

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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



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

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### **NEW FACES IN CONGRESS SUPPORTING WORKING PEOPLE**

The AFL-CIO highlighted some of the labor-friendly lawmakers coming to Congress that will go to bat for working men and women across the country. Already, the election losses of union-bashing gubernatorial candidates such as Scott Walker in Wisconsin, Bill Schuette in Michigan, Bruce Rauner in Illinois and Kris Kobach in Kansas is evidence that the tide may be turning against labor-hating politicians. From teachers to waitresses, some of our newly elected leaders come from a variety of unions and industries. Meet a few of them below:

- U.S. Sen.-elect Jacky Rosen (UNITE HERE) waited tables in Las Vegas before becoming a computer programmer and software developer. She supports a \$15 minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, and investments in vocational training and apprenticeship programs.
- Gov.-elect Tony Evers (NEA) served Wisconsin as an education leader at every level before his election to the state's highest educational post. He ran on a platform to invest in public school education, as well as to protect and expand quality, affordable health care.
- Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer (AFT) comes from a long line of educators in Michigan and has fought to protect teachers and students from unnecessary cuts to education. She has a plan to fix Michigan's roads, bridges and highways and clean up the state's drinking water.
- Gov.-elect Tim Walz (Education Minnesota) was a longtime teacher in Minnesota before becoming a congressman who fought to invest in students and create good-paying jobs. He supports raising the minimum wage and opposes "right to work."
- U.S. Rep.-elect Jahana Hayes (CEA and AFSA) will represent Connecticut's 5th District. As the 2016 National Teacher of the Year, she supports making college more affordable and equal pay for equal work. With her win, Rep.-elect Hayes is the first African American woman to represent Connecticut in Congress.

•U.S. Rep.-elect Ilhan Omar (AFSCME) will represent Minnesota’s 5th District. As a state representative, she fought to improve public housing and pass a \$15 minimum wage in Minneapolis. Rep.-elect Omar is the first Somali immigrant—and the first Muslim woman—to be elected to the U.S. House.

### **COAST GUARD WANTS MEDICAL MANUAL INPUT**

The Coast Guard has announced that it is seeking public comment on its draft Merchant Mariner Medical Manual that provides guidance for seafarers to meet medical certificate requirements. Among other things, it includes procedures for application, issuance, and cancellation of the medical certificate.

Comments must be submitted to the online docket, USCG-2018-0041, via <http://www.regulations.gov>, on or before Jan. 14, 2019. For information about this document call or email Adrienne Buggs, M.D., United States Coast Guard, Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing; telephone: 202-372-2357, email: [MMCPolicy@uscg.mil](mailto:MMCPolicy@uscg.mil).

### **HANDY REMINDER ON MMCs AND TWIC ENROLLMENT**

Mariners applying for a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) must list their occupation as “Merchant Mariner” on their Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) applications. The United States Coast Guard relies on data provided by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) when evaluating MMC applications.

Personal data supplied to TSA must match what is provided to the Coast Guard on the MMC application. If a TWIC applicant does not list his or her occupation as Merchant Mariner, the Coast Guard cannot reconcile the data provided by the TSA. In such cases, mariners may be asked to work with TSA to update information, which could result in MMC application issuance delays. To begin the application process for a TWIC, visit the TSA TWIC enrollment website at [www.tsa.gov/for-industry/twic](http://www.tsa.gov/for-industry/twic)

### **CIVILIAN MARINERS HONORED AT AOTOS AWARD CEREMONY**

The maritime industry honored three new recipients of the annual Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) honors at a ceremony recently and additionally recognized mariners who distinguished themselves during rescues and high-profile vessel missions. Congratulations to the three maritime industry advocates who received the AOTOS statuette at the United Seamen’s Service (USS) event that took place in New York City on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Honorees included Hapag-Lloyd USA President and CEO Tony Bruno, American Maritime Officers President Paul Doell and ARC Group Chairman Raymond Fitzgerald.

Of note, selected American seafarers received recognition for acts of bravery and heroism at sea. The crew of the USNS TRENTON were presented with the AOTOS Mariners Plaque for their rescue of African migrants on June 12<sup>th</sup>. While conducting routine operations 20 nautical miles off the coast of Libya, the M.E.B.A.-crewed Military Sealift Command high-speed ferry came across the migrants who were struggling to stay above water after the loss of their vessel. 41 were rescued and brought onboard the TRENTON.

Officers and crew on another MSC Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessel, the M.E.B.A.-crewed USNS YUMA, was singled out for an AOTOS Mariner’s Rosette for their winning efforts in helping the vessel persevere through a treacherous squall. In particular, Third Mate Mark Goodwin was praised

for his actions in averting disaster and helping the vessel escape unscathed from the savagery of the storm.

Officers and crew on the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS MERCY received special recognition for their Pacific Partnership humanitarian deployment to Southeast Asia earlier this year.

MSC Commander Rear Adm. Dee Mewbourne praised the MERCY crew and noted that the ship served as the centerpiece for the Pacific Partnership mission, “making port calls in five Asian countries while partnering with 8,000 host nation personnel to conduct 546 medical events.”

MERCY is currently on station in San Diego, CA in reduced operating status, training and planning for its next mission.

### **M.E.B.A. COMPANIES & VESSELS RECEIVE CSA ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS**

The Chamber of Shipping of America (CSA) has awarded Certificates of Environmental Achievement to 1,730 ships and vessels that achieved environmental excellence for at least a two-year period. The average number of years operating without incident for ships and vessels that received awards is 8.1 years. 267 of the vessels have logged sixteen or more years of environmental excellence. Many M.E.B.A. crewed vessels and contracted companies received awards including Alaska Tanker Company, Chevron Shipping, Foss, Hapag/MTL, Keystone Shipping Co., Matson Navigation, OSG Ship Management, Pasha/Sunrise, and Patriot Contract Services.

