

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 TALKS FOR FIRST CONTRACT WITH HORNBLOWER

M.E.B.A. continued talks with Hornblower last Thursday at a bargaining session in New York City in another step toward a first contract covering Captains serving in the NYC Ferry fleet. As members know, M.E.B.A. won the right to serve as the collective bargaining agent for approximately 42 NYC Ferry Captains. The Hornblower-operated HNY Ferry, doing business as NYC Ferry, has a 23-vessel fleet on six New York City routes connecting locations in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. The company is still appealing a National Labor Relations Board ruling that denied the company's contention that Captains in the NYC Ferry fleet should be classified as "supervisors."

Hornblower is a traditionally non-union company and our new members in the unit are asked to remain patient as talks progress in these "first contract" negotiations. We are looking to build a cohesive working relationship with the company that will help the ferry unit thrive well into the future.

APPLICANTS SEEKING MEMBERSHIP MUST FORWARD DOCUMENTATION IMMEDIATELY – OR WAIT SIX MONTHS

Qualified applicants trying to make membership in December must make sure they provide Headquarters with required documentation immediately to ensure their inclusion on the next District Investigating Committee (DIC) report. The DIC meets twice a year to review applicants for membership and are finalizing their report that will be voted upon by members in the week of December 2nd during the regular membership meetings. 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.

Applicants should know that they are responsible for providing their local Union hall/Headquarters with the documentation demonstrating their fulfillment of the application requirements. Once they submit the requisite amount of sea time (or documented years of service) to Headquarters and have otherwise fulfilled the needed requirements as stated in the application packet they signed, they may be eligible for membership.

The DIC is currently reviewing candidates for membership and there's not much time for qualified applicants to forward the necessary documentation to Headquarters to ensure their inclusion on the

report. Applicants who have fulfilled the necessary requirements should forward their information to Headquarters IMMEDIATELY. Without quick action, qualified applicants would likely need to wait another six months – until the June report – to make membership.

The names of the qualified applicants that appear in the December report will be voted upon at the December meetings. If the report is passed, listed applicants will be accepted into membership and notice will be sent out to those newly anointed members.

M.E.B.A. Headquarters does not, and cannot, update an Applicant's record with sailing time/years of service 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. For further information you can visit your local Union hall or contact the HQ Membership Department at (202) 638-5355 or membership@mebaunion.org.

APPLICANTS/MEMBERS IN DUES ARREARS WILL BE DROPPED WITHOUT QUICK ACTION

Members or applicants two or more years in arrears on their dues or service charges will be DROPPED from the membership or applicant rolls in the first week of December if quick action is not taken. The District Investigating Committee (DIC) is making its twice-a-year review and will issue their drop list at the membership meetings beginning on December 2nd.

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. Next week is a short week as halls and offices are closed on Thursday and Friday. Members and applicants can make payments online in a secure manner. Visit the M.E.B.A. homepage at www.mebaunion.org.

1st of 3 NEWBUILD S.I. FERRIES IS LAUNCHED

The first of three newbuild Staten Island ferry boats will join the fleet in New York Harbor next summer as Eastern Shipbuilding unveiled the 320-foot SSG MICHAEL H. OLLIS at a recent launch ceremony in Panama City, Florida. The three-boat Ollis-class Staten Island ferries are named after Army Staff Sgt. Michael H. Ollis, a Staten Island native, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2013 while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. The 24-year old Ollis protected others by voluntarily absorbing the brunt of the explosion leveled by an insurgent wearing a suicide-vest at an Operating Base in Afghanistan. He was only 24 years old.

Last October's Hurricane Michael caused damage at Eastern Shipbuilding's Florida shipyard and threw off the delivery schedule of the S.I. Ferry newbuilds. The OLLIS had originally been set to debut this fall. Delivery is now expected by summer of 2020. The SANDY GROUND is the next boat in the Ollis-class and is currently under construction. The third hull has yet to be named.

The three Ollis Class double-ended 4,500 passenger ferries feature four ABS Electro-Motive Diesel (EMD) 12-710 @ 900 rpm EPA Tier 4 marine propulsion engines with two engines powering one ABS Reintjes DUP 3000 P combining gear and one ABS 36 RV6 ECS/285-2 Voith Schneider Propeller at each end of the vessel. Power generation is provided by three ABS, EPA Tier 3 marine continuous duty diesel generator sets, Caterpillar C18 driving 480 V, 60 Hz, 3-phase generators rated at 425 kW at 0.8 P.F. @ 1800 rpm.

MARITIME LABOR ALLIANCE ISSUES SUPPORT FOR STRIKING ATU WORKERS

The Maritime Labor Alliance issued a letter of solidarity for Amalgamated Transit Union workers who are being minimized by a Washington DC-area transport operator. Transit workers, represented by Northern Virginia's ATU Local 689 are striking at the Cinder Bed Bus Garage that serves the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the public transit system for the Washington, D.C. area.

MLA is made up of the ARA, IBU, ILWU, M.E.B.A. and the MM&P. The letter issued last week noted, "It is shameful that Transdev and WMATA have created a two-tier workforce in which Cinder Bed workers receive significantly lower wages and almost non-existent benefits in comparison to other Metrobus workers. Transdev is notorious in the industry for pursuing profit at the expense of safety, service and workers' rights, and this is another appalling example of their nefarious exploits." The letter has been posted on the M.E.B.A. website accessed at www.mebaunion.org

President Raymond Jackson leads the Local as they fight for wages comparable to other WMATA workers, improved safety and more secure benefits. ATU International President John Costa explained, "Transdev and WMATA cut corners at every turn with the Cinder Bed facility. These workers are toiling at far lower hourly wages than their public sector Metrobus counterparts despite driving the same vehicles on the same routes."

