

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

The Official Union Newsletter

Number 25 – June 22, 2017



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RADM BUZBY TO BE TAPPED FOR MARAD POST

The President will nominate Mark Buzby as the next Maritime Administrator. Buzby is a retired Navy Rear Admiral whose career spanned 34 years. He recently served as Commander of the Military Sealift Command for 3 ½ years retiring from that post in May 2013. The M.E.B.A. had an excellent working relationship with Rear Admiral Buzby during his service at MSC and we are pleased with the announcement. The position is subject to Senate confirmation.

RE-OPENER TALKS WITH INTERLAKE

M.E.B.A. conducted re-opener negotiations with Interlake Steamship on Monday and Tuesday this week at Headquarters. The parties are discussing wages and fringe benefits for the contract period of 2017-2020. They made good progress and will reconvene for another two days of bargaining early next week in DC. Our contract with the Great Lakes shipping leader extends into 2025. M.E.B.A.'s negotiating team is led by Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan and was supplemented M.E.B.A. Contracts Rep. Mark Gallagher and Legal Director Nils Djusberg among others. Interlake is represented by V.P. Thomas Wynne, Contract Rep. Terry O'Neil and Financial Officer William Thornton.

WYTKIND TO STEP DOWN FROM TTD

The dynamic head of the Transportation Trades Dept. (AFL-CIO) Ed Wytkind has announced his intentions to retire in mid-July. A go-to guy for a quote on transport issues, Ed told member unions that he will step down on July 18 after chairing a special meeting to elect his successor. He plans to work more directly with AFL-CIO and Federation President Richard Trumka but promised to go into more detail as his TTD retirement date approaches.

M.E.B.A. is a founding member of the TTD which represents 32 unions in the maritime, aviation, rail, transit, trucking, highway, longshore, and related industries.

Wytkind has led the TTD since 2003 and previously served as the organization's executive director. He noted that during his TTD service, the organization has "waged more battles on more issues, than I can count. TTD was started with a vision to give transportation workers a voice in Washington and we accomplished that goal together. We did not win every fight, but I think it is safe to say that jobs

in the transportation sector are better, safer and more secure because of the collective efforts of TTD and our member unions.”

CHAO USMMA COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao addressed U.S. Merchant Marine Academy graduates on Saturday in a commencement speech before they embark on their lifelong journeys whether at sea or ashore.

Chao addressed the graduating seniors with respect and admiration for their upcoming positions and future. She urged them to aspire for greatness and become strong leaders. “Deeds will define your character and character will determine your career and your legacy,” Secretary Chao said. “At Kings Point and in life, character matters.”

She praised those cadets that will use their training to serve our country as part of the ‘Fourth Arm of Defense.’ She said, “This Academy will continue to provide our nation with a new generation of highly trained officers to operate the Merchant Marine fleet and sealift vessels that are critical to our country’s defense and economic prosperity. You are the skilled mariners that our nation will turn to time and time again.”

The Secretary has championed U.S. shipping during her years of Government service and she received a big cheer from cadets and attendees when she announced, “the Merchant Marine has special meaning for me...I am a strong supporter of the U.S. Merchant Marine and the U.S. maritime industry.”

FITZGERALD VICTIMS RETURNED HOME; INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY

Investigators have begun efforts to uncover the circumstances that led to the collision of the 505-foot Navy Destroyer USS FITZGERALD with the Philippine-flagged containership M/V ACX CRYSTAL. It happened at 0220 local time on Saturday 56 nautical miles off the coast of Honshu, Japan. The bodies of seven American sailors killed in the incident were recovered by Navy divers in the flooded compartments of the ship and have since been returned home.

