

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"
Number 35 – August 27, 2020



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NMC/COAST GUARD ISSUES FLURRY OF NOTICES & GUIDANCE AVAILABLE ON M.E.B.A. SITE

The National Maritime Center/Coast Guard issued a series of announcements and guidance this week, most related to COVID-19 and mitigation efforts. NMC recently announced limited reopenings of facilities conducting mariner examination services (RECs Houston, Honolulu & Juneau and MUs San Juan & Ketchikan). This week, REC Boston was added to the list. The facility will reopen on Monday for limited services.

The Coast Guard also issued an update to its Marine Safety Information Bulletin (#08-20) which includes important information on Merchant Mariner Credential Endorsements and Medical Certificates among other items. Coast Guard noted that MMCs (National Endorsements only) that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 have been extended until March 31, 2021. Mariners who are actively working on expired credentials that meet the extension criteria must carry the expired credential with a copy of MSIB 08-20. Medical Certificates (National Endorsements only) that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 have been extended until December 31, 2020. MMCs with STCW endorsements that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 were extended until March 31, 2021. Again, mariners actively working on expired certificates that meet the extension criteria must carry the expired credential with them. Check the Bulletin for complete details.

Coast Guard also issued a policy letter with temporary guidance for MMC renewal and STCW endorsements during the pandemic. NMC also issued helpful recommendations concerning course approval submissions.

The documents appear in full on the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) in the "Documents & Member Notices" section.

BRAVO ZULU FOR CADETS & CREW OF MASS MARITIME TRAINING SHIP

Maritime Administrator Rear Admiral Mark Buzby issued a "Bravo Zulu" to the cadets and crew of the TS KENNEDY following a successful training transit they recently completed. Keystone Shipping Co. was selected as ship manager for the Massachusetts Maritime Academy training vessel as it sailed back to its berth in Buzzards Bay, MA from a Mobile, AL shipyard, where it underwent some scheduled maintenance.

The Maritime Administration helped put together the mini-training mission that helps upperclassmen who may not have had enough sea days to graduate because of the pandemic.

48 cadets from different academies took part in the voyage including 14 from Maine Maritime, 7 from Kings Point, 14 from California Maritime and 13 from Great Lakes Maritime along with instructors and an M.E.B.A./SIU crew.

Maritime Administrator Buzby praised participants and called it “a voyage and mission exceptionally well executed” that is “even more impressive given the severe constraints [they] were forced to operate under as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic”.

M.E.B.A. Captain Cal Chapman and Chief Engineer Hank Cole headed up the deck and engine departments during the voyage. A photo of the engine crew for the mission was posted on the M.E.B.A. Facebook site earlier this week.

AGREEMENT ENDS STRIKE AT BATH IRON WORKS

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local S6 members recently settled an eight-week strike at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine. IAMAW Local S6 were driven to strike in June when the company offered unacceptable proposals on subcontractors, work rules and seniority. Federal mediators helped both sides reach a tentative agreement on August 7. Members then participated in a weekend ratification vote conducted online and by phone last weekend. Following member approval, union members headed back to work on Monday.

In a statement issued by the IAM, President Robert Martinez praised members saying, "IAM Local S6 has shown the world that together working people can stand up and win for themselves, their families and their communities. This fight for dignity, justice and good Maine jobs will go down in the history books of the Machinists Union and all of organized labor. I could not be more proud of our IAM Local S6 membership and negotiating committee, District 4 representatives, Eastern Territory staff and everyone who stood with the IAM and the best shipbuilders in the world. We are also grateful for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and Director Richard Giacalone for helping us get this agreement resolved."

2021 WORLD MARITIME THEME: "SEAFARERS AT THE CORE OF SHIPPING'S FUTURE"

The International Maritime Organization has selected "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future" as the World Maritime theme for 2021, reflecting a need to raise awareness of the vital role of mariners in world trade.

The focus on seafarers comes as the COVID-19 crisis has placed extraordinary and unprecedented demands on mariners. Hundreds of thousands of seafarers have been forced to over-extend their ship assignments because of pandemic restrictions. The 2020 crew change crisis further highlights seafarers' exceptional contribution as key and essential workers, on the front line of delivering world trade through a pandemic and in ordinary times.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said that the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated, more than ever, that it is crucially important to ensure the functioning of the global supply chains and the facilitation of the safe and efficient operation of maritime transport. “Through these difficult times, the

international community has seen how the ability for shipping services and seafarers to deliver vital goods, including medical supplies and food, has been central to responding to, and eventually overcoming, this pandemic. This could not happen without the professionalism and dedication of the world's seafarers," he said.

