

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. TO MAN THE LIBERTY PEACE

The M.E.B.A. has recently come to agreement with Liberty Maritime to crew the LIBERTY PEACE, currently manned by American Maritime Officers (AMO). This transition will occur in Beaumont, TX on or about June 9th. The contract wages and benefits will be the same as the other three Liberty PC/TC vessels, i.e. LIBERTY PRIDE, PROMISE and PASSION.

The Union requires résumés from members and applicants interested in employment on the LIBERTY PEACE to be forwarded as soon as possible to the NY/NJ Union hall. Those candidate résumés received prior to May 15th will have priority consideration. Please note: if you have previously forwarded a résumé to Liberty for consideration but were not hired, this should not preclude you from submitting your résumé again.

Please forward all résumés to M.E.B.A. Atlantic Coast VP Jason Callahan (jcallahan@mebaunion.org) or NY Patrolman Nico Sermoneta (nsermoneta@mebaunion.org) at the NY/NJ M.E.B.A. Union hall so they can ensure the Company receives them. Our members and applicants should consider these new job opportunities and your assistance with this transition and turnover would be appreciated.

JUNE/JULY DATES SET FOR APL VESSEL SWAP-OUTS

American President Lines has set dates for changing-out five Maritime Security Program age-restricted vessels with newer vessels from the CMA CGM international fleet.

The PRESIDENT KENNEDY (CC NARMADA) is set to flag into the U.S. registry in San Pedro on or about June 27th. The vessel will replace the APL SINGAPORE which will tentatively flag-out on July 8th upon its return to Oakland. The PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (APL HAWAII) is scheduled to raise the Stars and Stripes in San Pedro on July 3rd. It will take the place of the APL PHILIPPINES which is set to lower the U.S.-flag on the same day in Busan. The PRESIDENT EISENHOWER (CC INDUS) is scheduled to flag-in on July 18th in San Pedro. It will take the MSP chit of the APL CHINA which is set to de-flag on July 23 in Busan. The PRESIDENT TRUMAN (HS ROME) will enter the U.S. fleet on or about July 27th at an as-yet undetermined Asian port. It takes over for the APL KOREA which is scheduled to lower the U.S. flag in Busan on August 3rd. Finally, the PRESIDENT CLEVELAND (HS PARIS) has a July 25th reflagging date in San Pedro. It will assume the MSP operating agreement of the APL THAILAND which will wrap up its service under U.S.-flag on or about August 3rd in Busan.

The replacement vessels are covered by all terms and conditions of our contract with APL and will continue to be crewed by five unions - M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFU - with no loss of billets. Jobs on the new vessels will begin with 90 day rotaries (excluding permanents). Senior engineers will ride the foreign ships prior to turnover. Seven days are being allotted for each reflag. All dates and locations are subject to change.

25 SENATORS SIGN ONTO EFFORT TO FULLY FUND MSP IN FY '19

A quarter of sitting U.S. Senators on Capitol Hill have signed onto a USA Maritime letter of support calling for full Maritime Security Program funding in FY '19. The Senate letter comes on the heels of a similar letter in the House which garnered the signatures of 90 Members. Full \$300 million MSP funding was recently secured for FY '18, but USA Maritime understands that it is never too early to begin the FY '19 push to keep the program strong and funded at the appropriate level previously authorized. USA Maritime is a coalition of maritime unions, associations and shipping companies – including the M.E.B.A. and American Maritime Congress – fighting for the U.S. Merchant Marine.

REP. LARSEN LAUDS JONES ACT IN HOUSE FLOOR REMARKS

Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA) a strong supporter of U.S. shipping, delivered a full-throated defense of the Jones Act in remarks made on the House Floor last week. Though the statute enjoys strong bipartisan support in Congress, vocal Jones Act opponents have attempted to muddy the waters by forwarding erroneous claims about the Act while ignoring its security benefits. Rep. Larsen stressed the Jones Act's direct tie to U.S. jobs and national defense as well as the Act's contributions to our economy. A link to the video of Rep. Larsen's remarks was placed on the M.E.B.A. Facebook site. His Floor statement follows:

“Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my continued support of American maritime jobs through the enforcement of the Jones Act. The Merchant Marine Act of 1920 is more commonly known as the Jones Act, named for its primary sponsor at the time Wesley Jones from my home state, Washington State. The Jones Act exists for good reason. It sustains and protects a strong domestic maritime and shipbuilding industry. It creates jobs for U.S. mariners, many of whom are veterans. It underpins U.S. maritime defense policy and is essential to preserving national security interests at home and abroad.

“The Jones Act requires the use of American owned and operated vessels to move all waterborne cargo between points in the U.S. I have long maintained that the Jones Act ensures domestic industries can remain vibrant contributors to the global shipping industry. At its core, the Jones Act is a critical labor standard that helps put U.S. seafarers to work and maintains important workplace rights. In Washington State, approximately 60 percent of the state's ferries employees working on vessels are Jones Act compliant.

