

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*



## M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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### **CONTRACT TALKS WITH APL – IMPORTANT NEGOTIATION UPDATE TO BE PROVIDED AT SEPTEMBER UNION MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED**

M.E.B.A. began talks this week with American President Lines as the parties work on a new contract covering Deep-Sea engineers as well as Port Engineers. The current agreement expires on September 30. Executive Vice President Adam Vokac is leading negotiations joined by L.A. Branch Agent Rich Doherty, Oakland Patrolman Maxim Alper and a rank and file team consisting of Chief Engineer Fred Cuzner, 1<sup>st</sup> A/E Trevor Lapham and Rotary Engineer Kurt Landwehr. M.E.B.A. retiree and former longtime official Duncan Ballenger is also assisting talks.

APL recently completed the swap-in of five replacement vessels from the international CMA CGM fleet to assume the Maritime Security Program operating agreements of five aging C-11-class vessels. M.E.B.A. engineers are now sailing aboard the PRESIDENT KENNEDY, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT CLEVELAND and PRESIDENT TRUMAN. In addition, the company is in the process of renaming the APL BELGIUM to the PRESIDENT WILSON.

### **MEMBERS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

The District Executive Committee is reminding members to set a few hours aside to attend one of the thirteen membership meetings taking place in September in the days following Labor Day (Sept. 4-7).

As a Union committed to democratic precepts and safeguards, membership meetings are a great way for members, applicants and retirees to stay involved, get informed, and deliver input to help advance the business of the Union. There is another full agenda of important communications and information set for discussion including an APL contract negotiation update, a ratification vote of the Matson Port Engineer Tentative Agreement, proposed By-Laws amendments, and other important business that would benefit from a healthy attendance with plentiful membership discussion. Take a look at the upcoming September meeting list that appears at the bottom of this issue and see what fits into your schedule!

## **TENTATIVE AGREEMENT FOR MATSON PORT ENGINEERS**

M.E.B.A. negotiators have reached a tentative 10-year agreement with Matson Navigation covering Port Engineers. The tentative agreement, which will be put to a member ratification vote at the September meetings, includes wage increases and additional contract terms as well as benefit plan contribution increases. The tentative agreement is available at the Union halls for member review.

The M.E.B.A. negotiating team was led by Executive Vice President Adam Vokac assisted by Oakland Patrolman Max Alper and LA Branch Agent Rich Doherty. Our appreciation and thanks go out to rank and file members Colin Murray, Mike Shea, Todd Simonse and Jason Schreier who took their time to contribute and participate in the negotiations. Member participation and input is invaluable in the bargaining process and we encourage all members to get involved when the opportunity presents itself to ensure that your voice is heard.

## **NAUTILUS SURVEY GAUGES VIEWS ON MARINER CRIMINALIZATION**

The Nautilus Federation is urging members to take part in a special survey put together to highlight the continued threat that criminalization presents to the maritime industry. Mariners concerned about their rights during incidents at sea are being urged to take part in the survey on their experiences of fair treatment. You can access the survey at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FairTreat18](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FairTreat18)

M.E.B.A. is an affiliate of Nautilus which represents international mariners and shipping professionals with the objective of spotlighting officer issues such as criminalization.

Sadly, seafarers remain at high risk of being treated as scapegoats after accidents at sea. The results of the survey will be used to help look at new ways to support members when they face issues by providing access to support and guidance when they need it most, wherever they are in the world.

The survey is part of a campaign that is also promoting awareness of the Nautilus Federation's Joint Assistance & Support Network (JASON) which aims to safeguard members' rights to fair treatment after accidents.

## **HURRICANE LANE & HONO HALL**

Residents are holding on for dear life as Hurricane Lane was barreling toward the Hawaiian Islands on Thursday as a Category 4 storm. Massive amounts of rain, heavy surf and fears of flooding and mudslides accompanied the storm which is expected to make things dicey in our 50<sup>th</sup> state into the weekend. Earlier in the day on Thursday, Hurricane Lane was delivering 155-mile-an-hour winds and prognosticators were warning that the Islands could absorb as much as two feet of rain before the end of the weekend. The Governor issued an emergency proclamation and inbound and outbound vessel traffic has been halted by the Coast Guard until further notice. Many of the Navy vessels and other ships in Hawaiian ports sailed out of the danger zone in advance and many vessels with scheduled Hawaii port stops were diverted.

