

# 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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### **MEMBERS RATIFY MATSON PORT ENGINEER AGREEMENT**

In a ratification vote at the regular September membership meetings, members voted in favor of a newly negotiated contract with Matson Navigation covering Port Engineers. The 10-year agreement includes wage increases and additional contract terms as well as benefit plan contribution increases. Contract language is available at the Union halls for member review.

The previous month, members ratified a 10-year Deep-Sea Matson agreement covering the Matson A3, CV2600 and the newbuild vessels.

M.E.B.A.'s negotiating team for the Port Engineer contract was led by Executive Vice President Adam Vokac and was assisted by Oakland Patrolman Max Alper and LA Branch Agent Rich Doherty. Rank and file members who supplemented the process included Colin Murray, Mike Shea, Todd Simonse and Jason Schreier.

### **BY-LAWS CHANGES APPROVED**

Members at the regular September meetings approved a series of By-Laws changes that are mostly administrative in nature. Many of the amendments were offered to clarify By-Laws language that was vague or open to interpretation. Other changes were made to keep pace with modern times. One such change will allow online voting for referendums not including deep sea contract ratifications or officer elections. The clarifications, corrections and other changes were by no means all-inclusive but were needed to address known issues. Changes will be codified into a new revision of the By-Laws and will be made available in the near future.

### **ILWU ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP**

Congratulations to new International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) President Willie Adams who has been elected by ILWU members to succeed the retiring Bob McEllrath. Adams is the ILWU's current Secretary-Treasurer and will take over as President later this year. Ed Ferris will become the organization's Secretary-Treasurer, Bobby Olivera Jr. will be Mainland Vice President and Wesley Furtado will remain as Hawaii V.P.

Outgoing President Bob McEllrath noted that the new team will face tough challenges and said "it is essential that we all get behind the new leadership because if they fail we all fail."

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 believes the age restriction is good and noted that the union is not “scared by new leadership with fresh ideas to keep up with the changing times – especially when all unions – especially the ILWU – are fighting anti-union campaigns in a hostile world.”

Adams thanked the membership and said, “Together we will build a union that honors our past, protects our present, and builds towards a prosperous future. Long live the ILWU!”

### **ILA APPROVES 6-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION**

International Longshoremen’s Association members at ports from Maine to Texas approved a new six-year master contract extension with United States Maritime Alliance (USMX). The agreement will usher in pay increases; protections against job-killing fully automated ports; and labor peace and stability through September 30, 2024. ILA President Harold Daggett applauded the successful ratification vote.

“This is a great day for the ILA and our union membership,” said President Daggett. “This extension not only protects the benefits ILA members already have, but also enhances these benefits to ensure that they are compensated appropriately for all your hard work.”

### **CAROLINA, VIRGINIA MEMBERS BRACING FOR HURRICANE**

M.E.B.A.’s Union halls in Charleston, SC and Norfolk, VA were closed on Thursday and will remain shuttered through Friday as Hurricane Florence makes things miserable on the lower East Coast. Fortunately, the storm lessened in intensity from a Category 4 to a Category 2 which gives the area a reprieve from more damaging winds. However, flooding is expected to be enormous and those in the path of the storm battened down the hatches and evacuated in many cases.

At press time, the slow moving storm was southeast of Wilmington, N.C. packing 100 mph winds. Its edge was already battering the coast and it is expected to make landfall sometime early Friday morning.

Area port facilities were taking precautions and shipping companies began diverting vessels. In the Portsmouth, VA area, Navy ships were sent out to sea to ride out the storm. The M.E.B.A.-crewed Ready Reserve Force vessel CAPE RISE remained in port and crewmembers were prepared to deal with Florence. The other two M.E.B.A.-crewed Norfolk area RRF vessels had already been put into Full Operating Status before news of the hurricane. The CAPE RACE was recently activated and deployed on a Government mission. The CAPE RAY just wrapped up a logistics mission in the Middle East and is awaiting the storm’s cessation to return to its berth. M.E.B.A.-crewed RRF vessels in Charleston remain in port but took on additional crewmembers to further secure the ships to better sustain the hurricane’s punch.

Both Charleston and Norfolk Union halls are expected to reopen on Monday.

Our hall in Honolulu is unscathed after our 50<sup>th</sup> state dealt with Tropical Storm Olivia a little more than a week after Hurricane Lane barreled by the Islands. The worst of the storm petered out by Wednesday and flash flooding remained a threat through this morning after heavy rains pelted the Islands. Ports were reopened and reluctant kids were sent back to school.

## **TRANSPORTATION LABOR LEADERS BUILD ON PRO-WORKER MOMENTUM**

The Executive Committee of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), including M.E.B.A. leadership, met this week to set an aggressive pro-worker agenda through the strengthening of America's transportation network. The meeting coincides at a time when stagnating wages, a changing economy, and coordinated, sustained attacks on the rights of working people have fueled a new wave of activism among workers.

