

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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CONTINUED REOPENER TALKS WITH INTERLAKE

An M.E.B.A. negotiating team continued dialogue with Interlake Steamship last week at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School in re-opener talks. The parties are discussing wages and fringe benefits for the next four years of our contract that extends into 2025.

M.E.B.A.'s negotiating team is being headed up by Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan and includes Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway and Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher. The M.E.B.A. team was joined by rank-and-file members Derek McMullen and Chris Miller who sail with Interlake as engineers onboard the LEE A. TREGURTHA. M.E.B.A. Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini and Gulf Coast V.P. Adam Smith, at the School for the Trustees Meeting, participated in the talks that took place last Friday.

Interlake was represented by its V.P., Counsel & Secretary Tom Wynne, V.P. & CFO Bill Thornton and Director of Training & Marine Personnel Jayson Toth. Talks are set to continue in mid-July at M.E.B.A. Headquarters.

ALABAMA COAL MINERS LOOKING FOR A FAIR DEAL

About 1,100 miners, represented by the United Mine Workers (UMWA) (Local 2245) have been on strike against Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, Alabama since April after company attempts to make unsafe conditions and lower pay a permanent fixture for hardworking union members. Workers were there for the company in 2016 when Warrior Met faced bankruptcy. They accepted drastic pay cuts and dispensed with health benefits on the promise that they would be restored when the company was back in the black. Warrior Met returned to financial solvency but prefers to keep draconian policies in place at the expense of the mineworkers. Their hardline contract offer to workers retains its harsh discipline and firing policy, a negligible pay increase and no improvement to working conditions. The company offer was rejected by miners in a 1,006 to 45 vote. UMWA President Cecil Roberts said, "The miners on strike at Warrior Met Coal have been faced with tremendous challenges from an employer that does not care about them, their families or their communities for the last five years. That is why they voted overwhelmingly to go on strike and demand a fair and just contract."

The company has been hiring scabs to do the work in the interim. A drone patrolling the protest areas has caught several incidents of striking workers facing intimidation including several instances of small trucks disrupting picket lines and driving into workers in at least two cases.

UMWA spokesperson Phil Smith said, “We’ve done nothing to provoke these attacks. They really kind of changed the dynamics here and assumed that they’re going to adopt a violence stance against people who are engaging in a peaceful activity.”

RETAIL UNION PRESIDENT SLAMS AMAZON WORKER CONDITIONS

Stuart Appelbaum, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU), issued a statement last week (in advance of the recent “Amazon Prime Day” earlier this week) slamming the company’s record on worker conditions. RWDSU believes that Amazon employed union-busting techniques ahead of the failed union election vote in April that would have organized workers at the Amazon center in Bessemer, Alabama.

Appelbaum said, “Amazon has been called out all over the world for its unacceptable health and safety record and its working conditions for its employees. And Prime Day only makes everything much worse for these workers. During Prime Day, workers across the world are forced to work mandatory overtime, oftentimes in extreme temperature conditions, and at an often unattainable pace that results in injuries... Critically, Amazon needs to start listening to the concerns of its workers, instead of trying to crush their efforts to have a collective voice about their own health and safety through a union. Amazon must stop its virulent union busting and allow its workers to organize, without employer interference, so that they can address worker protections not just for Prime Day, but every day.”

4MF FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Many thanks to all who contributed and participated in the successful M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) Fundraiser and Disc Golf Tournament that took place last Thursday at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School. The Fundraiser benefited the Memorial Park at the School and well over \$15,000 was raised for this great cause.

As you know, the Memorial was created to honor fallen seafarers who have delivered the goods and answered the call of this country since 1775. The Foundation supporting the Memorial is a section 501(c)(3) entity under Internal Revenue Service rules, so all donations are tax deductible.

The first annual Leroy Koehler Disc Golf Tournament was a raging success with disc golf baskets strategically positioned around the campus. Leroy Koehler was a greatest generation mariner and consummate Chief Engineer who deeply cared about the M.E.B.A. heritage and made a generous financial contribution to the Memorial Park.

The Thursday events followed a Trustees meeting week at the School that culminated in a Union-side vs. Employer-side Trustees “grudge match” on the softball field that provided great action (and comic relief) for throngs of riveted onlookers. The Union-side preserved the M.E.B.A.’s honor in a close and friendly battle that was (wisely) not attended by Major League Baseball scouting departments.

Again, thanks to those who contributed and continue to keep the 4MF in mind. Gratitude should also go to recent retiree Bill Van Loo who helped engineer the fundraiser.

