

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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M.E.B.A., AMC MEET WITH FMC ON SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES

The M.E.B.A. and American Maritime Congress, along with industry representatives, took part in a roundtable on Monday to discuss supply chain issues and the importance of U.S.-flag ships. Federal Maritime Commissioner Carl Bentzel has conducted several of these roundtables with ports and shippers and other supply chain stakeholders as federal regulators look to implement efficient and sustainable solutions to alleviate port congestion.

M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac was part of the roundtable that took place at our Washington D.C. Headquarters along with other M.E.B.A. and maritime industry leaders including AMC's President James Caponiti and AMC Policy Director Fair Kim.

The forum enabled attendees to productively discuss the supply chain challenges affecting day-to-day operations and voice concerns about economic and national security implications with the current crisis.

RELEASE OF STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE OIL WILL BENEFIT U.S.-FLAG SHIPS

The President recently announced that he has authorized the release of 50 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in order to bring excessive gas prices down. The Reserve currently has about 600 million barrels of oil.

The oil is contained in four Government sites in deep underground storage caverns along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. The oil needs to be refined before going to market. Some of that product will need to be transported on ships and the current Jones Act fleet has the capacity to handle an SPR drawdown. In the past, an SPR release has prompted flurries of Jones Act waivers even though enough U.S.-flag bottoms are available for the job.

Mike Roberts, President of the American Maritime Partnership (AMP), released a statement this week following President Biden's announcement. He said, "American Maritime looks forward to working with the Administration and all involved to ensure that oil being released from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in the coming weeks and months is transported by American workers on American ships."

ANOTHER MSC EPF ALMOST READY FOR ACTION

Austal USA hosted the christening of the USNS APALACHICOLA – the latest newbuild Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessel. This will be the 13th such vessel destined for the Military Sealift Command fleet. EPFs are shallow-draft, all-aluminum, commercial-based catamarans that are capable of intra-theater personnel and cargo transport, which provide combatant commanders high-speed sealift mobility. Spearhead-class EPFs have proven to be workhorse vessels and are deployed on high-profile missions around the world. EPF civilian mariner crews are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

The christening was performed at the Mobile, Alabama shipyard. Austal has delivered twelve EPFs since December 2012. USNS APALACHICOLA is slated for delivery in the summer. The 14th in the Spearhead-class series, USNS CODY, is under construction at the yard. The start of construction on the future USNS POINT LOMA will begin at the end of the month.

At the christening, former U.S. Senator from Georgia, Kelly Loeffler, served as the sponsor of the vessel and performed the ceremonial bottle break over the bow of the ship.

The APALACHICOLA has been enhanced to operate autonomously while retaining the capability for manned operation. It was outfitted with a perception and autonomy control suite, as well as several automation enhancements to the machinery plant improving hull, mechanical, and electrical reliability while reducing the amount of personnel required for operations and maintenance at sea.

SEN. GARY PETERS HONORED BY GREAT LAKES GROUP

The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) named Senator Gary Peters (D-Mich.) as its Great Lakes Legislator of the Year stemming from his ongoing efforts to benefit the Great Lakes navigation system. GLMTF is a labor/management coalition that includes the M.E.B.A.

GLMTF said that Sen. Peters has moved the needle on several extremely important projects in the Great Lakes. He continues to be instrumental in efficiently funding the construction of a new large navigational lock in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. He understands the economic benefits of Great Lakes shipping and the need to make our ports competitive and reliable even during the winter season. He cosponsored the “Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act” which would make icebreaking a higher priority for the U.S. Coast Guard and ensured \$350 million was included in the pending House Reconciliation Bill for another heavy Great Lakes icebreaker. Senator Peters was a strong advocate for the passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 which ensures consistent funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The funds are critical to maintaining the 60 federally-maintained deep-draft ports on the Great Lakes along with navigational structures which have suffered severe damage due to higher water levels.

“The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force is grateful for Senator Peters’ leadership and ambition to ensure the Great Lakes remain protected and forever the pilot light of the North American economy. The Fourth Sea Coast needs relentless champions like Senator Peters,” said John Clemons, President of the GLMTF.

STATIONARY ENGINEER POSITION WITH ECO-ALPHA

M.E.B.A.-contracted company Eco-Alpha Environmental and Engineering Services, Inc. has an opening for a Stationary Engineer position at one of its San Francisco buildings. Any qualified member or applicant interested in this work should send a résumé to the Oakland hall as well as a copy of their

EPA Refrigerant Card. This is a permanent job best suited for someone who lives in the area, or is willing to relocate to the region. This position pays industry standard wages for 40-hour workweeks (OT possible), with M.E.B.A. Pension, Medical and Training benefits, along with MPB & 401k.

Those interested should contact M.E.B.A.'s Union hall in Oakland and email their résumé and EPA card to Oakland Patrolman Max Alper at malper@mebaunion.org

FAITH LEADERS TELL WENDY'S "RESPECT FARMWORKERS!"

