

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH OSG ON NEW TERMS FOLLOWING REOPENER TALKS

M.E.B.A. negotiators, including a rank and file team, have reached a Tentative Agreement with Overseas Ship Management (OSG) for new economic terms in the last two years of the contract. The Union has presented a draft MOU to OSG for review and is waiting to receive the finalized document from the company. The contract covers 14 vessels in the OSG U.S.-flag fleet.

Reopener talks were led by Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram and included Tampa Branch Agent Adam Smith and Headquarters Contracts Rep. Mark S. Gallagher. The M.E.B.A. rank and file team included OVERSEAS NEW YORK Chief Engineer Ben Jones and Nick Sullivan who is currently Chief Engineer onboard the OVERSEAS SANTORINI. Once finalized, negotiated wage and wage-related item increases will go into effect retroactive to July 1. Improvements were also negotiated in Plans and fund contributions among other items. The agreement runs through June 15, 2020.

MATSON DEEP-SEA CONTRACT RATIFICATION

A tentative agreement covering deep-sea engineers sailing with Matson Navigation has been ratified by members at the regular August membership meetings. The 10-year agreement covers the Matson A3, CV2600 and the newbuild vessels. The contract went into effect earlier today and will continue to June 15, 2028. It is available for review at the Union halls.

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH MARINE PERSONNEL & PROVISIONING (MPP) COVERING THE FIVE HAPAG EXPRESS CLASS VESSELS

M.E.B.A. reached a Tentative Agreement with MPP today after reopener negotiations this week for new economic terms in the last three years of the contract. The contract covers the five Express Class vessels in the Hapag U.S.-flag fleet. Reopener talks were led by Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram and included Tampa Branch Agent Adam Smith, Headquarters Contracts Rep. Mark S. Gallagher, along with ST. LOUIS EXPRESS Chief Engineer Todd Williams. Increases in wage and wage related items, as well as benefit plan contributions were negotiated for the M.E.B.A. Plans and funds. Once finalized, negotiated wage and wage-related item increases will go into effect January 1, 2019. The agreement runs through December 31, 2021.

MSP FULLY FUNDED IN DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

The President signed the Defense Authorization bill into law at a ceremony earlier this week at Fort Drum, New York. The bill authorizes defense spending and policy priorities. The funding for defense agencies and programs won't be finalized until after the completion of the appropriations process which provides the money.

Colleagues named the Defense bill after Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) Chairman of the Armed Services Committee who is battling brain cancer. The John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act authorizes \$717 billion for Fiscal Year 2019. Of interest to members, the Maritime Security Program is authorized at its full funding level of \$300 million in FY '19. That breaks down to \$5 million per vessel. M.E.B.A. and U.S. shipping interests will continue working hard to ensure the correct amount is appropriated.

LIMITED LOOK AT EL FARO LESSONS LEARNED

Members have an opportunity to check out a well-researched and informative nutshell breakdown of the EL FARO incident and the lessons learned from that tragedy as summarized by Coast Guard marine casualty investigator Keith Fawcett. The U.S. Naval Institute is allowing our members a limited peak at Fawcett's August 2018 *Proceedings Magazine* article, previously available only to subscribers or pay site customers. USNI has generously made the article available free of charge online until the end of August. It can be accessed at www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2018-08/learn-el-faro-disaster

Members will appreciate Fawcett's summation of the massive Coast Guard investigation of the incident that extracted a series of likely causes and offered a number of recommendations to help prevent such a tragedy.

The 790-foot, cargo vessel, S.S. EL FARO was en route from Jacksonville, Florida, to San Juan, Puerto Rico on Oct. 1, 2015 when it succumbed to Hurricane Joaquin and sank in the Atlantic Ocean taking the lives of all 33 aboard.

RENAMING OF BELGIUM COMPLETES RETURN OF PRESIDENTS TO APL FLEET

American President Lines has completed the swap-out of five aging C-11s with newer replacement vessels from the international CMA CGM fleet. The C-11s were pushing up against Maritime Security Program dry cargo age restrictions (25 years). The newer ships range between 3 and 12 ½ years old and assume each of the MSP operating agreements held by the C-11s. Each of the replacement ships was named after a U.S. President, an APL tradition dating back to the 1920s. More than 90 vessels in APL's fleet over the last century have featured the name of a President. In addition, the APL BELGIUM, an S-12 that was already in APL's fleet, is set to be renamed in early September and will be redubbed as the PRESIDENT WILSON.

