

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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50/50 RAFFLE TO FUEL M.E.B.A. G&W FUND KICKS OFF

The Good & Welfare Committee is sponsoring a 50/50 Raffle to give a boost to the G&W fund. 5,000 tickets have been printed and will soon be available at Union halls for \$2 apiece. The winner will receive 50% of the proceeds (as much as \$5,000!!) with the other half going to the Fund.

The raffle is open to anyone who wants to purchase a ticket. The drawing will be held on October 12th and will take place at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School during a Silent Auction & Fundraiser. Ticketholders do not need to be present at the drawing to win. Every ticket that you buy puts another dollar into the Good & Welfare Fund.

M.E.B.A. members are encouraged to support this important cause. The Fund is used to help active and retired members and their families in times of crisis. The Fund has proven itself numerous times helping members, retirees and their families recover following devastating storms and unexpected tragedies. Strengthening the G&W will allow additional support to those in the M.E.B.A. family during their times of need.

RANK & FILE FRC ELECTED

A rank and file Financial Review Committee was elected at the April membership meetings this week. The FRC will assemble at M.E.B.A. Headquarters on April 18 to spend three days reviewing Union finances from the 2016 calendar year. The FRC will be comprised of five members as well as one member who will serve as an alternate.

The Committee will consist of the following six members: Raymond Collector (Houston), Scott Adler (NY/NJ), Tom Eastwood (Norfolk), Thomas Stenquist (Oakland), Joseph Salas (Seattle) and Edward Figelski (Tampa). Their report will be presented to the membership at next month's meetings.

The elected Union members will travel to M.E.B.A. Headquarters in Washington D.C. on Monday, April 17, 2017. The actual meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 in the Conference Room at M.E.B.A. Headquarters. It is anticipated that the business of the FRC will be completed by Thursday, April 20 with travel home scheduled for Friday, April 21.

NEW AMC MARITIME POLICY DIRECTOR WILL BATTLE ON BEHALF OF INDUSTRY

The American Maritime Congress (AMC) has announced the appointment of Commander Fair Kim, USCG (Ret.) as their new Maritime Policy Director. Two weeks into the job, Commander Kim joined AMC with more than 20 years of military and legislative experience in the Federal sector. The AMC is a research and education group comprised of U.S.-flag ship owners and operators that have collective bargaining agreements with the M.E.B.A.

“We are pleased to welcome Fair to our organization and look forward to leveraging his knowledge and expertise to promote the viability of the U.S.-flag Merchant Marine and U.S. maritime industry,” said James E. Caponiti, AMC President. “His extensive seagoing experience, together with his significant understanding of legislative processes on Capitol Hill will enhance AMC’s effectiveness with its mission to support American mariners and to influence lawmakers and Federal officials – as well as the public at large – with respect to the value of commercial sealift capability as a national defense asset.”

Commander Kim retired from the Coast Guard in 2016 after 20 plus years serving in afloat operational billets and as a Judge Advocate (JAG). During his career, Fair deployed throughout the Caribbean, in South America, West Africa, the Middle East and in Afghanistan. His last operational billet was as the Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Patrol Forces South Asia where he supervised the patrol squadron that provides security to Coalition oil terminals and to refineries in the Arabian Gulf and to escort U.S. naval and sealift assets transiting the Strait of Hormuz and Horn of Africa. In addition, he supervised the Coast Guard detachment that traveled to Forward Operating Bases to ensure that war materiel was properly loaded into freight containers before being redeployed in Afghanistan by USTRANSCOM. His final tour in the Coast Guard was as Legislative Liaison and Counsel to the Coast Guard’s Office of Congressional Affairs.

Commander Kim is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and University of Florida School of Law, and is licensed to practice in Florida and Connecticut.

STATEN ISLAND FERRY REPLACEMENT VESSELS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Panama City, Florida-based Eastern Shipbuilding Group (ESG) has contracted with New York’s Transportation Department to build three new Staten Island Ferries to replace older vessels in the fleet.

The Staten Island-Ollis Class vessels will be double-ended 4,500 passenger ferries with four Electro-Motive Diesel (EMD) 12-710 Tier 4 compliant propulsion engines. Two engines will power Reintjes DUP 3000 P combining reduction gears and 36 RV6 ECS/285-2 Voith Schneider Propellers at each end of the vessel which will supply excellent maneuverability when docking. City, state and federal funds are paying for the new boats. Each will cost a little over \$100 million.