The theme for World Maritime Day, celebrated next month on September 24th, is "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet."

IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION NEEDED FOR UPCOMING FRC

M.E.B.A. has tentatively planned the election of a rank-and-file Financial Review Committee at the upcoming online membership meetings at six Union halls, contingent on in-person participation. The formation of an FRC has been postponed since April because of the pandemic. The six-person FRC is a Democratic safeguard adopted by the M.E.B.A. in the mid-1990s to examine Union finances from the previous year.

The election of the Committee is tentatively scheduled for the online September membership meetings (Sept. 8-11) at the six Union halls (NY/NJ, Houston, Oakland, Norfolk, Tampa and Seattle). The Committee will work from September 22-24.

M.E.B.A.'s District Executive Committee will allow a hybrid format permitting the FRC to perform their work at M.E.B.A. HQ in Washington D.C. or through online participation. Though FRC members attending by Zoom will be permitted, the Committee cannot be conducted solely online at the meeting in Washington D.C. In-person participation by at least one elected FRC member is a necessity for a functional Committee. Without at-least minimal in-person participation, the FRC would need to be postponed until another date when hands-on participation is possible.

Members, applicants & pensioners can sign up for an online membership meeting during the registration period that began today and concludes next Thursday. Details are contained in an All Ports Bulletin available at the halls and emailed earlier today to members, applicants and pensioners. The APB is also available in the Documents & Member Notices section of the M.E.B.A. website.

BALLOTS MAIL NEXT WEEK

The ballots for the District No. 1-PCD, M.E.B.A. election will go out in the mail on Tuesday, September 1 to all members at their address listed in the Headquarters database. TrueBallot, Inc. is serving as the Impartial Administrator for the 2020 M.E.B.A. Election.

The balloting period closes on November 30, 2020 – and ballots should be returned to the designated depository by that day. The ballot collection and tabulation will take place on December 7, 2020. According to the M.E.B.A. By-Laws, ballots not received in the depository when the ballots are collected shall be disqualified and not counted.

Duplicate ballot information will be forthcoming in a future *Telex Times*. Be aware that the M.E.B.A. By-Laws state that if the original ballot and duplicate ballot are both cast, neither ballot shall count.

In all cases, for votes to count, members must be in Good Standing by November 15, 2020.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE 4MF RAFFLE!

The 50/50 raffle to raise money for the M.E.B.A.'s Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) marches on, pandemic be damned. Ticket purchases have slowed down considerably since the COVID-19 rampage, but that means that your chances to take home the jackpot have considerably increased!

The winning raffle ticket (\$2 apiece) will be drawn on October 6, 2020 at the CMES during the monthly membership meeting. You do not need to be present to win. The grand winner will receive 50% of the proceeds from raffle sales. The popular swag giveaway promotion is in effect for this raffle for those who buy at least \$50 worth of tickets.

You can purchase raffle tickets at any M.E.B.A. Union hall as well as Headquarters. If you prefer the impersonal touch, you can make your purchase through the U.S. mail. Just include a check or money order made out to "4MF" and request the number of tickets you desire. An official will fill the tickets out and mail them to you after collecting the stubs for the raffle pile.

Supporting the 4MF is easy and it's a great cause. Members, applicants, retirees and everyone else are strongly encouraged to support the 4MF which provides upkeep and improvements to the Memorial Park located at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES). The Memorial honors fallen mariners who helped blaze the proud tradition our members continue today. A ship's foremast, that was saved from the C-7 Lancer-class HORIZON DISCOVERY before it went to scrap was recently installed at the Memorial Park. The Park is shaped like a 600-foot merchant vessel complete with 5-ton anchors, a ship's bell, a bow section with plaques memorializing mariners and friends of the M.E.B.A., and a six-bladed, 22-foot diameter bronze propeller that represents the stern section. The foremast, installed near the bow section, further adds to the effect.

ONLINE SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – (All times are local)

(Registration Period will be August 27 – September 3)

Monday, September 7 – **Labor Day** – Halls Closed – *No Meetings*

Tuesday, September 8 – Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

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

Thursday, September 10 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, September 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 demonstrated 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 (and to send photos & hot news tips) contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.