M.E.B.A. retweeted a great song and music video created by ATU Local 689 member Otis Price to rally his fellow workers. Visit us on Twitter at [@mebaunion](https://twitter.com/mebaunion)

USNS COMFORT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS AFTER CONCLUDING MASSIVE 5-MONTH MEDICAL MISSION

The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS COMFORT is back at its berth at Naval Station Norfolk (Virginia) after concluding an epic five-month deployment providing relief to nations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With regional partners, the crew provided care to 68,000 people in 12 nations, including many who fled the political and economic crisis in Venezuela. The vessel also made visits to Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC's Civilian Mariner fleet.

VETERANS AFFAIRS EXTENDS ANTI-UNION OVERREACH, AFGE SAYS

The Department of Veterans Affairs says it will no longer abide by provisions of the existing labor contract covering 260,000 employees represented by the American Federation of Government Employees and is threatening to evict union representatives from the worksite to enforce President Trump's three anti-labor executive orders, the union said.

The VA notified AFGE that it would begin charging the union for office space inside VA facilities that currently is provided at no cost under the existing labor contract. Locals that do not agree to pay for the office space will be evicted from the worksite – impeding the union's ability to effectively represent employees.

"This is a punitive and illegal action that's intended to silence employees and discourage them from reporting mismanagement or other abuses that harm veterans' care," AFGE National VA Council

President Alma Lee said. “We will pursue any and all legal options at the national and local levels to challenge this illegal activity and preserve employees’ collective bargaining rights.”

Denying employees access to their union representatives at the worksite is one of many anti-labor provisions outlined in three executive orders President Trump issued in May 2018 that AFGE and other unions (including the M.E.B.A.) have challenged in the courts. Even though a federal court has lifted a previous injunction, the administration cannot begin implementing provisions that violate existing collective bargaining agreements without first negotiating the changes with labor unions.

“This is a coordinated plan on behalf of the White House to sew chaos and confusion inside the VA during the middle of ongoing negotiations,” AFGE National Secretary-Treasurer Everett Kelley said. “I’m frankly disgusted by the administration’s puppets who are blindly following its anti-union playbook, even when it is clear that doing so threatens the VA’s operations and will harm veterans in communities across this nation who our members serve every day.”

THE LOWDOWN ON THE THROWDOWNS: UPCOMING M.E.B.A. HOLIDAY PARTIES

It wouldn’t be a party without you! “No one looks back on their life and remembers the nights they got plenty of sleep.” Work be damned, it’s time to bust loose and make merry – M.E.B.A.-style. Here’s your key to enjoying the M.E.B.A.-sanctioned festivities:

Members at the **Boston** hall get funky first with a scintillating soiree immediately after the membership meeting on Monday, December 2nd. In **Charleston**, members turn meeting day into a party on Tuesday, December 3rd. The educational part winds down around 4 p.m. as members graduate to the party portion of the program as festivities get started and members can begin filling their faces with food.

In the Aloha State, the “Big Kahuna” of parties launches on Tuesday, December 3rd at the **Honolulu** hall. The muumuu-sized revelry gets going at 10 a.m. on Hawaiian time.

Jacksonville-area members will raise the roof and get their “groove on” at the hall after their meeting on Wednesday, December 4th. The **New York/New Jersey** hall will go full force on a free-form fiesta on Thursday, December 5th around 2 p.m following the Union meeting. The party pace gets frenetic and the holiday hoopla goes into hyperdrive in **Norfolk** at the hall on Thursday, December 5th right after their meeting (around 12:30). M.E.B.A. **Tampa** gets into the act on Thursday, December 5th. Members will have to find a way to maintain themselves during the membership meeting knowing that food, spirits and revelry await as soon as the gavel falls. Members will be whooping it up at the hall in **Oakland** on Friday, December 6th after job call. They estimate the holiday hubbub will light off around 1 pm. The **Baltimore** Union hall revs up in Charm City and kicks it into high gear at 1 p.m. on December 6th. **Headquarters** gets down to truly rewarding (party) business on Thursday, December 12th. The life-affirming fun gets going at 3 p.m.

L.A. area members will converge down the street from our San Pedro hall on Friday, December 13th at Big Nick’s Pizza. The cork pops at 1 p.m. at 1110 North Gaffey Street and continues unabated until 4 p.m.

Our shoreside unit at **POID** will congregate at the Sodexo Dining Hall on 26 Century Blvd. in Nashville on Thursday, December 13 to celebrate the season. POID turns up the power at noon and

the fiesta unfolds for the next four hours. M.E.B.A. **Seattle** members cut loose, paint the town red and ring in a wing-ding on Friday, December 13th at the hall in Fife at high noon.

High-falutin' holiday hullabaloo happens in **Houston** at 1 pm on Friday, December 13th where there will be heaps of hootin' and hollerin'. There is no officially-sanctioned party at the **Cleveland** hall, but Cheryl will have the cookie tray loaded up with goodies, so stop by to get your paws on some sweet treats. Finally, the Cajuns will be ragin' at our **New Orleans** Union hall on Thursday, December 19th beginning at 1 pm.

Don't be tardy for the party, Marty! Stop on by. Catch up with old shipmates, meet new friends and raise a glass to those who can't attend. Make it a safe and joyful holiday season!

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

Wednesday, December 4 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, December 5 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, December 6 – 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. Visit us on Facebook. For publication and related inquiries 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.