

# 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 28 – July 12, 2018



In this issue//AFL-CIO Wary of Intensified Attacks on Labor from Supreme Court//Shipping near Yemen Waned in New Advisory//Union Plus Launches 2019 Scholarship Program//New Executive Order Politicizes Hiring of ALJs//Man Treads Water for 22 Hours Before Rescue//M.E.B.A. Online Portal Irons Out LWOP/Vacation Dues Lapses//Union Hall Job Call Times//

### **AFL-CIO SEES CONTINUED ATTACKS ON LABOR UPHELD BY SUPREME COURT**

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka was not enthused with Pres. Trump's selection of Judge Brett Kavanaugh as the next Supreme Court Justice based on his poor record of support for working families. Judge Kavanaugh has served on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals for over a decade and once clerked for Justice Anthony Kennedy, the man he would replace if confirmed by the Senate.

Trumka criticized Judge Kavanaugh's past anti-labor tendencies saying the high court nominee has a "dangerous track record of protecting the privileges of the wealthy and powerful at the expense of working people."

He noted, "Judge Kavanaugh routinely rules against working families, regularly rejects employees' right to receive employer-provided health care, too often sides with employers in denying employees relief from discrimination in the workplace and promotes overturning well-established U.S. Supreme Court precedent."

Trumka is appalled that the current Court has sided with "greedy corporations" of late in a series of 5-4 decisions and believes their weighted anti-labor slant will become even more pronounced with the confirmation of Judge Kavanaugh.

"Working people expect the Supreme Court to be the fairest and most independent branch of government in America," he stated. "Any senator who believes Supreme Court justices should protect the rights of all Americans should reject this nomination and demand a nominee who will protect the rights of working people and uphold our constitutional values of liberty, equality and justice for all. Across the country, working people are organizing and taking collective action as we haven't seen in years, and we won't stand for any politician who supports justices who put our rights at risk."

### **NEW SHIPPING ADVISORY FOR WATERS NEAR YEMEN**

The Maritime Administration has renewed its call for mariners to be vigilant when transiting waters near Yemen due to political instability, piracy and a rash of Houthi rebel attacks. Several commercial vessels in the region have been attacked in past months and the White House expressed alarm in May following a Houthi rocket attack on a Turkish ship. MarAd previously issued a series of advisories warning U.S. shipping to be extremely cautious when transiting that area and this week issued a revised advisory intended to stay in effect until January 30, 2019.

The advisory covers the southern Red Sea, Bab al Mandeb Strait and Gulf of Aden. Mariners should understand that combat operations are ongoing between the Houthis and a Saudi-led coalition, mainly in the vicinity of Al Hudaydah, Yemen. Since 2016, Houthi forces have attacked coalition navy and logistics vessels. In May 2018, a missile or rocket damaged a Turkish-flagged bulk cargo vessel while at anchor in the Red Sea awaiting entry into As-Salif, Yemen. As combat operations continue, potential attacks by Houthi forces continue to pose a direct or collateral risk to U.S. flagged commercial vessels operating in the region. Additionally, piracy continues to pose a significant threat in the southern Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and Gulf of Oman.

U.S. flagged commercial vessels are advised to avoid entering or loitering near Yemen's Red Sea ports. Vessels at anchor, operating in restricted maneuvering environments, or proceeding at slow speeds should be especially vigilant. U.S. flagged commercial vessels transiting the region should conduct a pre-voyage risk assessment and incorporate appropriate protective measures into their vessel security plans. Threats may come from a variety of different sources including, but not limited to, missiles, projectiles, mines, small arms, or waterborne improvised explosive devices.

For further information, contact [MARADSecurity@dot.gov](mailto:MARADSecurity@dot.gov).

### **UNION PLUS OPENS UP 2019 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Union Plus has announced the launch of its 2019 scholarship program which awards college education assistance money to union families. M.E.B.A. members, retirees and their families - as well as members of affiliated M.E.B.A. unions - are eligible courtesy of the Union's enrollment in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to financing children's educations.

Families of M.E.B.A. members or affiliated members have been scholarship money recipients several times in the last few years. 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.

Winners of the 2018 scholarship money were recently notified. Applications for the latest incarnation of the Scholarship program can now be submitted up until Thursday, January 31, 2019, at noon (EST). Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. The award date is May 31, 2019. During the first week of June 2019, award recipients will be notified by postal mail, and all applicants will be sent email notification.