Kathy Metcalf, CSA President said, “These awards celebrate the dedication to environmental excellence of our seafarers and the company personnel shore-side who operate our vessels to the highest standards. In today’s world, it seems our industry only gets front-page news when spills or other environmental problems occur. It is encouraging to see how many vessels go for years achieving environmental excellence. It should be clear to the American public that we in the maritime industry take our stewardship of the marine environment very seriously. Safe and environmentally responsible operations is a culture fully embraced by the maritime industry as a whole and as evidenced by the performances of the award recipients recognized tonight.”

### **AUSTAL CHRISTENS LATEST MSC HIGH-SPEED FERRY**

The latest Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessel bound for the Military Sealift Command fleet was christened on Saturday at the Austal USA facility in Mobile, AL. The USNS PUERTO RICO is the eleventh of 12 EPFs in the program. The Spearhead-class EPFs have proven to be workhorse vessels deployed on high-profile missions around the world. Formerly known as Joint High Speed Vessels (JHSV), the EPFs are versatile, non-combatant, transport ships used for fast intra-theater transportation of troops, military vehicles, and equipment. They have the capability to carry out a wide range of operations, including non-combatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor served as the ship’s sponsor and, in a time-honored Navy tradition, she christened the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow. Crews of the Military Sealift Command EPF fleet are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

### **M.E.B.A.-CREWED MSC SHIP PART OF EFFORT TO RECOVER OIL FROM WWII CAPSIZED GERMAN CRUISER**

An M.E.B.A.-crewed Military Sealift Command rescue and salvage ship took part in a successful mission to remove 229,000 gallons of oil from the sunken World War II German vessel PRINZ EUGEN in the Kwajalein Atoll. The USNS SALVOR supported the mission which involved two

years of research and planning to prepare for the oil removal from the heavy cruiser warship. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC's Civilian Mariner fleet.

The oil tanker vessel HUMBER along with the USNS SALVOR were positioned directly above the ex-Prinz Eugen in order to effectively conduct the oil removal. This task was challenging because of the close proximity of the wreck to the neighboring shoreline which would not allow the ships to drop the shoreward anchors due to shallow depth. Each oil filled, accessible tank was hot tapped, pumped free of recoverable oil, and sealed with a permanent, tamper-proof dome assembly to prevent any subsequent leakage of residual oil clingage left in the tank. These actions ensured that the wreck, a popular dive site, is safe for continued recreational diving and the Atoll is safe from the risk of significant oil spill from ex-PRINZ EUGEN.

### **DIC IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Applicants who submit the requisite amount of sea time to Headquarters and have otherwise fulfilled the needed requirements as stated in the application packet they signed, may be eligible for membership as soon as this December. Applicants should know that membership doesn't happen automatically and they are responsible for providing their local Union hall/Headquarters with the documentation demonstrating their fulfillment of the application requirements.

M.E.B.A. Headquarters does not, and cannot, update an Applicant's record with sailing time unless that Applicant submits the required paperwork, i.e. discharges, sea service letters, documentation of employment, to HQ, by e-mail, fax, or mail or via your local Union hall.

M.E.B.A.'s District Investigating Committee (DIC) meets twice a year to consider Applicants for membership. To make membership, an Applicant needs the required sailing days or specified years of employment with a particular bargaining unit, must be current with service charges and must complete other necessary requirements which may include an initiation fee and/or letters of recommendation.

The DIC is scheduled to meet as soon as next week and will review candidates for membership at that time. *Applicants who have fulfilled the necessary requirements need to get their information into Headquarters immediately so they can be included on the upcoming DIC Report and make membership in early December.*

Using the addresses on file with Headquarters, the Membership Department sends a letter **each year** to all Applicants who have at least two years under their belt with the Union. The letter details the remaining steps that particular Applicant needs to complete in order to be accepted into membership by the District Investigating Committee. The DIC meets shortly before the issuance of their reports that are usually issued in June and December. Following their issuance, the DIC reports are put before members at the regular meetings and if passed, the listed applicants are officially christened into membership.

For further information you can visit your local Union hall or contact the Membership Department (202-638-5355 or [membership@mebaunion.org](mailto:membership@mebaunion.org)) at M.E.B.A. Headquarters.

### **THOSE IN DUES ARREARS SET TO BE DROPPED IN DECEMBER**

Members or applicants two or more years in arrears on their dues or service charges will be DROPPED from the membership or applicant rolls. The District Investigating Committee (DIC) is making its review and will issue their drop list in early December. If you are in arrears and desire to

retain your membership or applicant status, you must contact Headquarters immediately to make payment on your arrearage and return to good standing. Members and applicants can make payments online in a secure manner. Visit the M.E.B.A. homepage at [www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org).

### **UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO WITH HQ**

Be sure to inform Headquarters if you have changed your contact information. There is an address change form on our website to help expedite the process. It can be found at [www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org) under the “Members” tab or in the “Documents & Notices” section. Alternatively, you can send your updated information to Doris Fitzgerald at HQ by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail at [membership@mebaunion.org](mailto:membership@mebaunion.org). Since the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore and Headquarters databases are NOT linked, you must also forward a signed change of address form to the Plans Office if you wish to update your information with them.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Monday, December 3 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**  
Tuesday, December 4 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**  
Wednesday, December 5 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**  
Thursday, December 6 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**  
Friday, December 7 – **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 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)*