

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*



## M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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### **SENATE COMPANION BILL TO "ENERGIZING AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING ACT"**

Senator Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) has introduced a Senate version of the "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act," legislation requiring a percentage of exported American crude oil and LNG to travel on U.S.-built and U.S.-flag ships.

The bill, S. 2916, is the companion to the Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)-led effort in the House – H.R. 5893. Sen. Wicker is the Chairman of the Senate Seapower Subcommittee and a member of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security.

The bills would require that 2% of LNG exports travel on U.S.-built vessels by 2024 ramping up to 15% in 2040. Crude exports would travel on U.S.-built ships beginning at 1% in 2023 ramping up to 10% in 2032. The bills also provide for training opportunities for U.S. mariners to ensure their readiness for these future job opportunities.

"The domestic maritime industry supports hundreds of thousands of American jobs and is critical to our military readiness and national security," said Sen. Wicker. "This bill would strengthen our shipbuilding industry and would recognize the importance of having more American-flagged ships to transport our growing exports of oil and natural gas. China, India, and other nations are investing heavily in their shipbuilding capacity. The United States must keep up."

"Rebuilding America's shipbuilding and mariner base is an idea that unites Democrats, Republicans, metallurgical trades, the business community, labor, and our armed forces," said Rep. Garamendi. "These industries are not only vital to our economy—they're vital to our country's national security. Congress has neglected our maritime industry for too long, to the point that we're now several dozen merchant ships and 1,800 mariners short of what's needed to guarantee sufficient sealift support in times of crisis. This bill seeks to turn the ship around by taking advantage of America's energy export boom to bring back American shipbuilding, shipyard, and mariner jobs rather than continuing to outsource them to countries like China. I believe this bill is the start of a long-term reinvestment in the idea of America as a maritime, seafaring nation."

You can visit a Navy League weblink to voice your support for the legislation to your Congressional delegation. It'll take less than two minutes - visit <https://tinyurl.com/shipletter> and help drum up support for this positive initiative.

## **ILA CLOSES IN ON NEW SIX-YEAR CONTRACT**

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) reached a tentative agreement on a new six-year master contract, subject to ratification by ILA members as well as by USMX membership. The current ILA-USMX contract expires at the end of September.

"We have reached a tentative agreement on a six-year master contract that is beneficial to both sides," said Harold J. Daggett, ILA President and David F. Adam, Chairman of USMX.

Some 200 ILA wage scale delegates unanimously approved the terms of the new agreement, following two-days of negotiations in Delray Beach, Florida. The agreement culminates months of tough negotiations between the parties. Both sides hailed the agreement that was reached months ahead of the current pact's expiration. The two sides encouraged local ILA and management groups to finalize local agreements by July 10, 2018, prior to full membership ratification votes by the ILA rank-and-file members and USMX. Details of the tentative agreement were not made available.

## **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](mailto:jcallahan@mebaunion.org)) or NY Patrolman Nico Sermoneta ([nsermoneta@mebaunion.org](mailto:nsermoneta@mebaunion.org)) at the NY/NJ M.E.B.A. Union hall so they can ensure the Company receives them.

## **SCHULTZ SUCCEEDS ZUKUNFT AT COAST GUARD**

Vice Adm. Karl Schultz took over the reins as the new Coast Guard Commandant following a change of command ceremony last Friday. The new Commandant takes over from Adm. Paul Zukunft who concludes more than 40 years with the Coast Guard including the last four as Commandant.

VAdm. Schultz formerly served as the head of the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area as well as Commander, Defense Force East, providing Coast Guard mission support to the Department of Defense and Combatant Commanders. He was also Director, DHS Joint Task Force East, responsible for achieving the objectives of the DHS Southern Border, including addressing threats posed by transnational criminal organizations. The President, Vice President, and several cabinet members attended the change of command ceremony.

## **LAWSUIT OVER TRUMP ORDER TO WHITTLE AWAY UNION RIGHTS**

Transportation unions including the M.E.B.A. are broadcasting their support for the American Federation of Government Employees as AFGE filed a suit against the White House Executive Order denying workers their legal right to representation at the worksite.

On May 25, President Trump signed three executive orders that chip away at due process and collective bargaining rights for federal employees. A third executive order, which impedes employee representation at the job site, is the focus of the AFGE lawsuit. The order seeks to rewrite portions of the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute, which governs labor relations in the federal civilian workplace. In particular, the order seeks to restrict 'official time' – the hours federal employees who are union volunteers use for legally mandated representation of their coworkers in the workplace, such as filing a grievance on retaliation or unfair termination.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, challenges the executive order as violating the right to freedom of association guaranteed by the First Amendment, and as exceeding the president's authority under the Constitution of the United States.

