



The LIBERTY PRIDE, crewed by expert M.E.B.A. officers from top to bottom, recently made its first of many missions to the Middle East to deliver key military cargo.

M.E.B.A. Deck and Engine Officers Aboard New U.S.-Flag Bottom

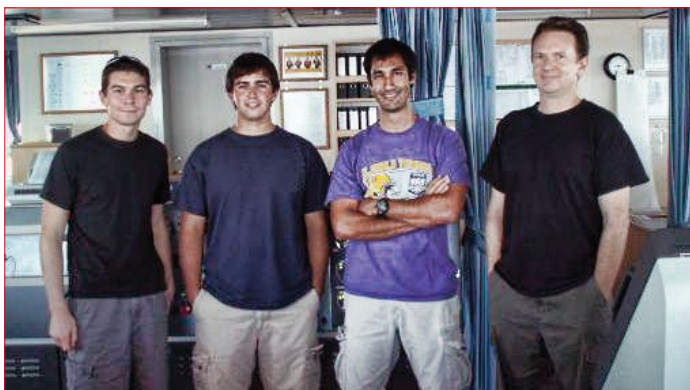
Expert M.E.B.A. engineers and deck officers are toiling aboard a new U.S. flagged vessel that Liberty Maritime Corp. recently brought into the fleet. The M/V LIBERTY PRIDE was loaded up with U.S. military cargo in early October as the ship prepared for its first of many missions to the Middle East.

The LIBERTY PRIDE is a 15,600 dwt Pure Car/Truck Carrier that was built in South Korea by Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co. The 656-foot ship has a MAN B&W 7S60MC6 engine and sails at a service speed of 20.5 knots. The PRIDE was launched in late May and the company took delivery in August. The vessel reflagged in Ulsan, Korea and was loaded up days later with almost 5,000 Hyundai and Kia cars. She hit four discharge ports on her way down to Georgia to take on military vehicles and other equipment.

The LIBERTY PRIDE is crewed from top to bottom with highly skilled M.E.B.A. officers. Her first crew consisted of Capt. Costas Balomenos, Chief Mate John Janowicz, Second Mate Tim Vassilas, Third Mate James Buttafuoco; Chief Engineer James Joyce, 1st A/E Russ Harriman, 2nd A/E Mark Gimle and 3rd A/E Randall Jaunzemis.

Liberty has another vessel currently being constructed overseas (the LIBERTY PROMISE) that the company is looking to bring under the U.S.-flag next year.

M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe congratulated our contracted company on the new ship. "Liberty President Phil Shapiro should be commended for the strengthening of the U.S.-flag fleet with the addition of the LIBERTY PRIDE," he said. "Powered by the finest seagoing officers in the world on both engine and deck levels, the future of Liberty's young fleet is very bright."



Part of the first crew of the LIBERTY PRIDE is (l-r) 3rd A/E Randall Jaunzemis, Third Mate James Buttafuoco, Second Mate Tim Vassilas and 2nd A/E Mark Gimle.



LIBERTY PRIDE Chief Engineer Jim Joyce with Captain Costas Balomenos.



M.E.B.A. recently sewed up a new nine-year contract covering the NCL-A vessel PRIDE OF AMERICA.

New Nine-Year Deal for PRIDE OF AMERICA

M.E.B.A. has reached a new long-term agreement with Norwegian Cruise Lines-America, Inc. covering all officer positions aboard the PRIDE OF AMERICA, the lone U.S.-flag large passenger vessel operating between the Hawaiian Islands. The nine-year deal is retroactive to July and stretches out to June 30, 2018 with economic reopeners in 2013 and 2016.

