

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



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ONLINE SHIPPING RULE REFERENDUM TO TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER

M.E.B.A.'s first District-wide Referendum to be conducted online will take place during the month of December, it was announced this week. Each M.E.B.A. member is being snail-mailed a letter, at their address on record with Headquarters, informing them of specifics and detailing how to participate in the online vote. The vote will take place from December 1 and conclude on December 31. A rank and file tallying committee will ensure the eligibility of voters and the integrity of the process.

The one-question referendum asks members whether they wish to change the M.E.B.A. Shipping Rules to permit a new Group III Applicant to remain on the Port Relief List for one year from the date of their first registration. The Rule change is designed to extend the window for first-time applicants to seek viable Port Relief opportunities as they begin their seafaring careers. The upcoming online referendum stems from a member-driven resolution that was passed at Union hall meetings by a 99-6 vote earlier this year.

Members should make sure their dues are current so they can participate in the vote. Only members in good standing are eligible. Those whose dues are not current (paid through the end of the year) will not be permitted access to the voter database.

The Union has held online votes for various M.E.B.A. bargaining units in the past, but a membership-wide online vote for referendums (not to include officer elections or ratification of Deep-Sea contracts) was only recently enabled following a By-Laws change that keeps the Union up with modern times.

ILWU FINALLY CERTIFIES ELECTION RESULTS; NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM IS OFFICIAL

Two months after tallied votes indicated that International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams would become the union's new National President, a re-examination of the ballots and voting process has upheld the election results. Congratulations to newly elected ILWU President Willie Adams who succeeds the retiring Bob McEllrath. McEllrath was Constitutionally-restricted from running for another term after heading up the union for a dozen years. The ILWU Constitution prevents officers from running for international office once they turn 65.

McEllrath stated that the new team will face tough challenges and commented that “it is essential that we all get behind the new leadership because if they fail we all fail.”

Ed Ferris becomes the organization’s Secretary-Treasurer, Bobby Olivera, Jr. will be Mainland Vice President and Wesley Furtado will remain as Hawaii V.P. Also elected were incumbent Coast Committeemen Frank Ponce De Leon and Cam Williams.

“Our team intends to carry forward the ILWU’s progressive tradition into the 21st Century,” said Adams, who was raised in Kansas City and worked as a longshoreman at the Port of Tacoma, Washington, before coming to San Francisco where he has served as International Secretary-Treasurer since 2003. Adams, who also serves as Vice-President on San Francisco’s Port Commission, said he and his team are “ready to meet the political and economic challenges ahead by involving our rank-and-file membership to help working families in our union and communities.” Adams and his team will serve for three-year terms.

MATSON TAKES DELIVERY OF DANIEL K. INOUE

M.E.B.A.-contracted Matson Navigation took delivery of their newbuild containership DANIEL K. INOUE late last month and are preparing to enter her in commercial service on November 22. The largest containership ever built in the U.S., the vessel was constructed at Philly Shipyard where it was christened in July. Weighing in at over 51,400 metric tons, the 850-foot long, 3,600 TEU capacity vessel is Matson's largest ship and also its fastest, with a top speed in excess of 23 knots. The INOUE will be joined by a second Aloha-class newbuild in the Matson fleet early next year.

The ship sailed through the Panama Canal this week as part of its 5,298-mile, 13-day maiden voyage to Oakland, California. After a port call at Long Beach, the new vessel will make its first call at Honolulu on the morning of November 28.

Permanents on the vessel include C/E Mark Newberg and 1st A/Es John O’Donnell and Bryan Humphrey. Rotary engineers dispatched to the vessel for her maiden voyage include 2nd A/E Michael Unger, 3rd A/E Emma Crandall and 3rd A/E James Tavella.

MATSON KAMOKUIKI BEGINS SERVICE

Matson Navigation has put another one of its new acquisitions to work as the C/V KAMOKUIKI went into service last week. The vessel was brought into the company’s fleet for a new direct U.S.-flag service between Honolulu and the Marshall Islands. The KAMOKUIKI translates to 'small island or vessel' in the Hawaiian language.

