

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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



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

*The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"*  
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### **FINISHED WITH ENGINES: BALTIMORE DISPATCHER JAMIE BUTLER**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jamie Butler who has served as M.E.B.A.'s Dispatcher at the Baltimore Union hall since late 2017. Jamie unexpectedly died last Thursday evening at the age of 59. The M.E.B.A. is stricken with grief over this tremendous loss.

Jamie was a 1983 graduate of the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (Class 81A) and shipped out with a variety of M.E.B.A.-contracted companies including Lykes, Mormac, Horizon and APL among many others. He spent many of his earlier years sailing out of the Houston hall and sailed as a Chief Engineer for much of his long seafaring career. As Dispatcher, he was a reliable and productive force at the Baltimore hall.

M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo said, "Jamie was my classmate, my friend and my Union brother. His passing is painful for all of us in the M.E.B.A. family."

### **M.E.B.A. ELECTION: SEND IN YOUR BALLOT IMMEDIATELY!**

There are only a few days left in the M.E.B.A. 2020 District Election. Ballots must be returned to the depository by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Anything not in the depository when the Tallying Committee picks up the ballots will not count. If you haven't done so, mail your ballot immediately.

In accordance with the By-Laws, "Ballots should be returned to the depository by November 30 and ballots not received in the depository when the ballots are collected, [*as provided in Article 10, Section 4 of the M.E.B.A. By-Laws*], shall be disqualified and not counted." The ballot collection and tabulation will take place on December 7, 2020.

You can still request a duplicate ballot – but realize that you are cutting it close. Please use the following Impartial Administrator contact information to request a duplicate ballot. Any written requests for duplicate ballots made to the M.E.B.A. will be referred to the Impartial Administrator.

TrueBallot, Inc.  
3 Bethesda Metro Center  
Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Email: 0212001@trueballot.com

Be aware that the M.E.B.A. By-Laws state that if the original ballot and duplicate ballot are both cast, neither ballot shall count.

### **REGISTRATION FOR MONDAY'S ONLINE SPECIAL MEETINGS ENDS AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT; REGISTRATION FOR REGULAR ONLINE DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS BEGINS TODAY**

On Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, six M.E.B.A. Union halls will hold *Online Special Meetings* to each elect a member to form a six-person rank-and-file Election Tallying Committee. The elected Committee will travel to Washington D.C. to help oversee the tabulation of District election ballots on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The registration period concludes at midnight tonight (11/26) for Monday's six online Special Meetings that will be conducted by the halls in New York/New Jersey, Tampa, Houston, Norfolk, Seattle and San Francisco (Oakland). The notice with the details was emailed to members, applicants and retirees that have email addresses on file with Headquarters. The notice is also available on the M.E.B.A. website ([www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org)) in the "Documents & Member Notices" section.

For the *regular online December Membership* meetings that will be held from December 7-11, the week-long registration period began today (11/26) and continues until December 3. Notice of the meetings was sent yesterday to members, applicants and retirees with email addresses on file with M.E.B.A. Headquarters. In addition, the notice is posted on the M.E.B.A. website in the "Documents & Member Notices" section. 12 of the 13 meetings will be held online. The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School will host its meeting in-person (on December 8) in the Newberry Auditorium where appropriate COVID precautions can be taken.

### **CONGRESS CREATES LABOR CAUCUS**

Two Members of Congress have announced the creation of the "Labor Caucus" to help combat issues facing working families and connect legislators directly with unions and union leaders. The Caucus was organized by Representatives Donald Norcross (D-NJ) and Mark Pocan (D-WI) who have spent decades as union members - in the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers and International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, respectively.

"Labor has shaped my life, taking me from the construction site to Congress," said Congressman Norcross. "While the Trump Administration has tried to diminish labor rights, President-Elect Joe Biden's incoming Administration understands the dignity of work and that workers' rights are human rights. Every American worker should have the opportunity to earn a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, and working families deserve a bigger voice in Congress. I look forward to working together with our brothers and sisters in Labor to pass legislation for American workers and their futures."

"President-Elect Joe Biden's new administration gives the Democratic Party the opportunity to reprioritize working families at the center of our legislative agenda," said Congressman Pocan. "Under Donald Trump, we've seen the erosion of labor rights, rise in union-busting and the prioritization of corporate profits over working people's livelihoods and safety. In the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, we must reaffirm our dedication to strengthening unions and helping workers by urgently passing legislation like the PRO Act and the Raise the Wage Act. It's time for working people to have a voice in Congress again."

