

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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TALKS WITH LIBERTY MARITIME

The Union met with Liberty Maritime on Tuesday in New York to discuss a successor agreement to the current labor contract covering M.E.B.A. Deck and Engineering Officers on the Pure Car/Truck Carriers (PC/TC) in Liberty's Fleet. Presently those vessels include the LIBERTY PRIDE, LIBERTY PROMISE, LIBERTY PASSION and LIBERTY PEACE. Liberty Maritime participates in the Maritime Security Program (MSP), overseen by the Maritime Administration (MarAd) and has 3 MSP operating agreements.

Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan leads negotiations for the Union and was joined on Tuesday by M.E.B.A. President Marshall Ainley, Contracts Rep. Mark Gallagher and M.E.B.A. in-house counsel Nils Djusberg.

This was the 6th meeting between the Union and the Company. The parties have tentatively set the next negotiating date for September 18th in NYC.

Rank and file input for negotiations is welcomed, and experienced members are urged to participate in the talks. If you are interested, please contact M.E.B.A. Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan at jcallahan@mebaunion.org.

AMHS FERRY SERVICE RESUMES FOLLOWING IBU AGREEMENT

Late on Thursday, August 1, the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU) reached a new three-year tentative agreement with the State covering IBU mariners serving on the Alaska Marine Highway System. A 9-day IBU strike appears to have convinced the State of Alaska to come to the bargaining table with a serious offer. A Federal Mediator worked with the parties to help keep negotiations productive. The IBU membership voted to approve the contract in a ratification vote that took place on Friday.

IBU had endured three years of frustrating negotiations exacerbated by the State's lowball offers and continued intransigence. The union's workers had not received wage increases for over 5 years and have been working under interim agreements since 2017. In addition, the ferry system will soon feel the brunt of the State's \$46 million cut to the AMHS operating budget. The Governor originally proposed a \$96 million cut which was pared down by the Legislature.

M.E.B.A. showed solidarity with the IBU during the strike and coordinated with IBU leadership throughout the process. Both unions are members of the Maritime Labor Alliance and an MLA letter dispatched to the Governor shortly after the start of the strike strongly urged the State to come to the table with a fair offer.

Once the parties reached a tentative agreement, mariners returned to their vessels and ferry service resumed on Sunday.

“I want to thank IBU leadership, Commissioner Tshibaka and her team for their tremendous effort to reach an equitable compromise that treats our hard-working employees fairly while recognizing the State’s current fiscal situation,” said Governor Mike Dunleavy. “Strikes are tough on all sides, so it is especially gratifying to see this one come to an end so we can get the ferries back out on the water serving Alaskans.”

“This new agreement addresses many of our members’ concerns,” IBU President and chief negotiator Marina Secchitano said shortly before the ratification vote. “We are very pleased with our new tentative agreement and we appreciate the efforts of the State’s bargaining team in helping to bridge our differences to reach a fair resolution.”

“We spent a lot of long hours and late nights at the negotiating table, but it was worth it,” noted the State’s Department of Administration Commissioner Kelly Tshibaka. “I want Alaskans to know both the IBU and the State made concessions and compromises to reach this win-win agreement. This deal is both good for employees and good for Alaska, and that is what really matters.”

PASHA REOPENER UPDATE

In accordance with the M.E.B.A. By-Laws, the District Executive Committee (DEC) is in discussion concerning bargaining demands for the Pasha/Sunrise economic reopener, to amend the agreements for Deep Sea and Port Engineers.

The M.E.B.A. met with MM&P on Friday August 2, to discuss mutual concerns over the Pasha/Sunrise contract.

Our contract with Pasha runs through June 2022 and covers the HORIZON ENTERPRISE (C-8), HORIZON PACIFIC (C-8), HORIZON RELIANCE (C-9) and HORIZON SPIRIT (C-9), as well as Port Engineers.