The vessel is a 8,740 DWT, 8,448 HP, 707-TEU vessel built in 2000. It was converted into a geared containership with two 45-ton cranes, hydraulic folding hatch covers and high maneuverability that allows docking without tugs. As part of a new biweekly service, it will call at three ports in the Marshall Islands every 17 days - Kwajalein, Ebeye and Majuro.

Permanents aboard the vessel include Chief Engineers Zebadiah Strout and Christophe Swenson and 1st A/Es Claudia Cimini and Brendan Linn. Rotary engineers dispatched to the vessel include 2nd A/E Thomas Stenquist and Bryce Stephens.

In additional Matson news, the company announced that it will install scrubbers on at least three of its five vessels in their China-Long Beach Express service at a cost of \$9 million apiece. The five

vessels include the the MAUNALEI, MANULANI, MAUNAWILI, MANUKAI and the RJ PFEIFFER.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) rules will require reducing the sulfur content of bunker fuel that ships burn from 3.5 percent to 0.5 percent by January 2020. Ships without scrubbers would have to burn costlier low-sulfur fuels such as marine gas-oil (MGO) or ultra-low-sulfur fuel oil to comply with the clean air rules.

Matson has already installed scrubbers on the ANCHORAGE, KODIAK and TACOMA – three of its ships in the Alaska service.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT AT USMMA

Jack Buono is the newly announced superintendent at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and will start work tomorrow. He succeeds Rear Admiral James Helis who left in late spring to join the Maritime Administration as a Special Assistant to the Administrator.

Before is a Kings Point graduate and sailed on the deck side with ExxonMobil Corporation. In 1991, he transferred ashore and, after rising through several management positions, was elected as President & CEO of SeaRiver Maritime, Inc., where he served until his retirement in 2016 after 38 years with ExxonMobil Corporation and SeaRiver Maritime, Inc.

“Jack Buono is the ideal candidate to take the Academy to the next level,” said Maritime Administrator Mark Buzby. “He has impeccable credentials on the waterfront and, as an alumnus, fully understands the Academy’s mission to provide its students with the highest caliber of training and education needed to lead afloat and ashore.”

WOMEN ON THE WATER CONFERENCE

M.E.B.A. was on hand for the 10th annual Women on the Water Conference that took place in Castine, Maine from November 1-3. WOW, which showcases the successes of women in the maritime industry, was sponsored by Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) in partnership with the Maritime Administration. Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram took part in the conference on behalf of the Union as well as M.E.B.A.’s Lindsay Smith (Chief Engineer with Norwegian Cruise Line) and M.E.B.A. Chief Engineer Serena Webber-Bey, who sails off the board.

“The demand for a highly trained mariner workforce increases daily,” said Maritime Administrator Mark Buzby. “By providing our female cadets with the opportunity to learn from other female maritime industry leaders, we hope to inspire them to greater levels of achievement in their careers.”

The annual WOW conference focuses on encouraging female cadets at the start of their career by providing them with access to the maritime industry’s top female professionals. It includes speeches, workshops, and mock interview sessions that provide cadets with one-on-one mentoring, leaving them better prepared to enter the maritime workforce.

This year’s keynote speaker was Captain Deborah Dempsey. A Maine Maritime alumnus, Capt. Dempsey was the first woman to graduate from a maritime academy and the first female master mariner.

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 in late November and will review candidates for membership at that time. Those Applicants who have fulfilled the necessary requirements by the time the DIC convenes will set themselves up to appear on the December 2018 DIC Report. That report is forwarded to the Union hall and members will vote to admit those qualified Applicants into membership the week of December 3, 2018.

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.

For further information you can visit your local Union hall or contact the Membership Department (202-638-5355 or 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.

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 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. 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 35 – **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.**

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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. Visit us on Facebook. For publication and related inquiries contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org