As *Telex Times* readers know, the PRESIDENT KENNEDY (ex-CMA CGM NARMADA) entered the fleet in early July replacing the APL PHILIPPINES. The PRESIDENT EISENHOWER (ex-CMA CGM INDUS), the KENNEDY's sister ship, took over for the APL CHINA. The PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (ex-APL HAWAII) entered the U.S.-flag fleet in place of the APL SINGAPORE. The PRESIDENT CLEVELAND (ex-HS PARIS) flagged-in to the U.S. registry replacing the APL KOREA and the PRESIDENT TRUMAN (ex-HS ROME) swapped-in for the APL THAILAND.

MARINERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF NEW DRUG TESTING FORM

Mariners getting ready to renew their drug screenings should be aware that a new Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form (CCF) incorporating recent changes is now being used. The new form, which went into effect on January 1 of this year, contains fields for newly required testing - among other revisions - including screening for semi-synthetic opiates. Members should make sure they have the new form which is available at the M.E.B.A. Union halls and can be obtained from the Member Services Department at the Plans Office in Baltimore. In addition, the Plans Office is mailing the revised form out to mariners in advance of their drug screening renewal dates.

You'll be able to tell which form you have by looking at "Step 5A." The new form includes the addition of four new analytes: oxycodone (OXYC), oxymorphone (OXYM), hydrocodone (HYC), and hydromorphone (HYM). It also removes analyte methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA).

Old forms submitted after January 1 were accepted through the end of June, although processing times were said to increase. However, old CCF forms submitted after July 1 now require additional paperwork and almost certainly will protract the process. Members with the old form are urged to shred their old forms and obtain the revised CCF.

MARYLAND GOVERNOR VISITS M.E.B.A. SCHOOL

Popular Maryland Governor Larry Hogan stopped by the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School last week for a meet and greet including a tour of the facility. He was accompanied by Maryland House of Delegates member Johnny Mautz and the pair got a glimpse of the high caliber training our shipboard members receive to help prepare them for their continued support to the economy and national security.

CMES Director Chuck Eser, Deputy Director Bryan Jennings and M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo conducted the tour shuttling the lawmakers to various classrooms and labs including the bridge simulator where the Governor was given the opportunity to pilot a vessel in the "Helen Delich Bentley" Port of Baltimore.

LATEST MSC EPF COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS

The Military Sealift Command is getting ready to welcome another high-speed ferry to its fleet this fall as Austal USA recently completed acceptance trials on the USNS BURLINGTON, the 10th of 12 planned MSC Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessels. The Spearhead-class EPFs, formerly known as Joint High Speed Vessels (JHSVs), are versatile, non-combatant, transport ships used for fast intra-theater transportation of troops, military vehicles, and equipment. They have the capability to carry out a wide range of operations, including non-combatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.

The trials, staged in the Gulf of Mexico, involved the execution of intense comprehensive tests by the Austal-led industry team while underway, which demonstrated to the Navy the successful operation of the ship's major systems and equipment. Acceptance trials are the last milestone before delivery of the ship.

The 11th and 12th vessels in the EPF Spearhead class are under construction at Austal USA's Mobile, Alabama facility and will be named the USNS PUERTO RICO and USNS NEWPORT. Crews of the Military Sealift Command EPF fleet are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

SHULER STRESSES SOLIDARITY IN WAKE OF ANTI-LABOR EXECUTIVE ORDERS

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler addressed the 41st national convention of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) this week in Las Vegas, NV focusing on ‘hope’ and ‘solidarity’ in the wake of a series of executive orders issued by the White House to cripple the labor movement.

AFGE represents 700,000 federal and D.C. government workers nationwide and overseas and is leading a legal challenge against two of President Trump’s recent anti-labor Executive Orders they say exceeds the president’s authority under the U.S. Constitution.

The Trump administration is attempting to use three executive orders to take away the right of federal employees to form unions and negotiate for fair treatment at work. One order seeks to make it more difficult for unions to be available to represent employees at the worksite. Another seeks to give federal agencies a chance to change the rules in a way that gives management more autonomy to implement arbitrary bargaining timelines and would even give agency management the authority to enforce its own recommendations if that timeline expires before an agreement is reached. The third order would expedite the dismissal process and remove progressive discipline and seniority considerations during reductions in workforce. AFL-CIO notes that these executive orders would deprive workers of their right to address issues like health and safety, sexual harassment, racial discrimination and disability accommodations.

At the convention, AFGE announced that its National President, J. David Cox Sr., has been re-elected to a new three-year term.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, September 3 – **Labor Day** – *Halls Closed*

Tuesday, September 4 – **Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**

Wednesday, September 5 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

Thursday, September 6 – **L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

Friday, September 7 – **Honolulu@1100.**

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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