

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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PASHA TAKES DELIVERY OF SECOND NEWBUILD LNG-POWERED CONTAINERSHIP

This week, M.E.B.A.-contracted Pasha took delivery of the second of two newbuild LNG-powered vessels that will serve the Hawaii-Mainland trade. The MV JANET MARIE is a 774-foot Jones Act vessel constructed at Keppel AmFELS in Brownsville, TX with a capacity of 2,525 TEUs and a sailing speed of 23.0 knots.

It is the second of two Ohana-class containerships – the company welcomed the GEORGE II last year. The Ohana Class vessels are named in honor of George Pasha III and Janet Marie, the late parents of Pasha Group President and CEO George Pasha IV.

Operating on liquefied natural gas, the JANET MARIE surpasses IMO emission standards, and together with the GEORGE III, are the most technologically advanced and environmentally friendly vessels to serve Hawaii. Energy efficiencies are also achieved with a state-of-the-art engine, an optimized hull form, and an underwater propulsion system with a high-efficiency rudder and propeller.

"We are very grateful to welcome our second ship as a testament to my parents and our incredible Pasha Hawaii team members who continue to raise the bar on excellence and dedication," said George Pasha, IV. "Once again, we are extremely proud of the perseverance and commitment of our partners at AmFELS, and the skilled men and women at the shipyard, including our own on-site team members, who have proven once more that ship building and ingenuity are alive and well in the United States."

The vessel's propulsion power is supplied by a dual-fueled MAN B&W 7S80ME-C9.5-GI along with 3 MAN B&W 6L35/44 dual-fueled generating sets. The ship is crewed by M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

MEMBERS RATIFY KAMOKUIKI CONTRACT

Members at the regular July membership meetings ratified a recently-completed Memorandum of Understanding for the Matson vessel C/V KAMOKUIKI. M.E.B.A. serves on 21 vessels in the Matson fleet. The overall master agreement with the company runs until June 15, 2029. The

KAMOKUIKI is the smallest vessel in the Matson fleet and adheres to different economics necessitating the separate MOU regarding those provisions. The MOU, approved by members, brings in wage and benefit increases for members sailing on the ship.

The agreement was negotiated by Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini along with Oakland Patrolman Max Alper and Rank-and-File member Chris Coombs.

The KAMOKUIKI translates to 'small island or vessel' in the Hawaiian language. It is a 8,740 DWT, 8,448 HP, 707-TEU vessel built in 2000. It was converted into a geared containership with two 45-ton cranes, hydraulic folding hatch covers and high maneuverability that allows docking without tugs. It operates in Matson's China-Auckland Express (CAX) service.

CAPT. GEORGE QUICK: INDOMITABLE MARINER ADVOCATE HAS PASSED

The U.S. maritime industry rose up to praise the life of Captain George Quick upon his passing earlier this week at the age of 93. George had served as the MM&P's Pilots Membership Group Vice President since 1982 and had been part of that union since 1951 following his graduation from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Throughout his seven-decade career, he relentlessly pressed for national and international regulations favorable to seafarers, fighting for protections and job expansion. Capt. Quick was an expert in all aspects of maritime law, policy and regulation and advocated for mariners in ports around the world, before the U.S. Congress, and as a member of the delegation of the International Transport Workers' Federation, and at the International Maritime Organization among other forums. The IMO recognized him earlier this year for his 50 years of service to the global maritime community and he has received countless honors including AOTOS recognition.

MM&P President Don Marcus noted, "Captain George Quick set an example for all of us and leaves a legacy of achievement that won't be forgotten. He was a wonderful person, a friend of seafarers and a brilliant leader."

M.E.B.A. extends our condolences on the passing of this great man and thank and admire him for his well-spent life as an unwavering advocate for seafarers' rights. His efforts helped improve the lives and working conditions of mariners around the world.

CONCERNS WITH THUD BILL OVER TRANSPORTATION-RELATED FUNDING

Though much maritime-related funding appears to be at adequate levels in the new House THUD Subcommittee funding bill for Fiscal Year 2024, transportation labor is expressing alarm at the shortfall for other programs. The Transportation Trades Department (AFL-CIO) bitterly criticized the spending bill approved by the House Appropriations Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD) Subcommittee this week.

TTD said the bill contains "devastating funding cuts to public transit, passenger rail, federal grant programs, and other critical infrastructure projects." They note that the bill would cut \$2.2 billion in desperately-needed transit funding, reducing that investment to more than 50 percent below Congressionally enacted levels for FY 23. "At the precise time that we are attempting the largest-ever expansion of our national passenger rail network, the 64% cut to Amtrak's funding would

shrink their budget to the level it was a decade ago and lead to significant layoffs and service cuts,” they said.

Positively, the THUD bill calls for \$318 million for the Maritime Security Program, \$60 million for the Tanker Security Program along with additional TSP training money that M.E.B.A. fought for.