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.

Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2019. Students may re-apply each year. Visit [www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships](http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships) to get all the details including eligibility criteria and to secure the official application.

Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$4.3 million to students of union families. Over 2,900 union families have benefited from our commitment to higher education.

## **NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER POLITICIZES HIRING OF ALJs**

The Trump Administration is leaning on a recent Supreme Court ruling to gain more control in selecting Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). ALJs are independent decision-makers adjudicating claims or disputes in federal agency hearings, including the Coast Guard and Federal Maritime Commission. The Supreme Court's ruling in *Lucia v. Securities and Exchange Commission* prompted President Trump to issue an Executive Order enabling the government to hire ALJs under an excepted service - "Schedule E" - foregoing the competitive ALJ hiring process and allowing them more flexibility in hiring ALJs that conform to certain ideologies and political orientation.

The recent Supreme decision held that ALJs are "inferior officers" - not ordinary employees - and should be appointed by agency heads. Experts say the Court's decision will signal a plethora of challenges to past ALJ decisions allowing those cases to be reopened.

In a statement, Ways & Means Ranking Committee Member Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA) said, "This executive order is yet another example of President Trump putting special interests and loyalists ahead of American families' wellbeing. Impartiality plays a central role in Administrative Law Judges' work. Allowing the appointment of judges who are big campaign donors, beholden to industry, or otherwise unqualified will result in unfair, biased rulings that harm ordinary Americans. . . . When it comes to filling these consequential positions, candidates' intellect and integrity should be the rule - not ideology and fealty to a particular Administration."

## **MAN OVERBOARD TREADS WATER FOR 22 HOURS BEFORE RESCUE**

A crewmember who plummeted into the drink from the passenger vessel NORWEGIAN GETAWAY treaded water for 22 hours - without a flotation device - before miraculously being saved by a passing cruise ship.

The 33-year old went overboard - in unexplained circumstances - about 28 miles north of Pinar del Rio, Cuba in the late afternoon at the end of June. When his absence was discovered, Coast Guard search teams began a widespread but fruitless search.

However, a cabin steward and passengers aboard the CARNIVAL GLORY, which was bound for Cozumel, spied the man - a mere speck in the ocean - frantically waving his arms at around 1:20 p.m. the next day. Ship officers were alerted and a full scale rescue operation plucked the man from his plight about 21 miles north of Cuba. He was reported in stable condition.

## **USE M.E.B.A. PORTAL TO IRON OUT LWOP/VACATION DUES LAPSES**

Some M.E.B.A. bargaining unit members pay dues by automatic Dues Check-Off (DCO). But when DCO members take vacation or (in the case of the Government fleet) Leave without Pay (LWOP), there are lapses in payroll where dues aren't automatically submitted. Those members can go to the M.E.B.A. payment portal, select their bargaining unit on the "Check Off Catch-Up" section and make sure they remain as a member in good standing. Finally, a "Vacation Pay" option is now available on the portal. This will prove useful for Port Engineers and Union officials who can now make these payments online. Many members and applicants think the portal is the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing and extend a needed monetary infusion to vital Union programs. You can access the portal by visiting the M.E.B.A. homepage ([www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org)).

## M.E.B.A. UNION HALL JOB CALL TIMES

All hours indicated are local time – Monday through Friday, not including holidays.

**Baltimore** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m.  
**Boston** - *Job Call*: 12:00 p.m.  
**Charleston** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m.  
**Cleveland** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m.  
**Honolulu** - *Job Call*: 10:45 a.m.  
**Houston** - *Job Call*: 1 p.m.  
**Jacksonville** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m.  
**Juneau** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m. (Takes place in Seattle)  
**L.A./Wilmington** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m.  
**New Orleans** - *Job Call*: 1 p.m.  
**New York/New Jersey** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m.  
**Norfolk** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m.  
**Oakland/San Francisco** - *Job Call*: 12:15 p.m.  
**Seattle** - *Job Call*: 12:30 p.m.  
**Tampa** - *Job Call*: 1 p.m.

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, August 6 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**  
Tuesday, August 7 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**  
Wednesday, August 8 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**  
Thursday, August 9 – **L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**  
Friday, August 10 – **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](mailto: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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org)*