

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*  
**M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES**  
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*In this issue//CAA Reunion Announced//TTD's Regan Discusses Maritime & Supply Chain Issues at House Hearing//OCEAN GIANT is at the End of the Earth//AMHS Gets Infrastructure Law Funding//T&I Subcommittee Chairs//Openings for February CMES Training Courses//Union-Made Super Bowl//HQ Online Meeting //*

## **GOOD TIMES ARE MAKING A COMEBACK! CAA REUNION ANNOUNCED**

All hands on deck & ring the general alarm bell! Attention all Calhoon graduates, School staff, the M.E.B.A. Family and maritime friends! The Calhoon Alumni Association (CAA) is happy to announce that the CAA Reunion is making a return and has been scheduled for June 16-18, 2023. This weekend of fun and relaxation at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School on the banks of the Miles River is open to all members, retirees and applicants as well as friends and families. While details are still being finalized, registration forms and event fees will be posted soon on the M.E.B.A. School's website ([www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org)).

For those of you who have not yet attended a reunion, here is some of what you can expect: beef and pig on the spit, steamed crabs, burgers and dogs, pizza and subs, live music, swimming pool, beer, wine, soft drinks, ice cream, light breakfast, raffles, a Friday morning golf outing, a softball game, an awards ceremony, a sundown ceremony, sea stories and a great time with old classmates-shipmates-maritime friends.

This awesome event was last scheduled for the summer of 2020 before the onset of the pandemic ruined everything and forced its cancellation. So, let's get back into the swing of it! Take this opportunity to spread the word throughout the M.E.B.A. world as well as to past Calhoon School cadets, instructors, shipmates, friends, and families. Notice will be given when the reservation forms are ready for downloading. Hope to see you there!!!

## **TTD HEAD LAUDS JONES ACT AT HOUSE HEARING, DISCUSSES SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES**

Yesterday, Transportation Trades Department (AFL-CIO) President Greg Regan told members of Congress that the Jones Act needs to be fully enforced and strengthened to better protect against supply chain disruptions and to shake loose from the country's "dangerous dependence on foreign flag vessels."

Regan was testifying before the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure on supply chain challenges and infrastructure issues. M.E.B.A. is a founding member of the TTD which represents 37 unions in the maritime, aviation, rail, transit, trucking, highway, longshore, and related industries. He noted that last year's colossal ship backup at West Coast ports - due to lack of rail and trucking side capacity once containers were unloaded - have finally been alleviated. However, he said

that Congress should be proactive to prevent future such occurrences by enforcing and funding the policies that support the operation of U.S.-flag ships in the international trades. “This will ensure that a greater portion of America’s trade will be controlled by American vessels and their American crews, lessening the opportunity for foreign flag vessels to dictate the terms and conditions governing ocean transportation,” he said. “This will also reduce the serious maritime seagoing workforce shortage caused in large measure by the pandemic and help guarantee that this segment of the maritime industry will remain available to provide the commercial sealift readiness capability relied upon by the Department of Defense.”

He took the opportunity to promote an expanded short sea shipping regime that will not only strengthen U.S.-flag shipping, but also create jobs and prevent future supply chain disruptions. In response to questions from Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-CAS) about the ongoing mariner shortage, Regan told the Committee that it takes about a full decade for an entry level mariner to upgrade their license to Chief Engineer or Captain. The best way we can improve recruitment and retention, he testified, is to invest in our training schools. In addition, he said, we should help improve the shipping experience by such things as improving connectivity and increasing onboard safety.

“One of the best ways to have job retention in any industry is to have a union,” Regan told the Committee. “They’re fighting for you – someone has your back.” He pointed out that transportation workers have one of the highest union densities in any sector. “In my view,” he testified, that’s why transportation has been “an oasis of middle-class jobs in an area where too often we’ve seen wage suppression in this country.”

When Rep. Carbajal commented on Regan’s testimony about the benefits of enforcing and expanding the programs that bolster the U.S. maritime industry including the Jones Act, cargo preference & the Maritime Security Program (the three-legged stool), Regan elaborated and said that even with the continued bare support for those programs, 98% of all goods entering and leaving U.S. ports are currently being carried by foreign-flagged ships. As a consequence of ceding away sealift capacity to our competitors, he noted, “almost all global ocean freight shipping is controlled by foreign companies that have raised prices for American businesses and consumers while threatening our national security and economic competitiveness.”

