices including announcements for upcoming online membership meetings that require a registration period. If a Union hall is closed for a national or local holiday, that information will be reflected in this section. You might want to double-check the site before making a hall visit. Important District election information is available on the site as well as COVID-19 updates. NMC/Coast Guard notices are posted as well including REC information and Marine Safety Information Bulletins.

In addition, you'll find application forms for Deep-Sea, Government Fleet and the various bargaining units. Also posted are Group Seniority Card application forms, Sailing Time Verification &

Transmittal forms and Change of Bargaining Unit Affiliation forms. In addition, the M.E.B.A. By-Laws, Constitution and Shipping Rules are there as well as many other important documents including the Recommendation Form - (*Reminder: two recommendation letters are needed from a Senior officer who sailed with the Applicant for at least 60 days.*)

Please make it a habit to get familiar with that web page. To get there, go to the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) and scroll down to the large “Documents & Member Notices” box on the right side of the main page.

MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE!!!

Members and applicants should make sure that M.E.B.A. Headquarters has your e-mail address along with your other contact information. If you haven’t filled out an M.E.B.A. Database Update Form – or if your information has changed – grab the form off the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) located in the “Documents & Member Notices” section. Update Forms should be sent to the HQ Membership Dept. by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail membership@mebaunion.org. The HQ database is NOT LINKED to the databases at the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore OR the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School.

To update your information with Plans, you can find a change of address form on the Plans website (www.mebaplans.org) under “Forms & Documents” and “Member Services Forms”.

ONLINE JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – (*All times are local*)

Monday, January 4 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, January 5 – CMES@1430 (*CMES Meeting will likely be conducted in-person*); Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, January 6 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, January 7 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, January 8 – Honolulu@1100.

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



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. Visit us on Facebook. 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.