"Transportation workers belong to unions and are organizing today because working people know collective bargaining is the best path to good jobs and a fair economy," said TTD President Larry Willis. "The policies we fight for today and every day are focused on improving quality of life for frontline transportation workers and creating an economy that enables those who work hard to lead dignified lives."

TTD's Executive Committee discussed their priorities with Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. John Katko (R-NY), a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Union leaders committed to shaping FAA legislation that will cement America's aviation industry as a hub of good, middle-class jobs by prioritizing pro-safety, pro-worker initiatives. They also read and endorsed the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA petition to the Department of Transportation calling for the establishment of airplane cabin temperature standards (see [www.afacwa.org/2hot2cold](http://www.afacwa.org/2hot2cold)). Taking aim at changes made by Amtrak that threaten the carrier's long-distance routes and the good jobs those routes provide, Executive Committee members pledged to fight for a national passenger rail system that serves the entire country. Labor leaders also vowed to work with Members of Congress to pass legislation designed to mitigate the epidemic of assault facing America's transit operators.

There was also a discussion concerning the Jones Act in which TTD reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the Act as we continue through this hurricane season. M.E.B.A. was represented by President Marshall Ainley, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo and Political Director Matt Dwyer.

## **CIVMARs CONTINUE GLOBAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT**

Civilian Mariners sailing in the Military Sealift Command fleet are perennially involved in high-profile exercises and operations around the globe. Off the coast of Southern California, since Aug. 7, MSC fleet replenishment oiler USNS GUADALUPE and MSC dry cargo ammunition ship USNS CHARLES DREW have been providing logistics services to five ships from the Navy's USS John C. Stennis carrier strike group as they conducted a pre-deployment Composite Training Unit Exercise. Civilian Mariners in the Military Sealift Command fleet are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

Through a series of 41 replenishments-at-sea, GUADALUPE and DREW delivered 1,282 pallets of food, parts and equipment, as well as 5 million gallons of jet fuel and 15,402 million gallons of diesel ship fuel.

According to the MSC Logistics Office, logistics support at sea, such as that conducted by GUADALUPE and DREW the past few weeks, not only enables the strike group to remain at sea longer and to conduct more than one certification in an underway period, but also makes it easier for

the ship to receive supplies and mail by utilizing a full onboard crew while underway, rather than a duty section on the pier.

### **SIGN UP FOR UNION PLUS BENEFITS**

The non-profit Union Plus is the only consumer benefits organization created and endorsed by the AFL-CIO. Union Plus programs, which are available to M.E.B.A. members, retirees and our affiliates, provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services. The M.E.B.A. is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts.

Their mission is to improve the quality of life for union members and their families, provide valuable benefits and services that strengthen the ties of union members to their unions and contribute funding to the labor movement.

There are more than 12 million union members in the United States. Because of their strength in numbers, Union Plus is able to negotiate exclusive discounts and financial assistance programs just for union members and their families. They pass along the exclusive benefits they negotiate on behalf of union members directly to you. These benefits and programs are FREE to union members and their families. There's no membership —if you're a current or retired union member or a family member — you're in. They don't manage or use any union membership dues to finance their budget or benefits. Period. They also don't manage any union pension funds or health care funds.

Getting started couldn't be easier. Simply create a profile on their website, and start using your benefits and discounts today! Visit the following link to create your profile: [www.unionplus.org/?modal=register](http://www.unionplus.org/?modal=register)

### **REWARD GOOD EMPLOYERS THIS FOOTBALL SEASON**

After a long, sweaty, gridiron-free summer, the return of football season is a cause for celebration. Whether you're a fan of college or pro, whether you're at the stadium or rooting from your couch, no game is complete without something to drink and something to snack on. The drinks and munchies below are made by ethical companies that treat their workers fairly and give them a voice on the job. So while you're lifting a cold one and chowing down on something salty or savory, you're also bolstering the middle class.

**Beers:** Bud Light; Budweiser; Coors; Coors Light; Michelob; Mickey's; Miller Genuine Draft; Miller High Life; Sam Adams; Schlitz; and Shock Top. **Soft Drinks:** Barq's Root Beer; Coca-Cola; Dr. Pepper; Pepsi; and Sprite. **Snacks:** Act II Popcorn; Cheez-It; Cheetos; Chex Mixes; Doritos; Rold Gold Pretzels; Slim Jim; Sun Chips; and Wheat Thins.

### **UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & OTHER 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.

## **SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans' website – [www.mebaplans.org](http://www.mebaplans.org) (Forms & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or [vacation@mebaplans.org](mailto:vacation@mebaplans.org) for more info.

## **REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Monday, October 8 – **Columbus Day** – *Halls Closed*

Tuesday, October 9 – **Boston@1200**; **CMES@1430**; **Charleston@1400**; **Houston@1315**; **Oakland@1230**; Seattle (Fife)**@1300**;

Wednesday, October 10 – **Jacksonville@1300**; **New Orleans@1315**;

Thursday, October 11 – **L.A.@1230**; **NY/NJ@1300**; **Norfolk@1300**; **Tampa@1300**;

Friday, October 12 – **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)*