Of all America's workers, farmworkers are among the most poorly treated. That's why the Catholic Labor Network, the Diocese of Columbus and Ohio Faith in Public Life organized a letter from faith leaders across the Buckeye state urging the Wendy's fast food restaurants to clean up its supply chain by joining the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' (CIW) Fair Food Program. Wendy's is headquartered in Dublin, Ohio.

For two decades the CIW has urged fast food chains to take responsibility for the workers who harvest their tomatoes by signing up for the Fair Food Program. One by one, giants like Taco Bell, McDonald's, Subway and Burger King have joined the program, which ensures that they purchase tomatoes from growers who have signed on to a fair labor code of conduct and provides a supplement to workers' wages. Only Wendy's refuses to participate. For that reason, the CIW has sponsored a boycott of Wendy's and urges consumers to avoid the Ohio-based fast food chain. Each year in November, the CIW organizes a week of action targeting the hamburger giant. 150 Ohio faith leaders sent a firmly worded letter to Wendy's CEO Todd Penegor this last week.

They said, "By refusing to participate in the Fair Food Program, Wendy's has opted to profit from farm worker abuse and poverty and continues to provide a market for less reputable growers. Until Wendy's does the right thing and enrolls in the Fair Food Program, we will honor the boycott called by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and encourage others to honor it as well."

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS CAN MAKE MEMBERSHIP IN DECEMBER IF THEY FORWARD DOCUMENTATION

Qualified applicants trying to make membership should provide Headquarters with required documentation to ensure their inclusion on the upcoming M.E.B.A. District Investigating Committee (DIC) report. The report, which will be voted on at the December membership meetings, compiles a list of those who have fulfilled the requirements of their application. 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 that may include an initiation fee and/or letters of recommendation.

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.

THOSE IN DUES ARREARS WILL BE DROPPED IN DECEMBER

The upcoming DIC report will include a list of members or applicants that have been in dues or service charge arrears for two or more years. Once the membership votes on the report, those members and applicants will be DROPPED from the rolls. The next membership meetings take place from December 6-10. *If you are in arrears and want to retain your membership or applicant*

status, you must contact Headquarters immediately to make payment on your arrearage and return to good standing. The Membership Department can also be contacted by applicants who are qualified to make membership and want to ensure their inclusion on the DIC's December Report. For further information, you can visit your local Union hall or contact the HQ Membership Department at (202) 638-5355 or membership@mebaunion.org.

LAST FEW WEEKS TO VIE FOR THE G&W “SWAG BAG”

M.E.B.A.'s homegrown fund that helps members in times of need gets an added boost from every donation made this year as the Union is matching contributions made to the Good & Welfare Fund dollar-for-dollar - up to \$10,000. The top G&W contributor through December 31st will earn the coveted M.E.B.A. “Swag Bag” – a bag stuffed to the gills with fabulous M.E.B.A. prizes worth an estimated \$200.

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.

All donations are tax deductible as approved by law under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributed funds go directly to supporting M.E.B.A. families in need. Your contributions to the fund are tax deductible so please give liberally in order to help a Union brother or sister.

You can contribute to the G&W Fund anytime. But right now is the best time now that the Union has pledged to make your generous contribution really pack a punch. You can make a contribution at a Union hall or support the Fund through an electronic payment made using the link on the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org).

“FALL OPEN” 4MF DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT IS THIS WEEKEND AT CMES

The M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) will host a Disc (Frisbee) Golf tournament this Sunday, November 28th at 1 pm - open to everyone - with a \$25 entry fee. The 2021 Fall Open Disc Golf Tournament will benefit the Memorial which is located on School grounds. As you know, the Memorial was created to honor fallen seafarers who have delivered the goods and answered the call of this country since 1775. The M MMMF is a 501(c)(3) entity, so contributions are tax deductible.

You can contact 4MF Chairman Bill Van Loo for additional information. He can be reached at (443) 676-6248 or bvanloo@bvlworks.org

FACEBOOK PHOTOS NEEDED

We are always looking for photos from any of the M.E.B.A. bargaining units to keep our Facebook site current. Members are urged to send in your photos to marco@mebaunion.org. Any photos with an M.E.B.A. connection, at sea or ashore, are appreciated. Digital pictures should be taken at the highest resolution setting. In all cases, make sure you I.D. the photos. Check out the M.E.B.A. Facebook site which is usually updated daily.

THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS

All Union halls and offices are closed today for Thanksgiving Day and remain shuttered tomorrow, Friday, November 26. All halls and offices are back to the normal schedule on Monday.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS *(All times are local)*

Monday, December 6 – Boston@1200; Seattle-Fife@1300.

Tuesday, December 7 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, December 8 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online Headquarters “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – **Register now at mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, December 9 – L.A.-San Pedro@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, December 10 – Honolulu@1100.

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



*M.E.B.A. does not tolerate assault, or harassment of any kind.
If you see something, say something – The M.E.B.A. Emergency Hotline
can be reached at 1-888-519-0018.*

The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. M.E.B.A.'s expertise and demonstrated 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 (and to send photos & hot news tips) 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.