

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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SUPREME COURT'S ANTI-UNION RULING CONDEMNED

In a victory for President Trump against labor unions, the Supreme Court has ruled that public sector unions cannot require the payment of agency or "fair share" fees from non-members. However, those same non-members can continue to benefit from higher negotiated wages, benefits and working conditions in unionized workplaces.

The 5-4 decision in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* included votes in the affirmative from each of the Conservative Justices including the newest Justice Neil Gorsuch and the retiring Anthony Kennedy.

In a withering dissent delivered from the bench, Justice Elena Kagan derided those Justices voting in the affirmative as "black-robed rulers overriding citizens' choices."

"There is no sugarcoating today's opinion," Kagan continued. "The majority overthrows a decision entrenched in this Nation's law—and in its economic life—for over 40 years. As a result, it prevents the American people, acting through their state and local officials, from making important choices about workplace governance." She said the decision weaponizes the First Amendment "in a way that unleashes judges, now and in the future, to intervene in economic and regulatory policy."

Unions were quick to issue statements condemning the egregious court ruling. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said the Court "has conceded to the dark web of corporations and wealthy donors who wish to take away the freedoms of working people. Until it is overturned, this decision will be a political stain on what is intended to be the most honorable, independent body in the world. But more importantly, it will further empower the corporate elites in their efforts to thwart the aspirations of millions of working people standing together for a better life."

United Steelworkers (USW) President Leo W. Gerard said the decision "could trigger a downward spiral in union membership and finances, which is exactly what Janus' backers hope will happen. Make no mistake, this case was an attack on unions, working people and the causes that the labor movement fights for every day.

"This assault on workers was financed by conservative, right-wing billionaires and the organizations they support, including the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, to undermine the labor movement and the quality family-sustaining jobs that have developed over decades of collective

bargaining...Now that the anti-union movement has gotten its way in the Janus case, the next likely step for Republicans and the conservative rich is to propose a national right-to-work (for less) law.”

ILA President Harold Daggett said that workers’ voices “will not be silenced by this horrible decision...The ILA remains confident that all unions will use this decision as a rallying point to fight for quality, family-sustaining jobs that are the result of many years of sacrifices, organizing and collective bargaining.”

AFSCME President Lee Saunders said that, “Unions will always be the most effective force and vehicle to propel working people into the middle class. Despite this unprecedented and nefarious political attack – designed to further rig the rules against working people -- nothing changes the fact that America needs unions now more than ever. We are more resolved than ever to fight like hell to win for our members and the communities they care so much about.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES MARITIME SAFETY BILL

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee has okayed a maritime safety bill drafted to address concerns in the wake of the fatal EL FARO sinking in 2015.

H.R. 6175 requires the Coast Guard ensure proper vessel inspections are undertaken, that vessels and crew have necessary safety equipment and timely weather forecast charts, and that voyage data recorders float free after an accident. The bill was introduced by Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA).

Rep. Hunter noted, “The nation relies on our merchant mariners and the U.S.-flagged ships they sail, and we owe it to them to learn from the lessons of past tragedies. The Maritime Safety Act of 2018 incorporates a number of safety recommendations from the EL FARO tragedy, and I’m confident that it will make great strides in improving the safety of our mariners.”

LT. GEN LYONS EXPECTED TO BE NEXT COMMANDER AT TRANSCOM

Army Lieutenant General Stephen R. Lyons, is expected to be confirmed by the Senate as the next Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command as Gen. Darren McDew steps down from the post later this summer. His confirmation will make him the first ever non-Air Force officer to head up U.S. TRANSCOM.

At a hearing this week, LT. Gen. Lyons received a warm reception from the Senate Armed Services Committee which voiced strong bipartisan admiration for the nominee’s qualifications and abilities to take over the top job at TRANSCOM. Lyons previously served as Deputy Commander at TRANSCOM under both Gen. Paul Selva and briefly under Gen. McDew before his assignment to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Director for Logistics. TRANSCOM is responsible for the global, joint movement of combat units, sustainment cargo, and service member household goods and privately owned vehicles.

Both Generals Selva and McDew proved to be weighty allies to U.S. shipping - each understanding that the military is dependent on the U.S. Merchant Marine to help project U.S. power overseas. LT. Gen. Lyons shares that understanding, has voiced support for programs supporting American mariners and reinvigorating the U.S. Merchant Marine and is an excellent choice to lead U.S. TRANSCOM over the next three years. A confirmation vote before the full U.S. Senate has not yet been scheduled.

MARITIME ACADEMY CADETS POSITIONED TO SERVE AMERICA'S DEFENSE NEEDS

The American Maritime Partnership (AMP) issued congratulations to the more than 1,600 young men and women who graduated from the seven U.S. maritime academies this year, applauding them for their dedication and commitment to pursuing a career that supports the U.S. economy and our nation both in times of peace and war. Retirements in the workforce have led to a shortage of mariners, making this and future classes of cadets all the more important for national security.