SHIPS WILL SOUND OFF ON FRIDAY FOR ‘DAY OF THE SEAFARER’

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), along with industry partners, are encouraging ships in ports around the world to sound their horns at 12 noon local time on Friday, June 25th in honor of the International Maritime Organizations’ ‘Day of the Seafarer’, to remind the world of the urgent need to vaccinate all seafarers.

Last year’s campaign brought the crew change crisis to the world’s attention. The number of crew impacted by the governments’ border restrictions has been cut in half, but deadly second waves in India and other countries are seeing a return to travel bans for seafarers. Access to vaccines is also a pressing issue; over half of the international seafarer workforce stems from developing nations that have limited vaccine supplies.

RESCHEDULED AMMV CONVENTION SET FOR MITAGS IN LATE SUMMER

The rescheduling of the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) Convention, that had been canceled last year, is another good indicator of our nation easing out of its long pandemic stagnation. AMMV just announced that it will host its annual National Convention from September 21st through September 24th in Linthicum Heights, MD at MITAGS. The AMMV is an organization of active and retired mariners that trumpets the vital role of the men and women of the Merchant Marine and their service to the country during peace and war.

Sept. 21st is the check-in with organizational business set for Wednesday the 22nd. Guest speakers, including author and reporter Rita Cosby, are scheduled for Thursday the 23rd and the featured Congressional Gold Medal dinner will take place that evening. AMMV is pleased and excited to announce that WWII mariner and industry spokesperson Dave Yoho will be the keynote speaker for the Congressional Gold Medal dinner. Also confirmed as a guest speaker is maritime author William Geroux. There will likely be bridge simulator tours at the school and hospitality room entertainment.

You can register for the Convention at <https://ammv.us/register/>

PARIS MOU RANKS FLAG STATES FROM BEST TO WORST

The Paris MOU, consisting of 27 participating maritime administrations around the world, has issued its annual White, Grey and Black list which ranks shipping flag states in order from “quality flags” to flags with poor performance considered ‘high’ or ‘very high risk.’ Among other indicators, the list factors in total number of inspections and detentions over a 3-year rolling period for flags with at least 30 inspections in the period. The most recent list becomes effective on July 1 and continues until the release of next year’s report.

A total of 70 flags are in this year’s list, including 39 on the “White List”, 22 on the “Grey List” and 9 on the “Black List.”

The U.S. made the White List but came in at number 33. The top ten consists of Denmark, Norway, Marshall Islands, Bermuda (UK), Netherlands, Bahamas, Greece, Singapore, Cayman Islands (UK) and Japan.

Those on the black list will be subject to increased inspections which make those flag states less desirable to ship owners. The Black List includes, Tuvalu, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Belize, Republic of Moldova, Comoros, Togo, Cameroon and Albania.

MEMBERS SHOULD FREQUENTLY CHECK DOCS & NOTICES SITE

Members and applicants are reminded to make use of the “Documents & Member Notices” section of the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) to find important notices and forms relating to the Union and our industry. There you’ll find hall and operational notices including announcements for upcoming membership meetings that may require a registration period. If a Union hall is closed for a national or local holiday, that information will be reflected in this section. You might want to double-check the site before making a hall visit. COVID-19 updates and NMC/Coast Guard notices are posted as well including REC information and Marine Safety Information Bulletins.

In addition, you’ll find application forms for Deep-Sea, Government Fleet and the various bargaining units. Also posted are Group Seniority Card application forms, Sailing Time Verification & Transmittal forms and Change of Bargaining Unit Affiliation forms. In addition, the M.E.B.A. By-Laws, Constitution and Shipping Rules are there as well as many other important documents including the Recommendation Form - (Reminder: *two recommendation letters are needed from a Senior officer who sailed with the Applicant for at least 60 days.*)

Please make it a habit to get familiar with this web page. To get there, go to the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org), scroll down and click on the large “Documents & Member Notices” box on the right side of the main page.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – ALL *REGULAR* MEETINGS ARE IN-PERSON

(All times are local)

Monday, July 5 – Independence Day Observed (*All Halls Closed*)

Tuesday, July 6 – Bloody Thursday (*West Coast Halls Closed*) - **Boston@1200; CMES@1430;**
Charleston@1400; Houston@1315;

Wednesday, July 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle-Fife@1300; Online Headquarters “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No voting) – You can register for the 7/7 HQ meeting at mebahq@mebaunion.org – provide your details)

Thursday, July 8 – L.A.-San Pedro@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, July 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 demonstrated 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 (and to send photos & hot news tips) contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org. Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.