He called for fully enforcing pro-U.S.-flag shipping statutes and further expanding them. Once we start expanding that capacity, he said, “we are going to generate more business and we are going to grow our mariner base and we’ll be more competitive and less reliant on foreign shipping conglomerates.”

### **MOVE OVER SANTA! OCEAN GIANT AT WORK IN THE SOUTH POLE**

The M/V OCEAN GIANT, a Waterman-managed vessel is offloading cargo this week at McMurdo Station in the Antarctic as part of Operation Deep Freeze. The vessel, with expert M.E.B.A. engineers aboard, was chartered by the Military Sealift Command for the annual mission to resupply scientists at the South Pole station. MSC has supported the mission since 1955, the year the station was established. The supplies will provide nearly 80 percent of the items needed for scientists’ survival over the severe arctic winter when the station is cut off from the rest of the world.

M.E.B.A. officers on the vessel include Chief Engineer Devin Savoie, 1<sup>st</sup> A/E David L. Wagner, and 2<sup>nd</sup> A/E Adam Belson.

OCEAN GIANT's mission began in late December in Port Hueneme, Calif., where the ship was loaded with cargo. From Port Hueneme, the ship sailed to Lyttelton, New Zealand where they took on additional cargo and then transited to Antarctica. In years past, OCEAN GIANT would have arrived at the ice-pier at McMurdo Station; a structure made up of rebar and frozen seawater, where cargo offloads were conducted. Due to severe damage, the ice-pier was unavailable this year, so OCEAN GIANT delivered a Marine Causeway System. The 65-ton pier consists of ten, 24-foot, pre-assembled pieces. Units were assembled on deck, placed into the water and then joined into two sections that were attached to others to form the final pier. Upon completion of their cargo offload, OCEAN GIANT will load containers of retrograde as well as ice-core samples for scientific study, then return to Port Hueneme.

### **AMHS GETS \$285 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

The Federal Transit Administration has awarded more than \$285 million of investments to improve the reliability and service of the Alaska Marine Highway System. M.E.B.A. represents licensed engineers in the AMHS ferry fleet. The money will be used to help a number of projects including the replacement of the almost 60-year old ferry TUSTUMENA, the upgrade of ferry dock infrastructure, the modernization of four vessels, the procurement of an electric ferry, the design of a new mainliner vessel, and for generating sustainable operations. This funding was made possible through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that was signed into law last year.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) noted, "I've always understood the importance of Alaska's ferry system...I'm proud to have led the charge on this historic investment to upgrade our aging ferry fleet and hopefully restore connections throughout our coastal communities..." Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) said, "The vast majority of communities in Alaska have no connection to the road system, making ports and ferries as essential as roads and highways, and a critical area of responsibility for the federal government...The funding awards announced today are great news for the thousands of Alaskans who rely on the ferry system, which serves an enormous expanse of coastline..."

Funding Details: (Over \$285 million awarded to six Alaska Marine Highway System projects.)

- \$72 million for the modernization of four critical AMHS vessels necessary for service and environmental benefits.
- \$68 million to replace the M/V TUSTUMENA serving rural Southwest Alaska.
- \$45 million for critical upgrades to ferry dock infrastructure in five rural Alaska communities.
- \$46 million to cultivate a systems approach to sustainable transportation by implementing climate responsive ferry vessel options.
- \$8 million for anticipating future service & replacement needs by designing a new Alaska mainliner.
- \$44 million to restore the health of the AMHS for sustainable operations to rural communities.

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS ANNOUNCED**

As readers of the *Telex Times* are aware, Congressman Sam Graves (R-MO) was selected as the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the House committee with jurisdiction over legislation and regulations pertaining to the U.S. Merchant Marine. Rep. Graves had

previously served as the Committee's Ranking Republican Member the last four years and is a strong proponent of U.S.-flag shipping. This week he formalized the Committee's chairs for the panel's six subcommittees. The following Republican members have been selected to serve as Subcommittee Chairs:

- Subcommittee on Aviation: Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)
- Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation: Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL)
- Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management: Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA)
- Subcommittee on Highways and Transit: Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR)
- Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials: Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX)
- Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment: Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC)

Rep. Daniel Webster, the new Chair of the Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation Subcommittee is a Jones Act supporter. He has an engineering background and nearly forty years of transportation experience in Florida. Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-CA), the former Chair of the CG&MT Subcommittee, will serve as the Ranking Member.

