

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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M.E.B.A. MEMBERS/APPLICANTS SAILING FOR WSF BEGIN 30-DAY SURVEY ON MONDAY

Members and applicants working in the Washington State Ferry system are being invited to participate in an online survey that will help enhance communication and verbalize opinions on a number of issues regarding representation. A dozen questions are being posed to our WSF Members and applicants in an online format that will additionally allow them to type in freeform responses. The survey will begin at 9:00 am Pacific time on Monday, April 22 and will remain open until May 23 at 9 a.m.

The survey links will be sent to members and applicants in the WSF at their email addresses that are on file with M.E.B.A. Headquarters. Members and applicants sailing for WSF who do not receive an email should contact M.E.B.A. Headquarters and supply a Membership Database Update Form with the Union to ensure that their correct information is on file. Further information can be sought from M.E.B.A.'s WSF Rep. Eric Winge at ewinge@mebaunion.org. Marco Cannistraro at Headquarters can also be contacted about the online survey at marco@mebaunion.org or (202) 257-2825.

STOP & SHOP WORKERS LOOKING FOR A FAIR DEAL

Some 31,000 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) are on strike at Stop & Shop supermarkets across New England, having walked off the job to fight back against slashed health care benefits. Stand with our brothers and sisters today and sign UFCW's petition (<https://tinyurl.com/y456epbg>) demanding that executives agree to a fair contract that reflects the true value of their workers!

Thanks to the tireless labor of tens of thousands of working people, Stop & Shop is thriving. Its parent company, Ahold Delhaize, recorded profits of more than \$2 billion last year. Over the past three years, its shareholders have pocketed \$4 billion in stock buybacks. But Stop & Shop executives want even more – and they're targeting the same workers who built that immense wealth. Going nearly two months without a contract, UFCW members have faced threats to their wages, health care, retirement and overall livelihoods. Walking out of more than 240 stores throughout New England, working people are standing up for their most fundamental rights and dignities in the country's largest private-sector work stoppage in years.

Stand with them in this fight: Sign UFCW's petition. And as union members know, never cross a picket line!

FRC COMPLETES REVIEW, FORWARDS REPORT

A six-person rank and file Financial Review Committee spent three days at M.E.B.A. Headquarters this week poring over the Union's financial records for calendar year 2018. The FRC was created as a Democratic safeguard adopted by the M.E.B.A. in the mid-1990s to examine the Union's finances from the previous year.

This year, the Committee was made up of the following six members: Reggie Abrams (Houston), Torey Zingales (NY/NJ) who served as Chairman, Kyle Chernoff (Norfolk), Jonathan Jordan (Oakland), Steven Walker (Seattle) and Warren Prine (Tampa). The FRC members signed off on a report that will be made available at the halls and voted upon at the May membership meetings.

COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY ALERT – CONFINED SPACES

The Coast Guard has issued a Marine Safety Alert (#04-19, "Confined Spaces: Silent & Invisible Killers") to remind mariners that despite decades of work to improve confined space entry by maritime safety organizations, training institutions, and vessel owners/operators, the risks have not been eliminated. This is illustrated by a recent casualty where three persons were asphyxiated while working onboard a laid-up Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit. Although the investigation is not yet complete, information is being conveyed with the continued hope that it will highlight this hazard with the aim to prevent recurrence.

Marine Safety Alert 04-19 has been posted on the M.E.B.A. homepage which can be visited at www.mebaunion.org

MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE!!!

Members and applicants should make sure Headquarters has your e-mail address along with your other contact information. If you haven't filled out an M.E.B.A. Database Update Form – or if your information has changed – grab the form off the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) located in the "Documents & Member Notices" section. Email addresses are also collected at membership meetings on the sign-in sheet, but *members must write clearly* as many addresses are unclear or illegible.

Update Forms should be sent to the HQ Membership Dept. by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail at membership@mebaunion.org Since the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore and Headquarters databases are NOT linked, you should not assume that info forwarded to Plans is updated in the Union database and vice versa.

