

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE WIND POWER COULD BENEFIT PORTS, U.S.-FLAG SHIPPING

Looking to become a world leader in the production of wind energy, the White House has set aggressive new goals to jumpstart the offshore wind industry by 2030 in a plan they say will add "clean energy" union jobs and lead to the construction of new U.S.-flag vessels.

Congress recently clarified that Jones Act requirements apply to outer continental shelf renewable energy production including the offshore wind sector.

This week, the Departments of Commerce, Interior and Energy discussed the plan to deploy 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind in the U.S. by 2030. Officials say the plan promises major supply chain benefits including port upgrade investments and the "construction of 4 to 6 specialized turbine installation vessels in U.S. shipyards..."

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said, "Our nation's ports are a key part of our critical infrastructure. They create jobs and make our economy more resilient and sustainable. This funding will build upon local investments in infrastructure to deliver long-term economic benefits to American workers and communities, while also addressing climate and equity."

The White House said that meeting the 2030 target "will trigger more than \$12 billion per year in capital investment in projects on both US coasts, create tens of thousands of good-paying, union jobs, with more than 44,000 workers employed in offshore wind by 2030 and nearly 33,000 additional jobs in communities supported by offshore wind activity. It will also generate enough power to meet the demand of more than 10 million American homes for a year and avoid 78 million metric tons of CO² emissions."

HAPAG UPGRADING EXPRESS-CLASS FLEET

Hapag-Lloyd is changing out its M.E.B.A.-crewed Express-class vessels, managed by Marine Personnel & Provisioning, with newer and much larger ships from its international fleet. The five 17-18 year old 3,237 TEU geared containerships will be replaced by five 12-year old A7 6900 TEU Flex engine ships which will each assume the former vessels Maritime Security Program operating chits. The M.E.B.A. crew of the YORKTOWN EXPRESS is scheduled to be in Port Canaveral sometime next week to join the DELAWARE EXPRESS, renamed from the former Liberian-flagged AL

BAHIA. The other current vessel crews operating in the fleet will change out to their newer vessels on a staggered schedule through the summer – all at Port Canaveral.

The company's modified trade route, because of the capabilities of the incoming vessels, necessitated the reflag of the RIO GRANDE EXPRESS which was deployed into the company's international fleet earlier this week. The M.E.B.A. continues discussions with the company regarding the reflagging and the newer vessels.

STUCK SUEZ VESSEL POINTS OUT IMPORTANCE OF SHIPPING; INTERNATIONAL BODIES WANT PEOPLE TO BE MORE AWARE OF OUR ISSUES

Shipping entities pointed to the saga of the trapped Suez Canal vessel EVER GIVEN as an international reminder of the importance of ships and mariners. It's not too often, perhaps thankfully, that something in our industry becomes the source of world focus. But after the ship was freed and vessel traffic began to flow again, the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) noted that the incident highlights the importance of global shipping to daily life, and the delicate nature of the global supply chain it underpins.

ICS Secretary General Guy Platten said, "There is also another, more pervasive issue threatening global trade right now, shipping's ongoing crew change crisis. 200,000 seafarers are being impacted by restrictive travel policies which stop them boarding or disembarking ships. I hope this incident will remind governments of the vital role that seafarers and shipping plays in keeping world trade moving. Seafarers must not be forgotten as soon as this incident is over. Last Friday, the WHO, IMO, ILO, and other United Nation bodies called for all governments to prioritize seafarers and aircrews for the vaccine. This must happen now, so that global trade can safely continue."

ITF General Secretary Stephen Cotton said, "Seafarers have been expected to keep the world moving during this pandemic by getting all of us the supplies, food, and medicines we need..." He said that if ships were required to round the Cape of Good Hope, circumnavigating the African continent, the route would have added at least 26 days on to the typical cargo vessel's journey, and more than \$800,000 in fuel costs.

David Heindel, chair of the ITF Seafarers' Section, said, "Seafarers are heroes, and they need our support – whether they are stuck on the Suez, or whether they are delivering 90 percent of everything at your local port and over contract on their ship."

NEW DOT SEC TREATS JONES ACT WITH THE PROPER RESPECT

As recounted by the Maritime Trades Dept. in a web posting this week, new Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg reiterated his strong support of the Jones Act in a hearing this week focusing on the Administration's priorities for transportation infrastructure.

He told members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, "I strongly support the Jones Act" and reinforced the President's longstanding support for the nation's freight cabotage law. He added, "The Jones Act also ensures that we don't lose our domestic shipbuilding capability so that we're not in the situation, as you pointed out, where Chinese-flagged vessels could wind up being the only place we could turn to carry our domestic commerce on the Mississippi River or between Florida and New York. That, obviously, would have national security implications."