Rep. Sam Graves noted, "Our subcommittee chairs bring to the table a broad array of talent, proven leadership capabilities, and legislative expertise. This will be a busy Congress for T&I, and these chairs are all ready to get to work in our newfound Republican majority to ensure a stronger, safer, and more efficient transportation and infrastructure network for our country."

### **OPENINGS FOR FEBRUARY CMES COURSES: WARTSILA RT-FLEX, BST REFRESHER, & INSTRUMENTATION**

1. The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School announced that there are still spots available for the upcoming *Wartsila RT Flex Basic* class taking place from Feb. 13-15. This is a 3-day course (Monday-Wednesday). No previous time on a flex engine is required.
2. There is still space available for the February 27–March 3 *BST Refresher* class. Please note that while this class covers the requirements for those who do not have 1 year of sea time in the last 5 years, it will still work for those that do.
3. There is still space available in the Feb. 6-17 Instrumentation class.

For each class, applications should be submitted as normal and should be sent via the CMES website (mebaschool.org), faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to [applications@mebaschool.org](mailto:applications@mebaschool.org)

### **UNION-MADE SUPER BOWL**

You still have another week, but you can start stocking up on union-made goodies to celebrate America's greatest sporting event! These worker-friendly products will help keep you going strong and guarantee an epic party for all football fanatics as well as casual Super Bowl attendees who have more fun at half-time! Check out these union-made Super Bowl party products, brought to you by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM), the UAW, Machinists (IAM), the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Teamsters (IBT) and other unions and worker-friendly companies. [Beer](#) - 1845 Pils, Bass Pale Ale, Beck's, Blue Moon, Budweiser, Busch, Butte Creek, George Killian's Irish Red, Hamm's, Henry Weinhard's, Hoegaarden, Iron City,

Keystone Light, Kingfisher Premium Lager, Kirin Ichiban, Labatt Blue, LandShark Lager, Leffe Blond, Lionshead, Michelob, Mickey's, Miller, Molson Canadian, Moosehead, Natural Ice, Natural Light, O'Doul's (non-alcoholic), Olde English 800, Pabst, Red Stripe, Red Tail Ale, Rolling Rock, Samuel Adams, Schlitz, Shock Top, Steel Reserve, Steelhead, Stegmaier and Stella Artois. **Meat** - Alexander & Hornung, Always Tender, Ball Park, Banquet, Butterball, Dearborn Sausage, Farmer John, Farmland, Foster Farms, Fresh Mark, Hebrew National, Hormel, Klement's, Omaha Steaks, Oscar Mayer, Prairie Farms, Thumann's and Tyson, Usinger's, and Wayne Farms. **Chips, Salsa, Snacks, and Sides** - Act II Popcorn, Bagel Bites, Bugles, B&M Baked Beans, Cheetos, Cheez-It, Chex Mix, Doritos, Fritos, Humpty Dumpty Potato Chips, Lay's, Mission Chips, Old El Paso chips, dips and salsa, Pace Salsa, Pirate's Booty, Rice Krispies Treats, Rold Gold Pretzels, Ruffles, Smartfood Popcorn, Stacy's Pita Chips, Sun Chips, Tostitos chips and salsa, Snyder of Berlin chips. **Set the Table** - All-Clad cookware, Anchor Hocking, Bennington Potters, Clauss knives, CorningWare, Cutco knives, Fiestaware, Homer Laughlin China, Libbey glassware, and Pyrex.

### **M.E.B.A. HQ ONLINE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY – SIGN UP NOW**

The monthly town-hall style M.E.B.A. Headquarters informational meeting will be held online – with no voting and no resolutions introduced - on Wednesday, February 8 at 1300 (Eastern Time). This is not an actual membership meeting, but it is an excellent opportunity for Members, Applicants and Retirees to discuss M.E.B.A. business, exchange information and learn more about the latest Union initiatives. Members, applicants and retirees need to register in advance for this meeting to [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org) When registering for the Online HQ Informational Meeting, provide your full name and proof of good standing - such as your last dues receipt/service charge number or statement that you are enrolled in Dues Check-Off (DCO) with a particular bargaining unit. Retirees should provide their full name and indicate their retired status. Upon confirmation of your status, the Zoom access link will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting

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

**Monday, February 6** – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

**Tuesday, February 7** – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

**Wednesday, February 8** – Jacksonville@1300; **New Orleans**@1315; **Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)**

**Thurs. February 9** – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

**Friday, February 10** – 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.*