

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

The Official Union Newsletter



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In this issue//Work Begins to Secure Funding for Important Programs//OSG Needs Chiefs & 1sts//Union Plus Real Estate Rewards//Donated Items Needed for G&W Raffle//Maersk Ship Swap-Out//Above Normal Hurricane Season Forecasted//Sen. Reed Honored for Maritime Leadership//M.E.B.A. Inland Conference Coming Up//Update CMES & Union with Your Expiration Dates//

WORK BEGINS TO SECURE FUNDING FOR CRUCIAL MARITIME PROGRAMS

Following the release of President Trump's proposed budget last week, the work begins in earnest to secure funding for crucial maritime programs that help fuel the nation's defense and economy. The budget recommended a \$210 million Fiscal Year 2018 funding level for the Maritime Security Program – \$90 million less than the level appropriated in the current Fiscal Year. In addition, it zeroes out the Title II PL-480 Food for Peace program which provides another source of cargoes for U.S.-flag ships. It also recommends \$10 million in administrative cuts for the Export Import Bank and would cancel \$165 million of the Bank's Tied Aid Fund which provides financing of public-sector capital projects in developing countries. This is worrisome because a portion of cargo generated by the Bank is required to be transported aboard U.S.-flag ships.

However, a President's budget request is only the first step in a months-long process of passing a budget for the Federal Government. Congress does not have to follow the President's budget request, though the White House recommendation traditionally has significant influence on the process – though some in Congress have called the Trump budget "dead on arrival." Congress now takes the lead as they begin to develop annual appropriations bills.

A White House budget is a good indicator of a President's priorities and defense spending is high on the list. That makes it all the more curious that important maritime programs – that help supplement a U.S.-flag fleet crucial to any overseas deployment – were not more strongly embraced in the budget proposal.

M.E.B.A. legislative staff, working with key industry people and Members of Congress, are working hard to secure full funding for MSP and other programs that promote a strong U.S.-flag fleet and keep our fighting forces at full power. You can aid the ongoing battle by supporting the M.E.B.A.'s Political Action Fund. The PAF is a key tool to educate lawmakers about the importance of U.S. shipping. It fortifies the M.E.B.A.'s political relationships in Congress, the White House and in State Capitols. The Fund helps our Union succeed in Washington and is crucial in helping to uphold the maritime policies and programs that are frequently under attack by uneducated lawmakers and interest groups. See your local Union hall for more details or make a contribution online via the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) (select "Pay Your Dues" on the "Members" tab).

CHIEF ENGINEERS, 1st A/Es SOUGHT FOR OSG

OSG is looking for Chief Engineers and First Assistant Engineers who have prior time/experience in those positions. The positions also require Tankerman PIC or Tankerman Engineer. Contact Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram at the Houston Union hall (713-923-9424) for additional information and details.

UNION PLUS REAL ESTATE REWARDS

Are you buying or selling a home? You can earn \$500 cash back for every \$100,000 in home value when you use a real estate agent, approved by relocation services provider SIRVA. 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. The cash-back offer is not available in all states. Union members earn on average \$1,173.

SIRVA pre-approved agents are: Experienced - Every SIRVA agent is pre-screened as the best, based on performance, service and coverage around you; Local - Over 4,600 agents participate in this program. They'll put you in touch with a local professional who understand your area.

Cash Back Examples:

Home Value at Closing	You Receive After Closing
\$150,000	\$750
\$250,000	\$1,250
\$350,000	\$1,750
\$450,000	\$2,250

Get started today. Call 800-284-9756 or visit up-RealEstateRewards.com to let them know you're interested in this real estate rewards program. If you decide to use the agent to buy or sell your home, you can earn \$500 for every \$100,000 in home value after closing

DONATED ITEMS IN DEMAND FOR G&W RAFFLE

To help support the upcoming Good & Welfare Auction & Fundraiser, the G&W Committee is asking for donations of gifts and prizes such as nautical items, sporting memorabilia, art, etc. You can contact Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo at Headquarters or any Branch Agent to forward monetary or item donations. ***Remember, your contributions to the fund are tax deductible*** so please give liberally in order to help a Union brother or sister in need. M.E.B.A. members are encouraged to support this important cause. The Fund is used to help active and retired members and their families in times of crisis. It has proven itself numerous time helping members, retirees and their families recover following devastating storms and unexpected tragedies. Strengthening the G&W will allow additional support to those in the M.E.B.A. family during their times of need.

Raffle tickets to assist the M.E.B.A.'s Good & Welfare Fund are being snatched up at Union halls around the country with \$5,000 at stake for the winner. The \$2 tickets are currently on sale for the 50/50 Raffle that will be held on October 12th in conjunction with a Silent Auction & Fundraiser at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School. 5,000 tickets have been printed meaning that, if they sell out, the winner will receive 50% of the proceeds (\$5,000) with the other half going to the Fund. More tickets will be printed up – and the jackpot will increase – if demand continues. The raffle is open to

anyone who wants to purchase a ticket. Ticketholders don't need to be present at the drawing to win. Every ticket you buy puts another dollar into the Good & Welfare Fund.

MAERSK SHIP SWAP-OUT

The MAERSK SENTOSA has been flagged into the U.S. fleet replacing the MAERSK WISCONSIN, part of a two ship swap-out. The SENTOSA sailed out of a Chinese shipyard under the Stars and Stripes in mid-May. Next up, the MAERSK CALIFORNIA will be deployed into the company's international fleet and the MAERSK SELETAR is set to enter the U.S. fleet in a changeover scheduled to take place in the Bahamas next week.

