

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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In this issue//NLRB Forwards Complaint against Pasha//MLA Deliberates over Prominent Maritime Issues//Port Concern over Tax Reform Bill//CG Wants Mariner Input for Study//Support the Jones Act//Union Plus Scholarships//Navy Campaign to Boost Recruiting//Union-Made Kid Christmas//Holiday Parties//Vacation Benefits//

NLRB TO PROBE PASHA CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

MM&P has taken steps to ensure that The Pasha Group and its subsidiaries honor its contractual obligations and bargain in good faith related to a pair of newbuilds being constructed in Brownsville, TX. Together, MM&P and the M.E.B.A. crew vessels in the Pasha (Sunrise Operations) fleet.

Following an MM&P filing, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) which looks into unfair labor practices, has issued a complaint against Pasha and subsidiaries stating that Pasha has refused to provide necessary documents to the union for review before construction begins on two newbuild containerships to be placed in the Pasha Hawaii fleet.

The investigation by NLRB Region 20 determined that MM&P requested information that “is necessary for, and relevant to, the Union’s performance of its duties.” The NLRB complaint alleges that Pasha, both orally and in writing, has failed and refused to furnish the union with documents to review and study before vessel construction begins so the union can confirm that the vessels comply with living standards set forth in the CBA.

“We are pleased with the NLRB’s decision to prosecute Pasha,” said MM&P President Captain Donald Marcus. “We will not hesitate to take any and all legal action necessary to vindicate the hard-fought contractual rights of MM&P members.”

“Employers who refuse to honor contractual obligations and federally protected rights must be held accountable,” said MM&P Vice President-Pacific Ports J. Lars Turner. “The NLRB’s decision is critical to ending Pasha’s refusal to bargain in good faith.”

SIX-UNION MLA WORKS ON STRATEGY IN ALOHA STATE POW-WOW

Leaders of the six-unions that make up the Maritime Labor Alliance converged in Honolulu this week to focus on a series of weighty maritime issues. The MLA is a cooperation between the ARA, IBU, ILA, ILWU, M.E.B.A. and the MM&P that fights to protect MLA member jurisdictions, working conditions and labor rights. M.E.B.A. was represented at the meeting by President Marshall Ainley, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo (who also serves as MLA Secretary-Treasurer) and M.E.B.A. Honolulu Rep. Luke Kaili.

Each of the affiliates gave a report at the meeting and variety of topics were tackled including MSP, the Jones Act “controversy” and developments with the Pasha-MM&P unfair labor practice complaint. They also discussed their opposition to efforts to privatize the nation’s air traffic control system, talked about incursions on public employee unions and strategized on the Maersk Line Limited (MLL/E-Ships/M-Ships) - M.E.B.A. contract negotiations. In addition, the AFL-CIO Article XX hearing and the LIBERTY PEACE manning situation were discussed. MLA has pledged support for the M.E.B.A. “in any action” the Alliance deems necessary and they noted that they consider Liberty’s “shopping of labor unions while a legitimate and longstanding collective bargaining agreement is, in effect, an affront to all true labor unions.”

PORT CONCERNS OVER TAX REFORM LEGISLATION

The historic “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” legislation approved Dec. 2 in the U.S. Senate and a somewhat different version approved on Nov. 16 in the House of Representatives each contain provisions that would reduce or curtail much-needed tax support for investments in America’s infrastructure, including seaports. That’s what the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) declared in a press release issued earlier this week.

AAPA, which represents 140 seaports, has deep concerns about the provisions in the House bill to eliminate the tax-deductibility of Private Activity Bonds (PABs), as well as the impact of a repeal of advanced refunding of municipal and certain PAB bonds in both the House and Senate bills. In one of many examples of the predicted impacts, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach – which comprise the largest port complex in the United States – have each estimated the loss of tax exemptions on PABs and advance refundings would increase the cost of financing their port infrastructure. The Port of Los Angeles estimates its costs would increase \$30 million over 30 years if it couldn’t use tax-exempt PABs, while the proposed changes to advanced refunding would cost \$28.17 million over the same time horizon. This is funding they say would otherwise be reinvested into the port complex.

However, the AAPA was appreciative of a provision that was deleted out of the Senate version of the bill that would have placed a new tax on foreign cruise companies that operate most cruises in the U.S.

COAST GUARD SEEKS MARINER INPUT FOR PACIFIC SEACOAST STUDY

The Coast Guard announced it is seeking input from mariners for a study of navigation requirements in the Pacific Seacoast System. The Waterways Analysis and Management System (WAMS) study will review the short range Aids to Navigation (ATON) system that covers American waterways from the Canadian border to the Mexican border and around Alaska, Hawaii and the Marianas Islands. Interested mariners can provide input by taking the survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/PacSeacoastWAMS. The survey will be available until March 31, 2018. In addition to the survey input, the system-wide study will cover international requirements, environmental concerns, user capabilities, available technology and available resources

TAKE FIVE MINUTES TO SUPPORT THE JONES ACT

Over 20,000 letters have been sent to Members of Congress to help counteract the wave of anti-Jones Act B.S. that flooded social media following Hurricane Maria and its devastation of Puerto Rico. We need to send more letters! Don’t let the Average Joe (or Jane) be influenced by the lies. Take five minutes and tell your Congressional delegation how critical the Jones Act is for U.S.-flag shipping. Click on this link for a ready-made (modifiable) pro-Jones Act letter –

<https://tinyurl.com/JonesActLetter> Fill in your info and a few clicks later, your entire Congressional representation will take note their constituent is urging them to support the Jones Act. With all the lies and misinformed anti-Jones Act nonsense that has fouled the waters in the wake of Hurricane Maria, five minutes of your time can really make a difference.

UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIPS

M.E.B.A. members, retirees and their families have until the end of January to apply for college education assistance money through Union Plus. In 2017, 106 union members and union family members were awarded \$150,000 in Union Plus Scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$4,000.

These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the fall of 2018. Applications, including essays and a reference letter, must be submitted by January 31 at 12 noon EST. Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded over \$4.2 million to students of union families. M.E.B.A.'s connection with Union Plus nets our members a range of benefits and discounts. 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 Union is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to financing children's educations. Our members have been scholarship recipients quite a few times since the program began. Union Plus Scholarship are granted to students attending a two-year college, four-year college, graduate school or a recognized technical or trade school. Recipients are selected based on academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. The required essays can account for up to half your total score. Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators

A complete application must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on January 31, 2018. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. Students may re-apply each year.

Visit www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships to get all the details including eligibility criteria and to secure the official application.

U.S. NAVY REVEALS NEW CAMPAIGN TO BOOST RECRUITING



The U.S. Navy is launching a multifaceted branding campaign to help step up recruiting and will debut a new logo and tagline this Saturday at the Army-Navy college football rivalry game.

The launch will also mark the debut of the Navy's new tagline, "Forged by the Sea." Ads promoting the campaign will air on TV in the second quarter of the game as well as in the stadium.

"The Navy is now recruiting young men and women of the Centennial Generation, who have different goals, expectations, and media-consumption habits than their millennial predecessors," Coast Guard Rear Adm. Pete Garvin said. "As such, the Navy recognized the necessity to develop a new marketing

campaign and digital-heavy media strategy to more effectively reach, educate, and inspire the best-and-brightest prospective recruits."

UNION-MADE CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Did you know that ALL Hasbro branded games and toys are all union-made? When you're searching for toys to buy for your kids this holiday, why not choose products that are union-made-in-America? For additional gift ideas like the Union Plus AT&T 15% wireless discount and a onsumerReports.org subscription discount, please check out the Union Plus union-made page and save with your union discounts!

Baby Alive; Battleship; Beyblade; Boggle; Busy Basics; Candy Land; Captain America; Chuck and Friends; Chutes and Ladders; Clue; Connect Four; Cranium; Crib Life; Cuponk; Disney; Easy-Bake; Explore N Grow; Family Game Night; Fantastic Four; FurReal Friends; G.I. Joe; Gift Cards; Gloworm; Guess Who?; Hasbro Games; Heroscape; Hi-Ho! Cherry-O; Hungry Hungry Hippos; Iron Man; KRE-O; Lite-Brite; Littlest Pet Shop; Marvel; MEMORY; Mighty Muggs; Milton Bradley; Monopoly; Mousetrap; Mr. Potato Head; My Little Pony; MY3D; Nerf; Operation; Parker Brothers; Play-Doh; Playskool; Rubik's; Scrabble; Sesame Street; Simon; Sit 'N Spin; Sorry; Spider-Man; Star Wars; Strawberry Shortcake; Super Soaker; The Game of Life; The Incredible Hulk; Thor; Tinkertoy; Tonka; Toy Story 3; Transformers; Trivial Pursuit; Trouble; Twister; U-Build; Weebles; Wheel Pals; Wolverine; and Yahtzee.

M.E.B.A. HOLIDAY PARTIES

M.E.B.A. Holiday parties – What's left – (to take place at the hall or office unless otherwise noted):

Baltimore - Friday, Dec. 8 – (1 p.m.)

Houston - Friday, Dec. 8th – (12 p.m.)

Jacksonville - Friday, Dec. 8th – (Pat's Lounge - 4870 Highway Avenue – 1-4 p.m.)

Oakland - Friday, Dec. 8th (after job call around 12:30 p.m.)

Tampa - Monday, Dec. 11th - (5-9 p.m. at the "81 Bay Brewing Company")

M.E.B.A. Headquarters - Thursday, Dec. 14th (3 p.m.)

L.A./Wilmington - Friday, Dec. 15th – (1 p.m.)

Cleveland – Cookie tray!

New Orleans - Friday Dec. 15 – (1 p.m.)

POID – Friday, Dec. 15 - TBD

Seattle - Friday, Dec. 15 – (1 pm)

VACATION BENEFITS – 2017 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 2017 in the outports and the Plan Office is Tuesday, December 19, 2017. **DIRECT DEPOSIT:** The final Direct Deposit Transfer for 2017 will be made on 12/20/2017 and the funds will be deposited into your bank account on 12/22/2017. Any requests for Port Relief and Vacation checks received after 12/19/17 at 5:00 PM will be paid on 1/2/2018. Any member who requires that his/her check be dated in 2017 must file before this deadline. Remember, Monday December 25, 2017 and Monday January 1, 2018 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 2017 and 2018*** -- 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 2017 and a second in 2018. The 12/19/2017 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.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, December 4 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;
Tuesday, December 5 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;
Wednesday, December 6 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;
Thursday, December 7 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;
Friday, December 8 – 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