The first boat will be called STAFF SGT. MICHAEL OLLIS to honor the Staten Island soldier who sacrificed his life to save others from a suicide bomber in Afghanistan back in 2013. It will replace the 52-year old JOHN F. KENNEDY. The second and third boats will reportedly enter the fleet in late-2019 and 2020 and will replace the ANDREW J. BARBERI and S.I. NEWHOUSE.

LWOP DISRUPTS GOVT. FLEET DCO SCHEDULE

Members shipping in the Government Fleet are reminded that if they are signed up for automatic Dues Check-Off (DCO), their dues will not be paid for any period they are taking Leave without Pay (LWOP). Those mariners should ensure they remain as members in good standing by paying dues either at the Union hall or online to account for any dues payment gaps caused by LWOP.

Questions about dues status can be forwarded to the Accounts Receivable Department at Headquarters (202-638-5355) to either Darlene Knott (dknott@mebaunion.org) or Keera Batiste (kbatiste@mebaunion.org). You can also use the M.E.B.A. Payment Portal to make online monetary transactions. Check out the site accessed from M.E.B.A.'s webpage at www.mebaunion.org.

MATSON HALTS AQUA LANE PARTICIPATION; SITDOWN WITH CBP

Matson Navigation has halted its AQUA Lane participation after maritime unions aired concerns about mariners being restricted to their vessels in the Port of Long Beach.

The Customs and Border Protection's Advanced Qualified Unlading Approval (AQUA) program was implemented to allow quicker vessel turnaround times in port for low-risk ships. AQUA Lane allows vessels to begin cargo operations prior to CBP boarding and clearing of the ship and crew. However, its implementation created hardships upon mariners on occasion by affecting shore leave rights. In particular, mariners serving aboard Matson vessels in the port of Long Beach were not permitted off their vessels in several instances.

Last week, M.E.B.A. along with representatives of the MM&P, AMO and SIU held a productive meeting in Washington, DC with representatives of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to discuss AQUA Lane issues.

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION SERVICE

This week, the Coast Guard Navigation Center implemented a new voluntary service that enables mariners to verify compliance with automatic identification system carriage requirements. The new Vessel Identification Verification Service is a web-based, self-help service that allows ships agents, owners and operators to search their respective vessel or fleets to determine if they are in compliance with static AIS data mandates. The online search program includes the vessel name and call sign, vessel type, MMSI, length and beam.

"This effort has the potential to significantly increase safety levels on U.S. navigable waterways with only a modest investment necessary to coordinate the wealth of information that is available," said Lt. Cmdr. Marlon L. Heron from NAVCEN's E-Tracking Branch.

As members know, most commercial vessels traveling through US navigable waterways are required to have an AIS; however, all mariners are encouraged to use the system to gain access to the ever increasing amount of marine safety information available through AIS transmissions. AIS reduces the risk of collisions while enhancing mariner situational awareness. More info is available at www.navcen.uscg.gov

POSITION OPEN AT NMC FOR DECK OFFICER

The National Maritime Center currently has a permanent position available in Martinsburg, WV, for someone with a shipboard deck officer background to serve as the primary coordinator and subject matter expert for the development and revision of deck officer and rating examinations.

Additional information and qualifications can be found on - and applications may be submitted via the USA Jobs website under announcement numbers 17-1411-SE-BK-D and 17-1411-SE-BK-M.

SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans' website – www.mebaplans.org (Forms, Vacation). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org for more info.

BST REVALIDATION – SPACE STILL AVAILABLE

Due to membership needs, the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School has added an additional Basic Safety Training Revalidation course to the 2017 schedule. It will run from April 24–28.

The BST Revalidation course is required by mariners renewing their license who **have** 1 year of sea time in the last 5 years. Applications may be sent via the CMES website (www.mebaschool.org); by fax at (410) 822-7220, or email to applications@mebaschool.org.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, May 8 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, May 9 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, May 10 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, May 11 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, May 12 - 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. For publication and related inquiries contact: Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org