

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 50 – December 6, 2018

In this issue//Honorary Member George H.W. Bush Laid to Rest//Urge Lawmakers to Support WWII Mariners//Sign Up for Union Plus Benefits//Remember to Bring Shot Records Onboard//M.E.B.A. Holiday Parties//Maersk Sets Carbon Goals//Buy Worker-Friendly Products this Holiday Season//Vacation Benefits – Year-End Closing//Dues Must Be Current for Ongoing Shipping Rule Referendum//

HONORARY MEMBER GEORGE BUSH LAID TO REST

America's 41st President went to his final resting place earlier today at his Presidential Library and Museum on the west campus of Texas A&M University.

The National M.E.B.A. endorsed him in 1988 during his Presidential bid at an event held in Tacoma, WA. In addition, he was made an honorary M.E.B.A. member. You can see a photo of George H.W. Bush accepting his honorary M.E.B.A. membership on the M.E.B.A. Facebook page.

In his speech at that time, Pres. Bush said that as President he would explore policy options “which place an emphasis on the construction and maintenance of an operational fleet.” During his four-year term, Bush “Senior” was a proponent of the Jones Act and his administration proposed the initiative that eventually evolved into the Maritime Security Program.

In accepting the M.E.B.A.’s endorsement and honorary membership, Pres. Bush noted, “These union members understand that without a strong domestic economy, and without a strong flow of overseas trade and shipping - many of the hard working men and women of the unions will not have a job...Give these guys a fair shot, and they can compete with anyone in the world.”

URGE YOUR LAWMAKERS TO HONOR WWII MERCHANT MARINERS; LETTER SAMPLE/TEMPLATE ON M.E.B.A. SITE

Veterans groups are making a final push to promote legislation important to WWII merchant mariners in these final weeks before the 115th Congress comes to a close.

Members are urged to help promote several bills honoring the immense contributions of World War II mariners. Even if the legislation doesn’t move before the end of the session, support for the bills will help raise the profile of this important issue and improve their chances in the next session of Congress.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) have sponsored identical bills, in their respective chambers, collectively honoring World War II merchant mariners with the Congressional Gold Medal. The bills, S. 2127 and H.R. 5879 would authorize a gold medal of

appropriate design to be awarded to U.S. WWII merchant mariners on behalf of Congress. The medal would be placed in the American Merchant Marine Museum and duplicates would then be struck and made available to the public. In addition, Rep. Al Green (D-TX) introduced a bill (H.R. 154) that would provide surviving WWII merchant mariners with a one-time \$25,000 benefit.

The Merchant Marine played a heroic and vital role in World War II and the feats and accomplishments of the “Fourth Arm of Defense” are deserving of broader public recognition.

Member Christian Yuhas, a former M.E.B.A. Patrolman and Representative in Oakland, drafted an effective letter on the matter which we have placed on the M.E.B.A. website. Christian is asking members, applicants and retirees to inform lawmakers about the urgency and importance of the issue. He welcomes you to adopt the language in his letter for your own communication to Congress. You can see his letter which can be viewed from the M.E.B.A. homepage at www.mebaunion.org

To make it easy, you can use a Navy League webpage that will help you send a letter to your Members of Congress urging support for the bills. You can use the Yuhas or the Navy League language or create your own. Visit the Navy League site at:

www.votervoice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/59995/Respond The whole process could take less than 5 minutes. It may turn out to be the best thing you've done today!

SIGN UP FOR UNION PLUS BENEFITS

The non-profit Union Plus is the only consumer benefits organization created and endorsed by the AFL-CIO. Union Plus programs, which are available to M.E.B.A. members, retirees and our affiliates, provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services. The M.E.B.A. is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts.

Their mission is to improve the quality of life for union members and their families, provide valuable benefits and services that strengthen the ties of union members to their unions and contribute funding to the labor movement.

There are more than 12 million union members in the United States. Because of their strength in numbers, Union Plus is able to negotiate exclusive discounts and financial assistance programs just for union members and their families. They pass along the exclusive benefits they negotiate on behalf of union members directly to you. These benefits and programs are FREE to union members and their families. There's no membership —if you're a current or retired union member or a family member — you're in. They don't manage or use any union membership dues to finance their budget or benefits. Period. They also don't manage any union pension funds or health care funds.

Getting started is easy. Simply create a profile on their website, and start using your benefits and discounts today! Visit the following link to create your profile: www.unionplus.org/?modal=register

REMEMBER TO BRING SHOT RECORDS ONBOARD

Mariners are reminded to keep their vaccination records with them when sailing – especially when shipping onboard MSC-contracted vessels. If unsure what is required, it is a good idea to check with an M.E.B.A. clinic.

