

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
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OSG WILL EXPAND ATC FLEET BY BRINGING LAID-UP TANKER BACK TO LIFE

M.E.B.A.-contracted company Overseas Shipholding Group has announced that they are purchasing the ALASKAN FRONTIER - a tanker that has been in deep lay-up. OSG, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Alaskan Tanker Company, plans to put the vessel back in service by the end of next year following its refurbishment that includes making the ship methanol-compliant.

M.E.B.A. engineers formerly crewed the vessel which is the sister ship to three other ATC tankers – the ALASKAN EXPLORER, ALASKAN LEGEND and ALASKAN NAVIGATOR. Due to market conditions, the company removed the FRONTIER from service in 2019 and placed it in cold lay-up in Labuan, Malaysia. But new opportunities in the tanker trades have prompted OSG to reach an agreement with BP Oil Shipping to purchase and reactivate the Jones Act compliant FRONTIER which has a 1.3-million-barrel capacity.

OSG plans to make significant investments in the vessel. A comprehensive modernization of each of the four engines onboard will improve performance and fuel efficiency and also prepare the engines for possible methanol fuel in the future. Engine upgrades for the FRONTIER are considered a lifecycle upgrade, and will be completed by MAN Energy Solutions SE. It is expected that the fuel efficiency gain will result in 15-20% fuel savings as compared to the vessel's current consumption, leading to a meaningful reduction in carbon output. The significant capital investment being made will permit ATC to operate the vessel for a longer period of time and with fewer maintenance costs for its remaining life.

"The purchase of the ALASKAN FRONTIER brings all four of the Alaskan class crude oil tankers under OSG's ownership at a time when the prospect for expanded crude oil production in Alaska offers great promise for continued and increasing demand for ships of her type," said OSG President and CEO Sam Norton. "Upon completion of shipyard work, which will include lifecycle upgrades on the engines that will improve the performance and longevity of the vessel, we believe that the ALASKAN FRONTIER will be primed to provide additional transportation capacity to suit the needs of our customers in a time of limited availability." Norton added, "The full scope of reactivation work is expected to require a period of approximately one year and will, in addition to the engine upgrades, entail a ballast water treatment system installation and other improvements to prepare her for commercial use."

M.E.B.A. represents the Engine Officers in the ATC fleet. Non-union ATC Deck Officers are currently in the midst of voting on whether they want collective bargaining rights and the advantage of union membership. An ongoing Representation Election overseen by the National Labor Relations Board will allow ATC Deck Officers to choose between the M.E.B.A., MM&P or to remain non-union. The NLRB ballot count will take place on January 18, 2024.

MEETING WITH FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONERS

The Union hosted a meeting for maritime labor and associations with two Federal Maritime Commissioners at M.E.B.A. Headquarters this week. The Federal Maritime Commission regulates the U.S. international ocean transportation system. Attendees spent the afternoon with FMC Commissioners Carl Bentzel and Max Vekich discussing a variety of issues including shipping companies and newbuilds; emerging trends in the international shipping community; increasing U.S.-flag cargo; the impact of alternative fuels and supply chain reliability among other topics. M.E.B.A. was represented by President Adam Vokac and Government Affairs Director Erick Siahaan and American Maritime Congress President Fair Kim was in attendance among others.

M.E.B.A. NOAA CHIEF HONORED AT COMMERCE DEPARTMENT EVENT

An M.E.B.A. contingent was on hand this week for a Department of Commerce (DoC) ceremony honoring Chief Engineer Colin Davis for his ongoing excellence working in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fleet.

DOC Deputy Secretary Don Graves spoke at the Wednesday afternoon event in Washington D.C. to laud a handful of Department employees who have gone above and beyond to advance energy efficiency and sustainability.

M.E.B.A. Chief Marine Engineer Colin Davis, who serves aboard the NOAA fleet fisheries survey vessel REUBEN LASKER, was singled out for his impressive efforts in creating a climate onboard ship that advances environmental stewardship. “Your contributions are not going unnoticed,” Graves noted.