A series of closures was ordered across the state for Thursday and Friday, including schools, harbors and state offices. M.E.B.A.'s Honolulu hall was dispatching jobs on Thursday but was expected to shutter on Friday as a precaution.

## **ALOHA STATE CONGRESSIONAL RACE IS SET**

Former Hawaii Congressman Ed Case, an opponent of the Jones Act, is the favorite to rejoin the U.S. Congress when voters in the State's 1<sup>st</sup> District go to the polls in November. The 65-year old Case came out on top in a crowded field of Democrats in the party's recent primary. Case served in Congress from 2002 to 2007 but came up short in both House and Senate election bids since then. Though he retired from politics five years ago, he threw his hat in the ring after Rep. Colleen Hanabusa announced her intentions to leave the seat for an ultimately unsuccessful bid for Governor. Case pledged to get things working in Washington and his message, along with his name recognition from his past service, appears to have resonated with voters. The Jones Act was not a big issue in the Hawaii 1<sup>st</sup> District primary. He'll face off in the general election against former state representative Cam Cavasso who prevailed in the Republican primary. Case is expected to win in the heavily Democratic state.

In Hawaii's 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard easily won the Democratic nod with 75% of the votes in her primary. She will stand for re-election in November against her opponent Republican Brian Evans, an author and singer, who ran unopposed in his party's primary.

## **SCRUBBER INSTALLS HELPS RETAIN DEMAND FOR HIGH-SULFUR FUEL**

Demand for high sulfur marine fuels is likely to see a smaller drop than previously expected by 2020, said energy consultants FGE, as changing attitudes to sulfur-stripping technologies from large shippers alter the outlook for use of the fuels.

More than 2,100 vessels are now expected to be equipped with exhaust gas cleaning systems, known as scrubbers, by 2020, up from 1,500 ships previously, FGE attests.

To combat air pollution from the shipping industry, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2016 said it would reduce the sulfur content of the bunker fuel that ships can burn to 0.5 percent by January 2020, from 3.5 percent currently. Ships without scrubbers would have to burn costlier low-sulfur fuels such as marine gas-oil (MGO) or ultra-low-sulfur fuel oil to comply with the clean air rules. Major container shippers initially dismissed scrubbers as too expensive a method to comply with the IMO's 2020 mandate, but FGE said changing market conditions have forced them to reassess their viability.

"Since late 2017, the fuel oil forward curve has blown out, making it much easier now to see the economics in favor of scrubbing," FGE stated. A wide enough price spread between high- and low-sulfur marine fuels would justify scrubber installations as fuel cost savings from burning less costly high-sulfur fuels help recoup scrubber investment costs.

## **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](http://www.mebaplans.org) (Forms & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or [vacation@mebaplans.org](mailto:vacation@mebaplans.org) for more info.

## **THIS LABOR DAY, RAISE THE STEAKS!**

Many of you will be spending a portion of Labor Day weekend with the grill of your dreams. So when you "meat" up with friends, be sure to and raise the "steaks" for your holiday barbecue with these

delicious favorites made by ethical companies who treat their workers fairly, thereby helping to strengthen the middle class. Enjoy the holiday, and together we'll grill our way to a stronger America!

**Grilling Favorites** - Ball Park franks; Butterball turkey tenderloins, drumsticks, burgers and franks; Dearborn Sausage Company; Empire Kosher chicken and turkey; Farmer John; Foster Farms poultry; Hormel beef, pork and chicken franks; Omaha Steaks;

**Liquid Refreshment** - Bass Pale Ale; Bud and Bud Light; Coors Light; Killian's Irish Red; Land Shark Lager; Mad River Brewing Jamaican Red; Miller Genuine Draft; Sam Adams; Coca-Cola; Pepsi; Dr. Pepper; Barq's Root Beer;

### **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.

### **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.**

-----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; [mehq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mehq@mebaunion.org). Visit us on Facebook. For publication and related inquiries contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – [marco@mebaunion.org](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org)*