These moves will lower the Maritime Security Program vessel age on two of Maersk's MSP chits. It will not affect M.E.B.A. jobs or wages.

The newer vessels were both built in 2007 and are 318mx40m, 87,500 dwt, 7500 TEU powered by an 11RT-Flex96CB two stroke slow-speed diesel engine rated over 84,000 horsepower enabling a top speed of 25 knots.

"ABOVE-NORMAL" HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS TODAY

Forecasters at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center predict another "above-normal" Atlantic hurricane season this year. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. They predict a 45 percent chance of an above-normal season, a 35 percent chance of a near-normal season, and only a 20 percent chance of a below-normal season. Forecasters predict a 70 percent likelihood of 11 to 17 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 5 to 9 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 2 to 4 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). An average season produces 12 named storms of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

NOAA also issued seasonal hurricane outlooks for the eastern Pacific and central Pacific hurricane basins. An 80 percent chance of a near- or above-normal season is predicted for each region. The eastern Pacific outlook also calls for a 70 percent probability of 14 to 20 named storms, of which 6 to 11 are expected to become hurricanes, including 3 to 7 major hurricanes. The central Pacific outlook calls for a 70 percent probability of 5 to 8 tropical cyclones, which includes tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes. The 2016 season was the most active since 2012, with 15 named storms, including 7 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes. NOAA will update their outlook in early August, just prior to the peak of the season.

REMINDER: INCLUDE ALL DOCS WHEN FILING FOR VACATION PAY

Members are reminded to be thorough when submitting an application for Vacation Pay at the halls and/or with the Plans Office and include all required documents, including Coast Guard Discharges and pay vouchers. Pay vouchers are used to track Social Security Tax maximums, to track wages as Medicare Tax increases and to check for any overlap days that can be identified. As detailed on the application itself, the following documents must be submitted along with your application:

- A copy of the stub portion of your last vacation benefit check.
- Coast Guard discharges and pay vouchers covering all employment since your last vacation.

- Pay vouchers must cover the entire period of employment and show all wages and tax deductions.
- Pay vouchers covering any periods of unearned wages since your last vacation.

Failure to submit proof of all accumulated work performed to the date of application could result in the permanent loss of vacation benefits earned on the employment not submitted.

You may also need to submit:

- A Carry-Over Vacation Form from your last vacation – if applicable.
- An original copy of the Converted Overtime Worksheet, if applicable, regardless of whether or not you are applying for converted overtime vacation.
- A letter from an authorized Union official granting permission for early return or excess sailing, if applicable.

If prior written permission is not obtained and an Officer returns to work early, they will be subject to a penalty which is loss of vacation benefits for the next six months of employment (180 days).

You can contact the Vacation Plan staff in Baltimore prior to sending an application. They can be reached at 800-811-6322 or 410-547-9111.

SEN. REED HONORED FOR MARITIME LEADERSHIP

Senator Jack Reed (D-R.I.) was singled out for his service and support for the maritime industry as he was presented with the Daniel K. Inouye Maritime Guardian Award in a recent ceremony. The award, named for the longtime Hawaii Senator, is annually doled out to lawmakers who consistently demonstrate strong leadership and dedication to the U.S. maritime industry. Sen. Reed is the ranking member of both the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

“We in the Ocean State are proud of our maritime heritage,” Sen. Reed said. “From tourism to commerce to transportation, marine-related businesses are an important part of our economic future. I am proud to support the hardworking men and women of the marine trades and I humbly accept this prestigious award on their behalf,” he noted.

IT’S A GO! M.E.B.A. INLAND CONFERENCE TWO WEEKS AWAY

Representatives from key inland bargaining units are readying for an upcoming one-day meeting at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School set for June 14. The meeting will bring together M.E.B.A. members working at various ferry operations, tug and barge outfits and other inland bargaining units. The “Inland Transportation Coalition” (ITC) will discuss matters of mutual concern, such as contract negotiations, grievance resolution, union administration and other important issues.

ITC organizers include Isaac Seidman (M.E.B.A. WSF Rep.) and Mike O’Toole (NY/NJ Ferry Rep.) who can be contacted at their respective halls with any questions.

UPDATE THE SCHOOL & UNION WITH MMC/STCW EXPIRATION DATE(S)

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) requests that every M.E.B.A. member and applicant submit the expiration date for their Merchant Mariner Credential to them. This info will

allow CMES to better determine how many BST Refresher and/or BST Revalidation courses should be added to the schedule by understanding how many members need to renew their credentials in a given year. If your STCW Endorsement expiration date differs from your MMC expiration please include that information as well. You can send an email with your info to info@mebaschool.org. Make sure you properly identify yourself (last 4 numbers of SSN will help). A webform on the CMES website (www.mebaschool.org) makes it easy for members and applicants to submit this information. You can also transmit the relevant information using the M.E.B.A. Database Update Form found under the “Members” tab on the M.E.B.A. homepage (www.mebaunion.org).

SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans’ website – www.mebaplans.org (Forms, Vacation). Complete details are available on the Plans’ site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org for more info.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, June 5 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, June 6 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, June 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, June 8 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, June 9 - 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