He noted, “If we lose our national maritime industry, it might not return, and the consequences would be devastating. So, I’m going to continue to ensure that the U.S. Maritime Administration and DOT are doing our part, recognizing that there are many U.S. agencies that are involved in the Jones Act. And we’ll be doing everything we can to support that agency, as well as our Merchant Marine.”

HOOP....THERE IT IS! UNION-MADE SNACKS FOR THE FINAL FOUR

We’re down to the Final Four in the NCAA Men’s College basketball tournament. As the “madness” reaches a fever pitch, here’s a few union-made snacks to ingest as the action gets fierce. Help build a stronger America one snack at a time. **Snacks** - Act II Popcorn (UFCW); Chips Ahoy (BCTGM); Doritos (BCTGM, IBT); Fig Newtons (BCTGM); Keebler Cookies (BCTGM, IBT); Mission Chips (IBT); Rold Gold Pretzels (BCTGM, IBT); Ruffles (BCTGM); Sun Chips (BCTGM, IBT); Tostitos (BCTGM, IBT). **Soft Drinks** - 7-UP (BCTGM); Coca-Cola (UAW); Pepsi (IBT); Dr. Pepper (UFCW, UAW); Gatorade (UAW); Sprite (IBT, UAW). **Beer** - More than 220 beers you can find listed at www.Labor411.org along with other union-made products.

SATURDAY IS JESSE CALHOON DAY

Besides Easter, Sunday is also “Jesse Calhoon Day” which is celebrated each April 4th. The day is set aside to honor longtime M.E.B.A. President Jesse Calhoon on the occasion of his birthday. The son of a fisherman, Jesse started out as a coal passer in Norfolk, VA at the age of 16. By 1943, he started work as fireman, then oiler and set sail in support of the allied effort to defeat Hitler. Following the war and his membership with the M.E.B.A., Calhoon ascended within the ranks. He started in Norfolk Local 11 as Business Manager (the precursor to Branch Agent), before becoming National M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer in 1959. In February 1963, when M.E.B.A. President Edwin Altman resigned to join the American Maritime Association, Calhoon was elected to fill the unexpired term. His service as M.E.B.A.’s top executive spanned six U.S. presidencies. Among many other achievements under Calhoon’s administration, the Union established the training school which bears his name, merged the deep-sea districts, Pacific Coast District and District 1 into a single all coast unit, and transformed M.E.B.A.’s pension plan into the best in the maritime industry. Born on April 4, 1923, Jesse made his final voyage on October 22, 2013 at the age of 90. M.E.B.A. officials and staffers have been given the day off on Sunday, April 4th in Jesse’s honor.

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.mebaunion.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 membership meetings that may 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. COVID-19 updates and 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 this web page. To get there, go to the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org), scroll down and click on the large “Documents & Member Notices” box on the right side of the main page.

HALLS CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Union halls and offices will be closed tomorrow for Good Friday. Officials and some staffers can still be reached by cellphone and email during the lead-in to Easter weekend.

MAKE SURE YOU ATTEND A MEETING NEXT WEEK – ONLINE OR IN-PERSON

Make sure you attend one of the 13 membership meetings being conducted next week (April 5-9).

Eight in-person meetings are scheduled to take place: Boston, Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES), Honolulu, Houston, Norfolk , Oakland, Seattle and Tampa.

Five Union halls will retain the Zoom-only format (for the time-being) for the April meetings. They include Charleston, Jacksonville, L.A., New Orleans and NY/NJ.

Attendees of the Zoom meetings should confirm their attendance by email (at least 24 hrs. in advance of the meeting) with the appropriate official. Once your status is confirmed, a Zoom link will be emailed before the meeting. For the in-person meetings, "walk-ins" are permitted, however those planning to attend should still email the appropriate hall official in advance, as possible, for hall planning purposes. Participants at in-person meetings will be required to observe CDC guidelines including mask usage and social distancing.

A notice with further specifics and contact information was emailed to members, applicants and retirees and was posted on the M.E.B.A. website in the Documents & Member Notices section.

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – ONLINE OR IN-PERSON (*All times are local*)

Monday, April 5 – Boston (In-Person)@1200; Seattle-Fife (In-Person)@1300;

Tuesday, April 6 – CMES (In-Person)@1430; Charleston (Online)@1400; Houston (In-Person)@1315; Oakland (In-Person)@1230;

Wednesday, April 7 – Jacksonville (Online)@1300; New Orleans (Online)@1315;

Thursday, April 8 – L.A.-San Pedro (Online)@1230; NY/NJ (Online)@1300; Norfolk (In-Person)@1300; Tampa (In-Person)@1300;

Friday, April 9 – Honolulu (In-Person)@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.