M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac attended the ceremony and cheered on Chief Davis when he accepted his award flanked by LASKER Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jonathan Heesch and Rear Admiral Chad Cary, the Deputy Director for NOAA’s Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. Cmdr. Heesch and Admiral Cary, who work closely with Chief Davis, were effusive in their praise for the M.E.B.A. engineer whose efforts continue to reduce waste and save money while focusing on efficient operations in a responsible manner.

Chief Davis was honored for reducing greenhouse gas emissions on the LASKER “through comprehensive and collaborative energy management - such as using efficient onboard ship generators, reducing ship speeds when possible, changing onboard lighting systems to more efficient options, regulating power consumption through automation, repairing refrigeration and energy leaks, and better maintaining scientific freezers - impacting nearly every aspect of ship operations.”

LIBERTY AWARDED MSP CHIT AS BOTH MSP & TSP ARE AT FULL CAPACITY

The Maritime Administration (MarAd) announced that both the 60-ship Maritime Security Program (MSP) and 10-ship Tanker Security Program (TSP) are at full capacity following recent awards. MSP

and TSP provide the Department of Defense with access to a fleet of U.S.-flagged sustainment sealift vessels and product tankers for use during times of armed conflict or national emergency.

There had been two open MSP slots after OSG surrendered the chits for the medium range tankers OVERSEAS SANTORINI and OVERSEAS MYKONOS after they were awarded TSP agreements. M.E.B.A.-contracted Liberty was awarded one of the open chits for the LIBERTY POWER. The POWER, crewed by the M.E.B.A. top to bottom, is a twelve-year-old roll-on roll-off vessel (RO/RO), with 220,586 square feet of militarily useful cargo capacity. This is the fourth Liberty vessel sailing in the Maritime Security Program joining the LIBERTY PRIDE, LIBERTY PROMISE and LIBERTY PASSION. The other open MSP chit and the final open TSP chit were awarded to non-M.E.B.A. companies. Besides the SANTORINI and MYKONOS, OSG operates the OVERSEAS SUN COAST in the Tanker Security Program.

“MSP and TSP accomplish two key maritime sealift objectives: both grow our U.S.-flagged commercial fleet to benefit the U.S. economy, and both sustain our ability to deliver vital supplies to support military missions across the globe,” said Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips. “MSP has been a success story for the U.S. maritime industry for over 27 years. MSP, together with its sister program TSP, will support U.S. economic competitiveness globally, and ensure U.S. armed forces have unquestioned logistics access anywhere in the world. The award of these three final Operating Agreements will ensure the programs’ continued success and value to the United States.”

“These vessels are pivotal in enhancing global readiness and safeguarding our nation's supply chains. Both MSP and TSP underscore our steadfast commitment to national security and economic stability and exemplifies the indispensable partnership between MarAd and USTRANSCOM,” said Commander of U.S. Transportation Command, Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost.

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.

BASEBALL PLAYOFFS/WORLD SERIES SHOPPING LIST

Labor 411 is helping you loaf on your couch the “union-way” during the baseball post-season. As the last four teams battle it out for a trip to the World Series, Labor 411 published a list of union-friendly snacks and drinks to enable your slack as you check out the games. Each purchase from the list goes towards supporting good union jobs.

Union Acronym Key: Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM); International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW); International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT); the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM); and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE).

Here's the list: **Drinks** - 7-UP (BCTGM); Coca-Cola (UAW); Pepsi (IBT); Dr. Pepper (UFCW, UAW); Sprite (IBT, UAW). **Snacks** - Act II Popcorn (UFCW); Bachman Pretzels (BCTGM, IBT); Cheetos (BCTGM); Doritos (BCTGM, IBT); Funyuns (BCTGM); Lays Potato Chips (IBT); Sun Chips (BCTGM, IBT); Wise Chips and Snacks (UFCW, IBT). **Beer** – (Visit <https://www.unionplus.org/blog/unionmade/union-made-beer> to see the entire list) - Beck's (IAM); Blue Moon (IUOE, IBT); Budweiser (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Coors (IBT); Goose Island (IBT); Michelob (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Miller (UAW, IAM, IUOE, IBT); Rolling Rock (IAM); Shock Top (IAM, IUOE, IBT).

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

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

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

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

Thursday, November 9 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Monday, November 13 – 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.