

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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



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

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### **COAST GUARD WARNING ON COMMERCIAL VESSEL CYBER-ATTACKS**

The U.S. Coast Guard has issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin to warn the industry about attempts to compromise commercial shipping through email phishing and malware intrusion.

Such cyber-attacks, they say, are aimed at stealing critical shipping information including the content of an official Notice of Arrival (NOA) using email addresses that pose as an official Port State Control (PSC) authority such as: [port@psc.gov](mailto:port@psc.gov). Additionally, the Coast Guard has received reports of malicious software designed to disrupt shipboard computer systems.

As a reminder, suspicious activity and breaches of security must be reported to the Coast Guard National Response Center (NRC) at (800) 424-8802. For cyber attempts/attacks that do not impact the operating condition of the vessel or result in a pollution incident, owners or operators may alternatively report to the 24/7 National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) at (888) 282-0870.

Questions related to the Coast Guard Bulletin, which has also been posted on the M.E.B.A. website, can be directed to the Coast Guard Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance's Port State Control Division at [PortStateControl@uscg.mil](mailto:PortStateControl@uscg.mil)

### **ITF EXPRESSES CONCERNS OVER TANKER SABOTAGE**

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) has voiced outrage and dire concern following the apparent sabotage of four vessels off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the Gulf of Oman.

Saudi oil tankers AL-MARZOQAH and AMJAD sustained structural damage in apparent explosions at the waterline around 6 a.m. local time on May 12. Norwegian tanker ANDREA VICTORY and the UAE-flagged bunkering barge A MICHEL were also apparently struck by some type of weapon, which has not yet been publicly identified. There were no crew casualties in the incidents and no oil spillage was reported.

The incidents come at a time of growing tension in the region. The U.S. recently decided to end exemptions from sanctions for major importers of Iranian oil, and deployed warships to the region. Iran has also threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz in the case of a military confrontation with the US.

U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton alleged that the attacks were carried out by Iran using "naval mines." An Iranian spokesperson called the accusation "ridiculous."

Dave Heindel, chair of the ITF seafarers' section, expressed the ITF's concern at the escalating friction in the region. "Clearly our priority is the seafarers aboard these vessels; seafaring is challenging and dangerous enough on any given day without adding the threat of terrorism into the picture. Any risk to seafarers' safety is of grave concern." He said that the ITF urged all governments "to do everything possible to de-escalate the situation and ensure safe navigation and the security of maritime traffic in the region".

M.E.B.A. is part of the ITF which represents 18.5 million workers worldwide.

### **MEMBERS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS NEXT WEEK**

With several important issues on the meeting agenda that demand attention, members are strongly urged to attend one of the thirteen June membership meetings taking place next week (June 3-7).

As a Union committed to democratic precepts and safeguards, membership meetings are a great way for members, applicants and retirees to stay involved, get informed, and deliver input to help advance the business of the Union. There is another full agenda that will benefit from healthy meeting attendance and participation. In addition, members will vote to both approve qualified applicants into membership and drop those members and applicants who are two or more years in arrears.

Take a look at the upcoming June meeting schedule that appears at the bottom of this issue and see what works for you!

### **STUDY TRUMPETS BENEFIT OF JONES ACT ON ALASKA, WASHINGTON STATE**

A recent study casting a spotlight on the effects of the Jones Act has found that, among many other states, Alaska and Washington State have enjoyed huge economic and job creation benefits because of the 1920 statute. The study was conducted on behalf of the Transportation Institute, a research education association that helps promote our industry.

Overall, the study points out that the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, more commonly known as the Jones Act, has enabled more than 650,000 current jobs for Americans nation-wide contributing \$154 billion to annual economic growth. But zooming in on the report to focus on specific states, it finds that the domestic maritime industry within the 49<sup>th</sup> state generates \$469 million in worker income in Alaska alone and employs 6,500 individuals, translating into \$1.98 billion for the local economy. In the State of Washington, the industry employs more than 22,500 individuals, produces \$6.12 billion for the local economy, and generates more than \$1.5 billion in worker income.

When examined regionally, the industry gainfully employs over 37,590 individuals and generates over \$2.5 billion in worker income, with nearly \$10 billion produced for the Pacific Northwest regional economy.

At a breakfast during the recent Seattle Maritime Festival, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) lauded the Jones Act's effects on her state, in remarks after being honored for her support of the industry. "The Jones Act is a juggernaut when it comes to helping us," she noted, "and we are not talking about

a relic, but a key tool in growing our economy for the future. As shown in this report, the Jones Act has created 22,000 jobs here in Washington State, a 34% increase since the last report in 2014.”