“The U.S. Merchant Marine has never been more vital to our nation’s national security and economic prosperity. As a seafaring nation with hundreds of seaports large and small, and thousands of miles of marine highways, canals and waterways, we are grateful for this next generation of licensed mariners to operate and command America’s commercial and military sealift ships,” said Rear Admiral Mark Buzby, Maritime Administrator. “If we are to continue as the number one economy in the world, with the most capable and logistically agile military, we must continue to invest in the maritime industry, and that starts at USMMA and our state maritime academies with the young men and women who are training to become mariners.”

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING WARY OVER ITALY'S POLICY ON MIGRANT RESCUES

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the global trade association, has expressed increasing concern over Italy’s new policy to close its ports to migrants rescued by ships at sea.

The newly installed Italian Government has made headlines by reversing its policy to give safe harbor to distressed migrants fleeing unstable nations. ICS is calling on European Union officials to urgently address this issue so that such rescued persons in Italian waters can be treated consistent with United Nations refugee principles.

“If correct, this refusal by Italy to allow prompt and predictable disembarkation from merchant ships, which are complying with their obligations under maritime law, could have serious humanitarian consequences for the safety and welfare of hundreds if not thousands of distressed people” said ICS Secretary General, Peter Hinchliffe. “If the policy is extended this would also have significant implications for the movement of trade throughout the Mediterranean. But the industry’s immediate concern is humanitarian and for the welfare and dignity of those people that have been rescued and their need to receive proper medical assistance ashore.”

The crisis in the Mediterranean is still far from over, with thousands of migrants still attempting to make the dangerous sea crossing in overcrowded and unseaworthy craft. Shockingly, according to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) a further 3,000 migrants lost their lives during 2017.

AFL-CIO KICKS OFF 2018 VOTER EDUCATION EFFORTS TO HIGHLIGHT WORKING FAMILIES

The AFL-CIO’s Labor 2018 campaign, an aggressive voter education effort leading up to the midterm elections, kicked off this week. With canvasses and phone banks taking place in at least 26 states, thousands of volunteers will have conversations with fellow union members about the issues at stake for working people in November.



Armed with materials blazoned “Issues Matter. Vote Union” and “I’m Union. I Vote,” canvassers will knock doors months earlier than in previous election cycles. Organizers are aiming to deploy a member-driven political program that prioritizes a long-running discussion about working family issues over partisan labels and personality-focused rhetoric.

“We’re unleashing the largest and most strategic member-to-member political program in our history, sparking change by doing what we do best: Talking to each other,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “Street-by-street and person-by-person, we’re having conversations about the issues that matter most: Higher wages, better benefits, time off, a secure retirement and a fair return on our labor. By starting now and putting our agenda first, we’ll be able to cut through the television ad blitz and political noise of October and November.”

LIBERTY PEACE RÉSUMÉS CONTINUE TO BE REQUESTED

The Union is asking for résumés from members and applicants interested in employment on the LIBERTY PEACE to continue to be forwarded to the NY/NJ Union hall. Forward all résumés to M.E.B.A. Atlantic Coast VP Jason Callahan (jcallahan@mebaunion.org) or NY Patrolman Nico Sermoneta (nsermoneta@mebaunion.org) at the NY/NJ M.E.B.A. Union hall so they can ensure the Company receives them.

M.E.B.A. L.A. TAKES PART IN CG COC CEREMONY

On Friday, June 22, 2018 M.E.B.A. LA Branch Agent Rich Doherty was proud and honored to represent the Union at the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach Change of Command ceremony as well as an accompanying retirement ceremony. An overcast sky did nothing to dampen the spirits of the almost 100 people that gathered to watch the COC ceremony and to wish Captain Charlene L. Downey the very best in her retirement after 26 years of service to her country. M.E.B.A. congratulates Captain Downey on her retirement and welcomes Captain Monica L. Rochester in her role as Sector Commander. M.E.B.A. stands ready to assist Captain Rochester on issues of mutual concern. Welcome aboard!”

HALLS, OFFICES CLOSED WEDNESDAY – WEST COAST PORTS OUT ON THURSDAY

M.E.B.A. halls and offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4. In addition, West Coast halls will be shuttered the next day, Thursday, July 5 to observe “Bloody Thursday.” Bloody Thursday commemorates the 1934 longshoremen labor action led by Harry Bridges that culminated in street fighting and clashes with police. Hundreds were injured and several were killed in the riots that came to a head on July 5, 1934. Following a general strike and federal intervention, the longshoremen won a coast-wide contract, union hiring halls, and various improvements to wages and conditions.

As a result of the holiday observances, some of the membership meetings next week are affected. The Jacksonville and New Orleans meetings that normally take place on Wednesday of meeting week will be shifted to Thursday, July 5th at the normal time. The meeting in L.A., normally on Thursday of meeting week, will take place on Friday, July 6th at the normal time.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, July 2 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, July 3 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, July 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY – *All Halls Closed*

Thursday, July 5 – BLOODY THURSDAY - *West Coast Halls Closed* – Meetings: Jacksonville@1300;

New Orleans@1315; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, July 6 – Honolulu@1100; L.A.@1230;

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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