Transportation labor will continue pushing for a more appropriate funding level for the nation’s transport needs as the bill advances before the full committee.

SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKING CANADIAN LONGSHORE WORKERS

In a show of solidarity with striking port workers in British Columbia, dockworkers on the U.S. West Coast announced they would refrain from unloading cargo bound for Canada. ILWU International president, Willie Adams, made the announcement, stating that the union will stand united with their counterparts in ILWU Canada by not handling Canadian-bound cargo.

Negotiations between ILWU Canada and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) have been unsuccessful in reaching a new collective bargaining agreement for approximately 7,400 longshore workers and foremen at Canada’s West Coast ports since their agreements expired at the end of March.

The BCMEA represents 49 private sector waterfront employers and operators at British Columbia ports. The strike that began on July 1 has already caused significant disruptions and both sides are in discussions with federal mediators.

SECOND NEWBUILD MSC FLEET OILER DELIVERED

The second ship in the U.S. Navy’s John Lewis-class fleet oiler program was welcomed this week as the Military Sealift Command continues to upgrade its aging fleet. NASSCO shipyard delivered the USNS HARVEY MILK to the U.S. Navy at a ceremony on Tuesday in San Diego, CA.

The newbuild 742-foot-long oilers are designed to transfer fuel to U.S. Navy carrier strike group ships operating at sea and have the capacity to carry 157,000 barrels of oil, a significant dry cargo capacity, aviation capability and up to a speed of 20 knots.

The first vessel in the class, the USNS JOHN LEWIS, was delivered earlier this year. Work is ongoing on the USNS EARL WARREN and USNS ROBERT F. KENNEDY. The yard is also contracted to build the future USNS LUCY STONE, the USNS SOJOURNER TRUTH, and two as-yet unnamed vessels. Civilian Mariners in the MSC fleet are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

IMB REPORT NOTES PIRACY RISE IN GULF OF GUINEA

In its mid-year report released this week, the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has raised concerns about the resurgence of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea along with an increase in incidents in the Singapore Straits. Sixty-five incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships were recorded in the first half of 2023, an increase from 58 incidents for the same period in 2022.

Of the 65 incidents reported, 57 vessels were boarded, four had attempted attacks, two were hijacked and two were fired upon. Perpetrators successfully boarded 90% of targeted vessels.

Violence towards crew continues with 36 taken hostage, 14 kidnapped, three threatened, two injured and one assaulted.

Happily, the Indonesian archipelagic region showed a sustained decrease in reported incidents compared to years preceding 2020, with seven incidents reported, primarily involving anchored or berthed vessels. Crew members remain at risk, with instances of threats and knives reported.

In South and Central American ports, which accounted for 14% of global incidents, there were 13 reported incidents, including attempted boardings, hostage situations, and crew assaults and threats at Callao Anchorage in Peru, Colombia, Macapa Anchorage in Brazil, and Panama.

NOAA ORDERS MORE RESEARCH VESSELS

NOAA will add two new ships to its fleet of research vessels. The agency contracted with ThomaSea Marine Constructors, for a \$624.6 million contract to initially design and build two cutting-edge research vessels, with an option to purchase two more. The first two ships will be built in Houma, Louisiana, with an expected delivery date of 2027 and 2028. M.E.B.A. represents the engine officers aboard the vessels in the NOAA fleet.

The new ships will focus primarily on ocean mapping and nautical charting as part of NOAA's mission to deliver tools and information to help mariners safely navigate the nation's ports and harbors. Ships from around the world move \$1.5 trillion worth of products in and out of U.S. ports every year and rely on navigation charts to do so safely. The new vessels will have additional capabilities to help assess and manage living marine resources and collect data for oceanographic monitoring, research and modeling activities.

Thoma is already constructing two other NOAA vessels targeted for completion this time next year. Those vessels will be known as the OCEANOGRAPHER and DISCOVERER.

UNIONS POWER AMERICA – CONTEST & SWEEPSTAKES

Union Plus has launched its third annual "Unions Power America" contest and sweepstakes in which they will be awarding over \$236,000 in prizes to union members through August 17th. Grand prize winners will receive as much as \$40,000. You can enter at unionplus.org/laborday

The Contest runs from July 6–26. To enter, submit a story about how you or a union member you admire powers America. Union Plus is awarding \$140,000 total in cash prizes.

The Sweepstakes runs from July 27 to August 17. It only takes a moment to enter, but if you complete quick online activities, you'll earn additional entries. They're awarding \$80,000 total in cash prizes. Winners will be announced on Labor Day - September 4.

Union Plus programs, which are available to M.E.B.A. members, applicants, retirees and our affiliates, provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services. The M.E.B.A. is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts.

Visit unionplus.org/laborday to access the entry form and for more details.

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

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

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

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

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

Friday, August 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.***

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.