Among other things, the new deal makes beneficial wage adjustments and increases the number of days of earned vacation for the majority of officers effective Jan. 1, 2010. It also eliminates the pay step system by July 1, 2012. There are Benefit Plan increases of 3% effective July 1, 2010, 2011, and 2012 except the Medical Plan which increases 4% in each of those years. Medical increases go to \$67.53 effective Jan. 1, 2010 then a 4% increase sets in on July 1, 2010. Training and JEC go to \$10.13 effective Jan. 1, 2010 and AMC rises to \$3.13 on January 1, 2010 then 3%. The agreement is available for review at M.E.B.A. halls and offices.

The contract was headed up by M.E.B.A.'s Executive Vice President Mike Nizetich who was assisted by Honolulu Representative Adam Vokac, along with Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher and Chief Counsel Nils Djusberg. The negotiating team received valuable input from many of the M.E.B.A. officers serving aboard the PRIDE OF AMERICA.

New MOU with Interlake

A wage reopener with Interlake Steamship Company has netted a new Memorandum of Understanding that locks up important new gains for members sailing under the long-term contract. M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe worked with Interlake Senior Vice President Bob Dorn to secure raises for members in each of the last four years of the deal which runs through July 2013. The M.E.B.A. Training Plan is a big winner in the new agreement with a significant boost in the per day contribution rate. The Joint Employment Committee also receives a much-needed increase running through the life of the contract.



Shortly after the LIBERTY PRIDE was re-flagged from the Marshall Islands to the Stars & Stripes on Sept. 4, 2009. Left to right is the USCG Inspector, Chief Engineer James Joyce, Captain Costas Balomenos, Liberty Maritime Superintendent Ted Makrinos and an ABS Inspector.



Maritime is a bipartisan industry and the M.E.B.A. has friends on both sides of the aisle. In this photo, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo (l) and President Don Keefe (r) get ready to discuss Great Lakes issues with Congressman Steven LaTourette (R-OH) at M.E.B.A. HQ. A day earlier, M.E.B.A. hosted a function for Rep. Candice Miller (R-Michigan).



M.E.B.A. civilian mariners aboard MSC and NOAA vessels recently won wage increases. Aboard the MSC Fast Combat support ship USNS SUPPLY are 1st A/E George Hairston, M.E.B.A. Government Fleet Rep. Randi Ciszewski, Chief Engineer Jim Goodheart and 3rd A/E Danielle Byrne.



Honolulu Rep. Adam Vokac and Executive V.P. Mike Nizetich go over some numbers in the final bargaining session with NCL America before a new contract was agreed upon.

ALABAMA, ARKANSAS Contract Improves via Wage Reopener

Members working aboard the Maritime Security Program vessels **MAERSK ALABAMA** and her sister ship **MAERSK ARKANSAS** are working under an improved contract after successful wage reopener talks. A provision in the contract triggered a reopener once the Maritime Security Program funding increased. M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe worked with Waterman Steamship's Mike Cameron to negotiate increases in wages and fringe benefits retroactive to 2008 for a three year period. There will also be overtime multiplier increases in each of those years up to the maximum. The Chief Engineer supplement has been enhanced as well. In addition, there are improved contributions for Training, Joint Employment Committee and the American Maritime Congress.

Wage Increase for M.E.B.A. CivMars

M.E.B.A. civilian mariners sailing aboard Military Sealift Command and NOAA vessels scored a 4.15% boost to their base pay, overtime, penalty pay, and non-watchstanding rates. The increase is retroactive to July 1, 2009. CivMar wage adjustments are based on prevailing industry wages which include adjustments and increases negotiated in M.E.B.A. deep sea commercial contracts as well as other information, analysis and recommendations. MSC and the Department of Defense Civilian Personnel Management Service (DOD CPMS) approved the increases which Government Fleet Representative Randi Ciszewski and our Contracts Representative Mark Gallagher were able to justify.



The "Queen of the Lakes," the M/V PAUL R. TREGURTHA at the beginning of the 2009 shipping season. The boat is the longest on the Great Lakes at 1,013 feet. Members serving aboard the TREGURTHA and all the M.E.B.A. vessels in the Interlake fleet, benefited from a new MOU.