NMC SEEKS MEMBER ASSISTANCE REVIEWING COAST GUARD EXAM QUESTIONS

The National Maritime Center's working group to review U.S. Coast Guard examination questions is welcoming credentialed deck and engineering officers to assist them in the process. Examination question review is a good opportunity to help the NMC and your fellow mariners make long-term improvements to the knowledge examination system.

The Examinations page of the NMC website (www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/examinations/) has been updated to provide an outline of the process for requesting membership in the working group, and

includes the required forms and e-mail address for submittal. Once on the Examinations page, click “Working Group” to access this information. Requests may be submitted at any time.

The 2019 schedule is as follows though dates and locations could change according to projected attendance.

| Date | Type | Location |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| April 16-18 | Deck | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |
| June 4-6 | Engine | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |
| July 30-August 1 | Deck | TBD |
| September 10-12 | Engine | TBD |
| October 22-24 | Deck | TBD |

If you would like to participate in these or any future session, please follow the application instructions. Once your request is reviewed, NMC will contact you to discuss further details and confirm the session(s) you wish to attend. Continue to check the website for updates. Should you have any questions, please use the e-mail address provided on the Examinations page, or contact the NMC Customer Service Center by using the NMC online chat system, by e-mailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

USCG: MARIJUANA FOR MARINERS STILL FORBIDDEN

The Coast Guard issued a reminder and discussion concerning marijuana laws and mariners in an article titled “Marijuana use remains incompatible with sea service despite changes in state laws.” It states:

Along with criminal concerns, testing positive for marijuana or any other dangerous drug triggers serious consequences for mariners, including termination of employment, removal from safety sensitive duties and revocation of merchant mariner credentials. Even in circumstances where the Coast Guard settles marijuana use cases, mariners are still required to complete rehabilitation and show a year or more of negative drug tests before returning to service.

Despite growing state legalization and a cultural shift toward greater acceptance of marijuana use and consumption of marijuana-derived products such as Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, Coast Guard and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) chemical testing continues to identify as dangerous drug users individuals with significant amounts of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, metabolized into their systems. While CBD itself will not cause a positive DOT test, CBD products commonly contain psychoactive THC in sufficient amounts to cause a positive drug test. Further, once THC is in a person’s system, it may remain detectable in urine samples for weeks and hair samples for months after its use is discontinued.

Whether a mariner is a cadet carelessly indulging in recreational use of marijuana in a location where it is legal at the state level or a master aboard an oceangoing vessel that used legally-obtained CBD ointment to treat bodily aches and pains, the resulting positive drug test will lead to the same cascade of negative consequences that can be difficult to overcome. Unless and until the drug testing system changes, the best decision a mariner can make is to avoid using marijuana or any products derived from marijuana that may contain THC, such as CBD oil. The threat to maritime transportation and risk of career disaster are both too great to take the chance.

The following link provides additional information on DOT chemical testing regarding recreational use of marijuana: www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/odapc-notice-recreational-mj.pdf Visit this link for more info on DOT chemical testing regarding use of medical marijuana: <https://cms.dot.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/images/ODAPC%20Medical%20Marijuana%20Notice.pdf>

VACATION REMINDER: CHECK YOUR RETURN TO WORK DATE

Members on vacation should make certain of their return-to-work date to ensure there is no conflict with your vacation when taking a job at a hall. Members should know that taking work while on vacation or receiving a paid vacation benefit – without express permission/waiver from a Branch Agent/V.P. – violates both the M.E.B.A. Shipping Rules and Vacation Plan regulations and will trigger penalties including possible loss of vacation time. Refer to Shipping Rule #5(b) and the M.E.B.A. Vacation Plan Summary Plan Description (Pages 7-10) for reference.

DUES/SERVICE CHARGES DURING JOB CALL

As a reminder, only Members and Applicants in good standing (Dues/Service Charges paid to the end of the current quarter) may participate in Job Call. Members/Applicants who are in arrears when Job Call begins cannot throw in for a job, even if they intend to make good on Dues or Service Charges following Job Call. NO ONE is permitted to pay their Dues/Service Charges DURING an ongoing Job Call.

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. Business resumes as normal on Monday.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Monday, May 6 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**
Tuesday, May 7 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**
Wednesday, May 8 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**
Thursday, May 9 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**
Friday, May 10 – **Honolulu@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 proven 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 contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org