The containership struck the destroyer under the ship's pilothouse on the starboard side making a 12-foot gash below the FITZGERALD's waterline opening its hull to the sea. The impact caused rapid flooding to three large compartments onboard the Navy ship including a machinery room and two berthing areas. The commanding officer's cabin was also directly hit, trapping the CO inside until help arrived. Damage control efforts in the wake of the collision were tenacious and the crew fought for hours to contain flooding and keep the vessel afloat. The sailors killed were all in the flooded area of the vessel that was sealed off to stabilize the ship in the aftermath of the collision. Several investigations into the incident are underway including probes led by the U.S. Navy, Japanese authorities and the U.S. Coast Guard (on behalf of the National Transportation Safety Board).

“SHIPS ACT” WOULD BOOST NAVY FLEET TO 355

The Chairmen of the Senate and House subcommittees that oversee the Navy and Marine Corps have announced legislation that would adjust U.S. policy to work towards a 355 ship Navy fleet. There are currently only 276 battle fleet vessels. Senator Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Congressman Rob Wittman (R-VA) are leading the effort that has attracted bipartisan support. The “Securing the Homeland by Increasing our Power on the Seas (SHIPS) Act” is being introduced in both House and Senate and, if

enacted, could take up to 30 years to achieve. The legislation mirrors a Navy assessment that said it needs 355 ships to meet the demands on its forces.

MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR STARRING ROLE ON M.E.B.A. SOCIAL MEDIA

You're at the top of your game. You're an extremely hard worker – and you're soooo good looking! Send us your “on the job” photos and we'll get it out to the world via M.E.B.A. social media! M.E.B.A. recently launched an Instagram site, and along with our Facebook and Twitter sites, the public is hungry to get a glimpse of M.E.B.A. members, applicants and retirees in action. E-mail your photos to marco@mebaunion.org and we'll put you on a pathway to the stars - there's still more space on the Hollywood Walk of Fame! Digital pictures should be taken at the highest resolution setting. In all cases, make sure you I.D. your photos.

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.

S.O.S CALLING ALL SEAFARERS

United Seamen's Service (USS) needs your support to make capital improvements on its facilities and to maintain their programs that serve the various needs of American and international seafarers. USS Executive Director Roger Korner put out the following call to mariners asking for support for the next generation of mariners:

“Whether you are an “Old Timer” or have just started sailing, it’s more than likely you have visited or will visit a USS Center during your sailing career. Many of us have fond memories of particular Centers and their friendly staff who for almost 75 years, have helped make your stay in port pleasant and enjoyable. Whether a casual conversation with someone new, bantering with seafaring friends and shipmates or simply getting information on local shops and /or points of interest, seafarers have benefited from USS services since 1942. Our industry has changed tremendously over these past years. Our time in port is limited, and our time ashore is shorter, if it exists at all. This has greatly impacted mariners’ personal well-being and the long-standing Centers’ ability to serve the needs of seafarers and military personnel. USS was born as a result of President Roosevelt’s concern for seafarers’ needs during World War II, recognized by Congress with the Seamen’s Service Act, and acknowledged by our government for the critical role we play at times of peace and war. In an effort to keep these Centers available we are appealing to you to help sustain these important centers: USS Bremerhaven, USS Casablanca, USS Diego Garcia, USS Okinawa, USS Busan & USS Yokohama. Thus, I am asking you to visit the USS’ website: www.unitedseamensservice.org and the USS Crowd Funding site: www.youcaring.com/USSRising and support our request for a financial contribution to “USS Rising”, a \$500,000, Capital Funding Campaign. Any amount you can give would be appreciated – we are seeking thousands of small donations. All donations are tax deductible as approved by law under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donated funds will go directly to supporting our mariners.” This is an extremely worthy cause and the M.E.B.A. strongly encourages you to assist if you can.

CHIEF ENGINEERS, 1st A/Es SOUGHT FOR OSG

OSG is looking for Chief Engineers and 1st 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 info and details.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, July 3 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, July 4 – **Independence Day – Halls Closed**

Wednesday, July 5 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, July 6 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Oakland@1230; Tampa@1300;

Friday, July 7 - Honolulu@1100.

Informational Meeting in Cleveland – Friday, July 7@1230.

-----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