## REMINDER: DEADLINE FOR THESE UNION PLUS PROMOTIONS

Union Plus programs provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services and are available to M.E.B.A. members, applicants, retirees and our affiliates.

### ***“Most Extraordinary Union Member” Contest***

Union Plus is giving away \$1,000 cash to 100 of “the most extraordinary union members nationwide.” You should submit a written or video nomination (60 seconds or less) describing what makes your nominee extraordinary using #UnionPlusGiveAGrand and #Contest on Instagram OR visit this site: <https://www.unionplus.org/holidaygiveback> You are allowed to nominate yourself. There is no purchase necessary. The contest goes until December 4, 2020.

### ***AT&T Promotion***

Union Plus has launched a promotion with AT&T through November 30, 2020, that extends additional benefits for union members who switch over to AT&T and purchase a new smartphone. Resources to share this promotion with your members and on your networks can be found at this link: <https://unionplus.deals/digitaltoolkit>

## UNION BRANDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Given the nationwide health mandates urging people to stay at home as we combat the COVID-19 pandemic, holiday shopping may look a bit different this year. But whether you’re venturing out or ticking off Santa’s list online, there are still gifts to be bought. One thing that never changes is the value of well-established, American-made brands produced by companies that treat their workers fairly and give them a voice on the job. Here are some of union-friendly gift ideas across a spectrum of categories:

**Clothing and Accessories** - Brooks Brothers (UNITE HERE); Timex Watches (IAMAW); Nunn Bush shoes (IBT); **Sports & Recreation** - Louisville Slugger (USW); Nordic Track (IBT); Rubbermaid Coolers (IBEW); Weber Grill (IUANPW); Wilson Sporting Goods (Workers United); **Beauty** - L’Oreal Paris (UFCW); Revlon (UAW); Old Spice (UFCW, IBT); **Sweets** - Ghirardelli Chocolate (BCTGM); Jelly Belly (BCTGM); Russell Stover (BCTGM, UFCW); See’s Candies (BCTGM); **Spirits** - Bacardi (UAW, IBT); Jack Daniel’s (IBT, UAW); Jim Beam (IBT, UAW); **Fun & Games** - Clue (RWDSU-UGCW); Monopoly (RWDSU-UGCW); Operation (RWDSU-UGCW); Scrabble (RWDSU-UGCW); Risk (RWDSU-UGCW); **Cars & Trucks** - Ford Mustang (UAW); Cadillac Escalade (UAW); Chevrolet Corvette (UAW);

## AVOID THE YEAR-END RUSH: APPLY FOR VACATION & PORT RELIEF BENEFITS EARLY

- **FILING DEADLINE:** The deadline for issuing checks dated in 2020 in the M.E.B.A. Outports and the Plan Office is Thursday, December 17, 2020.
- **DIRECT DEPOSIT:** The final Direct Deposit Transfer for 2020 will be made on 12/18/2020 and the funds will be deposited into bank accounts on 12/22/2020.
- Any requests for Port Relief and Vacation checks received after 12/17/20 at 12:00 PM EST will be paid in the order received beginning 1/4/2021.

Any member who requires that his/her check be dated in 2020 must file before this deadline. Remember, Friday December 25, 2020 and Friday January 1, 2021 are holidays and the Outports and

the Plan Office will be closed. It is always wise to plan ahead, so you should verify the specific holiday schedule with the Plan Office Representative.

#### Split Your Vacation Payments between 2020 and 2021

You can submit an Application for Vacation Pay prior to the end of the year and request that the payment of your vacation benefits be split. Two checks will be issued to you, one in 2020 and a second in 2021. The 12/17/2020 deadline applies to split claims also. The vacation benefits paid in this manner MUST be a continuous vacation period.

Please contact the M.E.B.A. Vacation Plan staff in Baltimore at 800-811-6322 or 410-547-9111 if you have any questions.

#### **NOTE ON THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS**

All Union halls and offices were closed today and remain shuttered tomorrow, Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. We wish our members, applicants and retirees – as well as their families and friends – a very happy and safe Thanksgiving weekend. We remain thankful for your contributions that help make this Union great.

#### **ONLINE DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – (*All times are local*)**

*(Registration period began today and continues until December 3<sup>rd</sup>)*

**Monday, December 7** – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

**Tuesday, December 8** – CMES@1430 (*CMES Meeting will be conducted In-Person*); Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

**Wednesday, December 9** – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

**Thursday, December 10** – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

**Friday, December 11** – 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org) Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*