Larry Willis, President of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), said the Executive Orders “are nothing more than a bald-faced attack on the rights of working people to have a say on what goes on in their workplaces. Transportation labor stands with AFGE in their efforts to fight back against this cruel and illegal attack, and ensure all workers’ voices are protected and heard. Government employees — including the thousands of workers who support our nation’s transportation system — have a legal right to union representation and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.”

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.

### **ISSUANCE OF NEW NMC CG-719 SERIES “APPLICATION” FORMS**

The National Maritime Center has announced it is switching to a series of new OMB-approved CG-719 forms which will replace all previous versions.

These new forms may be obtained electronically in a PDF fillable format at the Coast Guard’s National Maritime Center (NMC) website [www.uscg.mil/nmc](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc). The Coast Guard will not stock the CG-719 series of forms in paper format. A transition period has been established which will provide mariners the flexibility to apply for a credential using both the old or new forms as they adapt to the new formats. After December 31, 2018, the NMC will no longer accept previous form versions.

If you have any questions or concerns, visit the NMC website or contact the NMC Customer Service Center by e-mailing [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil), by using the NMC online chat system, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

### **USMMA SUPERINTENDENT SOUGHT**

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is searching for a new Superintendent following the departure of Rear Admiral James Helis for his new job with the Maritime Administration as a Special Assistant to the Administrator.

The Superintendent position is open to the public. The application process involves résumés only. Within the résumé, you should address all the Executive Core Qualifications (ECQs) and technical qualifications found in the job listing which can be accessed at [www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/501522700#locations](http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/501522700#locations). Application packages must be received online no later than 11:59 pm EST on July 5, 2018.

### **UNION PLUS TRAVEL TOURS**

The M.E.B.A. family can now take advantage of Union Plus vacation tours allowing terrific discounts on escorted tours and river cruises in countries around the world.

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 M.E.B.A. is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts.

M.E.B.A. recently signed up for Travel Tour discounts which went into effect on June 1. It provides six seasonal offers ranging from \$100 to \$500 per person savings on selected tours and departure dates and provides a benefit of \$50 to \$100 off any tour which can be combined with seasonal offers.

To access the Union Plus discounts, members may contact Collette, the service provider, directly at (844) 868-2685 or through the Union Plus website's program page ([www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org)). The call center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The website can be visited at <https://tinyurl.com/uniontravel>

You'll receive a program code through Union Plus that you can use when booking travel through your local travel agent. Once the agent enters the code into the booking record, you'll receive the Union Plus discounts.

### **WEST COAST CLOSED ON MONDAY IN HONOR OF WARRIOR KING**

M.E.B.A.'s West Coast halls will be closed on Monday (in a contractual holiday) in tribute to one of the great Hawaiian kings. King Kamehameha I Day honors the chief of the Big Island district who, through conquest, united the eight major islands of Hawaii under his rule in the early 1800s. Kamehameha became chief of the Big Island district in 1791 after vanquishing his island enemies in a series of bloody civil wars. His cause was aided in part by a timely eruption of Mt. Kilauea which covered a third of the enemy's forces in lava. This event was considered a sign that the fire goddess Pele favored him. As the Big Island ruler, Kamehameha, which translates to "The Lonely One," immediately began his systematic conquest of the Hawaiian Islands which fell one by one to his war machine. In 1810, in the face of a massive invasion and certain defeat, the king of Kauai came groveling to Kamehameha and pledged his loyalty. This triggered the eight major islands of Hawaii to finally unite under one ruler – King Kamehameha I. Kamehameha was a wise and popular peacetime king who helped rebuild battle-torn Hawaii while promoting trade and fostering the agriculture of what would become our 50<sup>th</sup> state. All hail Kamehameha!

### **PAYMENT PORTAL FOR DUES, P.A.F., G&W**

The payment portal accessed from M.E.B.A.'s homepage ([www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org)) allows members and applicants ease when making a dues or service charge payment and to assist the P.A.F. and Good & Welfare funds. Payments can be made by credit card, debit card or through a checking account. A recurring payment option is also available on the portal enabling automatic quarterly payments so members can "set it and forget it" and always stay current. You simply check the "Recurring Billing" box that appears at the top of the page when you're filling out your information to enable automatic quarterly payments. This feature is also available to support the Good & Welfare and the Political Action Fund on a monthly basis. P.A.F. is crucial for keeping U.S. shipping and the Union's interests viable in the halls of Congress.

### **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](http://www.mebaplans.org) (Forms & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or [vacation@mebaplans.org](mailto:vacation@mebaplans.org) for more info.

**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 – *HALLS CLOSED*

Thursday, July 5 – 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](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)*