M.E.B.A. HOLIDAY PARTIES

M.E.B.A. Union halls in New Jersey, Norfolk and Tampa are wrapping up their holiday parties just about now. Here are the rest of the M.E.B.A. parties remaining on the docket. Each of them will take place at the M.E.B.A. hall or office unless otherwise noted:

Oakland Union Hall - Friday, December 7th after job call around 12:30 p.m.

L.A./San Pedro Union Hall - Tuesday, December 11 - Takes place at the old hall 533 North Marine Avenue in Wilmington around noon

POID - Thursday, December 13 - (Nashville Conference Center, 26 Century Blvd.) 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

M.E.B.A. Headquarters - Thursday, December 13th at 2 p.m.

Baltimore Union - December 14th at 1 pm.

Houston Union Hall - Friday, December 14th after job call around 1 pm.

Cleveland Union Hall - Cookie tray!

Seattle Union Hall - Friday, December 14th at 12 p.m.

Honolulu Union Hall - Tuesday, December 18th at 10 a.m.

New Orleans Union Hall - Thursday, December 20 at 1 pm.

MAERSK SETS CARBON GOALS

Aimed at accelerating the transition to carbon neutral shipping to help temper the effects of climate change, A.P. Moller-Maersk announced it will strive for carbon neutrality by 2050. They noted that to achieve this goal, carbon neutral vessels must be commercially viable by 2030, and an acceleration in new innovations and adoption of new technology will be needed. Maersk has already reduced its carbon footprint but noted that a drastic reduction of industry-wide shipping emissions can only occur when global shipping progresses toward “new carbon neutral fuels and supply chains.”

A.P. Moller-Maersk CEO Søren Toft said that given the 20-25-year lifetime of a vessel, it is now time to join forces and start developing the new type of vessels that will be crossing the seas in 2050. He said, “The next 5-10 years are going to be crucial. We will invest significant resources for innovation and fleet technology to improve the technical and financial viability of decarbonized solutions.”

SUPPORT UNIONS & “ETHICAL EMPLOYERS” THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

When you shell out your hard-earned dough this holiday season, make sure you’re supporting ethical employers who treat their workers with fairness and dignity and give them a voice in the workplace. Here are just a few brands and companies that may give you some ideas and help you feel good about patronizing their products this holiday season:

All-American Clothing; Black & Decker Tools; Brooks Brothers; Craftsman; Ebonite Bowling Balls; Excelled Sheepskin & Leather Coat Corp.; Jack Daniel’s; Standard Golf Company; Union Boot Pro; Weber Grills; Timex Watches; Nunn Bush shoes; Avon; Revlon; Old Spice; Ghirardelli chocolate; See’s Candies; Jelly Belly; Monopoly; Scrabble; Risk; Cadillac; Harley Davidson and Jeep.

VACATION BENEFITS - 2018 YEAR-END CLOSING

Apply for Vacation and Port Relief Benefits early to avoid the year-end rush.

- **FILING DEADLINE:** The deadline for issuing checks dated in 2018 in the Outports and the Plan Office is Monday, December 17, 2018.
- **DIRECT DEPOSIT:** The final Direct Deposit Transfer for 2018 will be made on 12/18/2018 and the funds will be deposited into your bank account on 12/20/2018.

- Any requests for Port Relief and Vacation checks received after 12/17/18 at 5:00 PM will be paid on 1/2/2019.

Any member who requires that his/her check be dated in 2018 must file before this deadline. Remember, Tuesday December 25, 2018 and Tuesday January 1, 2019 are holidays and the Outports and the Plan Office will be closed. It is always wise to plan ahead, so you should verify your specific Outport holiday schedule with the Plan Office Representative.

Split Your Vacation Payments between 2018 and 2019 - You can submit an Application for Vacation Pay prior to the end of the year and request that the payment of your vacation benefits be split. Two checks will be issued to you, one in 2018 and a second in 2019. The 12/17/2018 deadline applies to split claims also. The vacation benefits paid in this manner MUST be a continuous vacation period. Please contact the Vacation Plan staff in Baltimore at 800-811-6322 or 410-547-9111 if you have any questions.

DUES MUST BE CURRENT TO BE ELIGIBLE IN ONGOING ONLINE REFERENDUM

Members should make sure their dues are current so their vote will count in the District-wide Online Shipping Rule Referendum that began this past Saturday. Members have until midnight on December 17th to be current on their dues to be eligible to participate. As the M.E.B.A. By-Laws state, "No member's ballot shall be counted unless he is in good standing as of 15 days immediately preceding the closing of the balloting." The online referendum runs between December 1 and midnight on December 31st.

This is a one-question referendum on a possible change to the Shipping Rules to permit new Group III applicants to remain on the Port Relief List for one year from the date of their first registration. The Rule change is designed to extend the window for new applicants to seek viable shipping opportunities as they begin their seafaring careers.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Monday, January 7 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**

Tuesday, January 8 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**

Wednesday, January 9 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

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

Friday, January 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 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