“In 2012, I called on the then-administration to protect American jobs by adhering to the Jones Act in response to rising gas prices and the proposed release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Last year I spoke up to support the Jones Act fleet in its heroic response to the natural disaster that hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. And as a Member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, I am committed to working with my colleagues to uphold the longstanding tenets of the Jones Act to safeguard the important role maritime industries play in our economy. The Jones Act exists for good reason. We should use it to good effect.”

ILA MOVING AHEAD ON NEW 6-YEAR DEAL WITH USMX

The International Longshoremen's Association (AFL-CIO) is making good progress on a new master contract with the U.S. Maritime Alliance, Ltd. (USMX) covering 14,500 port workers. USMX represents longshore industry employers on the East and Gulf Coasts.

The parties previously explored terms for a new six-year deal and will meet again for wage scale committee meetings in early June. The current contract, in place since 2013, is set to expire in late September. ILA President Harold Daggett previewed the June talks saying the ILA plans to "bring our full Wage Scale delegates together with management to ultimately finalize agreement on a new six-year contract that will bring stability and growth to our industry to 2024." Daggett noted his confidence that ILA members will be protected against loss of jobs from fully and semi-automated terminals and said the new package will include substantial increases and improvements in wages and other benefits.

M.E.B.A.'S VAN LOO, KEYSTONE'S FISHER HONORED WITH "FRIEND OF SEAFARERS" AWARDS

M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo was honored with the Seafarers International House (SIH) "Outstanding Friend of Seafarers" award last night in New York City which he accepted on behalf of the M.E.B.A. and our hardworking members. Keystone Executive Vice President Phil Fisher was also a deserved honoree. Fisher is an M.E.B.A. Trustee and maritime industry philanthropist. A third award, a surprise, was handed out to longtime SIH Development & Communications Director Chris Roehrer who has overseen each of the 18 annual "Setting the Course" events and who recently announced his retirement. The award is bestowed upon individuals who have made advances on behalf of the maritime community and who are dedicated to the welfare of seafarers.

In his remarks, Keystone's Fisher reflected on his career in the industry as he gets ready to celebrate his 52nd year with the company which he joined when he was a young man of 30. Truly honored by the award, he pointed out that the "real heroes are the men and women who sail on the vessels."

M.E.B.A.'s Van Loo praised the valuable service that SIH provides to seafarers worldwide and pointed out that the Seafarers House provided a safe haven for him once upon a time during his sailing days shortly after his graduation from the old cadet program at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School. He talked about the state of the maritime industry and the need to support U.S. shipping and make the mariner pool more robust to better solidify national security. Bill also informed the large gathering at the New York Athletic Club that he is grateful to the M.E.B.A. membership for the continued opportunity to serve our maritime community and to keep working toward making the lives of seafarers better on and offshore.

The Seafarers International House began in 1873 as a charitable organization founded to provide seafarers and travelers with pastoral care, hospitality, social assistance and advocacy.

CMES SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT FOR 2018 CLASSES

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering issued an announcement this week reminding members and applicants that registration for their Fall Semester classes will begin at midnight on Tuesday, May 1st. Course application forms can be obtained at M.E.B.A. Union halls and the CMES website, or by calling the School at (410) 822-9600. In addition, the School highlighted two adjustments they recently made to the 2018 schedule:

Marine Electric Propulsion/High Voltage Safety - Members who are interested in attending the August MEP/HVS class should note that the CMES has moved the August 13 class start-date forward by one week. The class will now run from August 6-17, 2018. The School apologizes to those who were prepared to take it at the later start date. The October class date has not changed.

Qualified Assessor - Due to the change in Coast Guard rules pertaining to QA, the School has not been getting enough people applying for the course. As a result, they have canceled remaining regularly scheduled 2018 QA classes. In their place, CMES is now offering QA in the evenings on a regular basis. Announcements will be made at Orientation on the weeks when a QA course will be offered.

THOSE IN DUES ARREARS SET TO BE DROPPED IN JUNE

Members or applicants two or more years in arrears on their dues and/or service charges will be DROPPED from the membership or applicant rolls. The District Investigating Committee (DIC) is making its review and will issue their drop list in early June. If you are in arrears and desire to retain your membership or applicant status, you must contact Headquarters immediately to make payment on your arrearage and return to good standing. Members and applicants can make payments online in a secure manner. Visit the M.E.B.A. homepage at www.mebaunion.org.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Informational Meeting in Cleveland – Friday, May 4@1230.

Monday, May 7 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

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

Wednesday, May 9 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, May 10 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, May 11 – 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