WSF MEMBERS SHOULD ENSURE CONTACT INFO IS CURRENT IN ADVANCE OF UPCOMING VOTE

In advance of an upcoming vote for members sailing in the Washington State Ferry fleet, affected mariners are asked to make sure their contact information is current – mailing address and e-mail. If your contact information has recently changed, you will need to fill out a change of address form with Headquarters to ensure you receive the communications that will provide instructions and access for voting online.

Members sailing in the WSF fleet will vote on a dues equity proposal that was tailored to take responses from a recent survey into account. Over 180 WSF members and applicants filled out an online survey earlier this year regarding ways the Union can maximize its representation and better serve the membership. The survey was offered to the fleet after a referendum that would have changed their

dues structure was narrowly defeated by WSF members last year. Though members failed to back that particular proposal, many indicated a willingness to support a more serviceable dues system if structured differently - understanding that the change was sought to reinforce the Union's ability to provide sustainable future representation. The new proposal has been structured differently and will better align the unit's dues more equitably with similar bargaining units. The referendum will be put before WSF members in good standing in an online vote to take place from September 1-30. Only WSF members – not applicants – can vote in this upcoming referendum.

WSF members who are not on Dues Check-Off must make sure their dues are paid through the end of the 3rd Quarter in order to be eligible to vote. Member dues must be current before midnight on September 15th, 2019 to participate. WSF members are urged to make sure their personal (not work) email address is on file with the M.E.B.A. Those members who did not receive the multiple survey emails between April and May should contact Headquarters to make sure we have your correct email (and mailing address) information on file. WSF Rep. Eric Winge will keep members informed and can be contacted to answer additional questions.

M.E.B.A. STRONGLY URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN NAUTILUS STCW SURVEY

Time is running out to weigh in on a survey that will affect mariners worldwide. The Nautilus Federation is strongly urging affiliates to take part in an online survey highlighting Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW). Responses will aid the Federation in an upcoming STCW review which has great bearing on mariners. So far, survey participation from American mariners has not been as great as desired.

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

The link can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NFedSTCW

The Federation stated the need for a high response rate from all affiliates to legitimize captured data as reflective of mariner opinion. Survey respondents will be asked to identify their union so M.E.B.A. is looking for a good showing. Please check out the quick survey and weigh in!

GET HAPPY! REPORT SAYS GLOBAL TANKER, BULKER, CONTAINERSHIP MARINERS ARE MORE CONTENT

The Seafarers Happiness Index report, released this week by the Mission to Seafarers, points to data that shows that mariners working aboard tankers, bulkers and containerships have a better general “happiness level” than those serving on passenger vessels.

The report is based on the responses of thousands of seafarers across the global maritime industry. It says cruise and ferry crews had an average score of 5.3/10 on their general happiness level – 15 percent less than the global average across all vessel types, which stands at 6.27 this quarter. Happiness levels for those working on tankers, bulk carriers and container ships were all close to the global average, coming in at around 6.3/10. Seafarers on dredgers were the most satisfied, according to the data. However, the percentage of respondents serving on this vessel type was relatively low.

Across all vessel types, four key issues emerged from the international survey responses in this three-month period: delayed payment of wages; decreased shore leave; workload stress caused by smaller

crews onboard; and a lack of understanding from shore staff with regard to seafarer welfare issues. At the same time, concern around seafarer abandonment continues to grow, with many seafarers expressing a sense of vulnerability following a number of recent incidents around the globe. The Mission also received a number of troubling reports of aggression, violence and bullying against female seafarers.

On the positive side, seafarers' happiness levels with their ability to keep in contact with their family when at sea rose this quarter. The Mission said this is an encouraging indication of the benefits to seafarers from improved connectivity at sea, as well as the importance of further improvements in both the availability and cost of communications to seafarers. In other welcome news, happiness levels among seafarers with their ability to keep fit and healthy onboard also rose. In responding to the survey, a number of seafarers also highlighted the importance of physical exercise as a factor in mental wellbeing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Monday, September 2 – **LABOR DAY**

Tuesday, September 3 – **Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**

Wednesday, September 4 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

Thursday, September 5 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

Friday, September 6 – **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; 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 Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.