Alaska lawmakers also made mention of the study’s findings and praised the beneficial effects of the Jones Act. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) said, “The Jones Act protects our homeland, ensuring that in times of dispute, Alaska and other states across our country will not be caught in the crossfire and held hostage by foreign flagged vessels.”

Longtime industry supporter Congressman Don Young (R-AK) said, “Simply put, the Jones Act is critical to maintaining a strong maritime workforce and ensuring the U.S. has shipbuilding capabilities that can keep pace with our competitors. This study is further proof of its immense success and the importance of protecting the Jones Act. For the sake of our maritime industry, our jobs, and national security, we must continue to support the Jones Act for years to come.”

### **CAN’T DEAL WITH THE NEW FORMAT?**

As you may have noticed, we have altered our delivery service for the weekly newsletter resulting in a new look for the *Telex Times*. For us, this has been a more efficient, organized system, but it may not be perfect for all. If you have problems with the new format and prefer to receive the newsletter the old way - in an attached pdf, let us know and we’ll add your email address to a separate list. You can email Marco C. at [marco@mebaunion.org](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org)

### **SUPPORT FOR DELTA AIR WORKERS**

Transport unions across the U.S. are joining forces to back the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) in its campaign to organize Delta Air Lines. Following endorsements from ITF affiliates in North America, the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) became the latest union to publicly support the campaign. President Joseph DePete wrote to his IAM counterpart, Robert Martinez, expressing the solidarity of Delta’s already-unionized pilots with the ground and cabin crew now seeking union representation.

The campaign has already received a strong boost from the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers Union (TWU) and Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA). APFA national president Lori Bassani spoke in support of the campaign at IAM’s recent transportation conference in Las Vegas, as did AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka and ITF general secretary Stephen Cotton.

ITF and its affiliates worldwide are supporting the campaign by meeting Delta cabin crew on their international layovers and sharing their experiences of improving aviation companies through unionization. You can find out more about the campaign at <https://tinyurl.com/y54ruzg5>

### **M.E.B.A.-CREWED MSC SHIP SUPPORTS NORTHERN EDGE 2019**

Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS HENRY J. KAISER (T-AO 187) recently wrapped up support of the joint training exercise, Northern Edge 2019, in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex. KAISER has provided logistics services to Navy ships participating in the exercise with 179 pallets of food and provisions delivered via replenishment at sea. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC’s Civilian Mariner fleet.

Alaska’s strategic location is vital to maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Being able to conduct cargo operations in Seward allows MSC and its ships to provide much needed supplies to ships conducting operations in the area, or passing through to other theaters of operation.

Northern Edge, which ran from May 13-24, is one in a series of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command exercises in 2019 that prepares joint forces to respond to crises in the Indo-Pacific.

### **RAFFLE BENEFITING THE G&W FUND – GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

You should purchase tickets now for an ongoing raffle benefiting the Good & Welfare Fund. A 50/50 Raffle to help strengthen the fund is open to anyone who wants to purchase a ticket. The drawing will be held on October 8<sup>th</sup> to take place at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School during the regular membership meeting.

5,000 tickets were printed and sent out to the Union halls as well as the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School. They are being sold for \$2 apiece. Anyone purchasing \$50 worth of tickets will be mailed an M.E.B.A. T-shirt. Those who purchase \$100 worth of tickets will earn both a shirt and an M.E.B.A. hat. \$50 and \$100 purchasers will also receive M.E.B.A. pins.

The raffle winner will receive 50% of the proceeds (*as much as \$5,000!!*) with the other half going to the Fund. Ticketholders do not need to be present at the drawing to win. Every ticket that you buy puts another dollar into the Good & Welfare Fund.

M.E.B.A. members are encouraged to support this important cause. The Good & Welfare Fund assists active and retired members and their families in times of crisis. It helps remove some of the sting and burden of unexpected tragedy and lends a hand to those within the M.E.B.A. family. This is a wonderful cause, but we must constantly strengthen the fund to allow additional assistance to members and retirees in times of hardship. The G&W Fund is exempt from Federal Income tax, so consider making a contribution. In addition, you can support the Fund on the M.E.B.A.'s electronic payment portal that is also used to pay dues and service charges as well as contribute to the Political Action Fund. Visit [www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org) to access the portal.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

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

Tuesday, June 4 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**

Wednesday, June 5 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

Thursday, June 6 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

Friday, June 7 – **Honolulu@1100.**

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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) Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*