

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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REOPENER AGREEMENT WITH OSG FINALIZED

Negotiated wage and wage-related item increases established at reopener talks this summer with Overseas Ship Management have taken effect retroactively to July 1 now that an agreement with the company has been finalized. M.E.B.A. negotiators, including a rank and file team, reached agreement with OSG on new economic terms in the last two years of the contract. Improvements were also negotiated in Plans and fund contributions among other items.

Reopener talks were led by Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram and included Tampa Branch Agent Adam Smith and Headquarters Contracts Rep. Mark S. Gallagher. The M.E.B.A. rank and file team included OSG Chief Engineers Ben Jones and Nick Sullivan.

Our contract with OSG runs through June 15, 2020. It covers 14 vessels in the OSG U.S.-flag fleet. The agreement is being forwarded to each of the the Union halls.

NEW REPORT FINDS MOST MARITIME NATIONS RELY ON CABOTAGE LAWS

A newly-released comprehensive study has ascertained the pervasiveness of cabotage laws by established maritime nations throughout the world. The study, commissioned by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), makes it clear that laws and statutes such as the Jones Act are widespread and utilized by global nations to protecting shipping industries, ensure retention of skilled maritime workers, promote safety and bolster national security. ITF noted that this was the first independent analysis of maritime cabotage laws since 1992.

Specifically, the report reveals that 91 countries representing 80% of the world's coastal UN Maritime States have cabotage laws which restrict foreign maritime activity in their domestic coastal trades.

James Given, Chair of the ITF Cabotage Task Force said, "The benefits of cabotage laws are self-evident. For countries that depend on the sea for their trade, cabotage safeguards their own strategic interests as maritime nations, bringing added economic value whilst also protecting national security and the environment."

The study "Cabotage Laws of the World" was conducted by Seafarers' Rights International (SRI), an international research center on maritime and seafarers' law. It can be viewed online at <http://ftp.elabor8.co.uk/sri/cabotage/flipbook/mobile/index.html>

“The United States is, and always has been, a maritime nation,” said Matt Woodruff, Chairman of the American Maritime Partnership. “From the very founding of our country, the American maritime industry has served a critical role in maintaining our national, homeland and economic security. For policymakers that work to promote a strong and vibrant economy and national security leaders charged with protecting the U.S. security posture, this comprehensive study reinforces the importance of cabotage laws – like the Jones Act – and the historical legislative actions taken to support maritime industries across the globe, including in nations like Russia, China and South Korea.”

DOJ SEEKS RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ANTI-LABOR EXECUTIVE ORDERS

This week, the Justice Department appealed a recent court decision which struck down egregious anti-labor provisions in three Executive Orders that had been issued in late May. President Trump’s Executive Orders were aimed at removing important union rights of federal employees at the workplace.

In her late August decision, U.S. District Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson noted that the President exceeded his authority with the issuance of the three Executive Orders which, she said, would “eviscerate the right to bargain collectively as envisioned in the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (FSLMRS).”

One of the Executive Orders watered down grievance procedures and eased the way for agencies to fire workers instead of disciplinary measures. Another Order targeted collective bargaining agreements to give the Government the upper hand against unions negotiating contracts. A third Order curtailed “official time” which allows labor unions to represent union and non-union bargaining unit members in disciplinary actions and other matters.

M.E.B.A. was part of the coalition that successfully challenged the Executive Orders and led to Judge Jackson’s decision that the Orders violated statutory law. That ruling halted the implementation of the Executive Orders which had already begun.

Now the Government will try to overturn that ruling and reinstitute the anti-labor Orders. Their appeal will be heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

NASSCO STARTS WORK ON FIRST SHIP IN FLEET OILER PROGRAM

San Diego’s General Dynamics NASSCO has begun construction on the future USNS JOHN LEWIS, the first ship in the Navy’s fleet oiler program.

The LEWIS will be the first in a class of at least 6 newbuild fleet oilers that will join the Military Sealift Command fleet and provide crucial support to Navy ships. The vessels will provide underway replenishment of fuel and stores to US Navy ships at sea and jet fuel for aircraft assigned to aircraft carriers. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC’s Civilian Mariner fleet.

The shipyard staged a ceremony last week to cut the first piece of steel for the USNS JOHN LEWIS signifying the start of construction. The vessel is scheduled for completion in November 2020.

The class of oilers will feature the capacity to carry 157,000 barrels of oil, a significant dry cargo capacity, aviation capability and a speed of 20 knots.

NMC SEEKS CG EXAM QUESTION REVIEWERS

The National Maritime Center has put out a call for qualified individuals to assist them in the review of existing and new U.S. Coast Guard examination questions.

The agency is looking to meet Congressionally-mandated requirements for a Working Group to perform a thorough review of examination questions for accuracy and availability of exam references. Among others being sought for the working group, the NMC is seeking credentialed deck and engineering officers.

Examination review will take place at the National Maritime Center in Martinsburg, WV and at some regional locations. Those who wish to participate should their résumé and Non-Disclosure Agreement and Confidential Financial Disclosure to [NMCEXAMWORKINGGROUP@USCG.MIL](mailto:NMCExamWorkingGroup@uscg.mil). Emails must be less than 8 mb and cannot be zipped. More information about submission methods can be learned by calling (304) 433-3720.

MMC APPLICATION PACKAGE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The National Maritime Center (NMC) has put guidance on its website to help mariners submit complete and accurate Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) application packages. These guidance documents are intended to aid mariner applicants in properly completing the CG-719B Application for MMC and the Evidence of Sea Service forms. To ensure mariners receive credentials within the NMC-stated processing goal of 30 days, proper submission of this documentation is essential.

Two guides are currently available to assist mariner applicants in submitting application packages:

- How to fill out the CG-719B Form, which can be found by clicking on the Forms link, located on the NMC homepage at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>
- Sea Service Instructions, which can be found by clicking on the MMC Evaluation link, located on the NMC homepage at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>

Visit the NMC website for questions or concerns visit the NMC website or contact the NMC Customer Service Center by e-mailing [IASKNMC@USCG.MIL](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil), by using the NMC online chat system, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKETS? 4MF RAFFLE WINDING DOWN

Not much time remains to purchase tickets for the raffle supporting the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF). The winning raffle ticket (\$2 apiece) will be drawn on October 9, 2018 at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) during the monthly membership meeting. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets are available at each of the Union halls – so make sure you purchase a ticket and contribute to the cause. Members, applicants, retirees and everyone else are strongly encouraged to help buoy the 4MF which provides upkeep and improvements to the Memorial Park located at the CMES. The Memorial honors fallen mariners who helped blaze the proud tradition our members continue today. The grand winner will receive 50% of the proceeds from raffle sales. Please help honor our heritage and support the 4MF!

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 (Forms & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org for more info.

PAYMENT PORTAL FOR DUES, P.A.F., G&W

The payment portal accessed from M.E.B.A.'s homepage (www.mebaunion.org) allows members and applicants ease when making a dues or service charge payment and to assist the P.A.F. and Good & Welfare funds. Payments can be made by credit card, debit card or through a checking account. A recurring payment option is also available on the portal enabling automatic quarterly payments so members can “set it and forget it” and always stay current. You simply check the “Recurring Billing” box that appears at the top of the page when you're filling out your information to enable automatic quarterly payments. This feature is also available to support the Good & Welfare and the Political Action Fund on a monthly basis. P.A.F. is crucial for keeping U.S. shipping and the Union's interests viable in the halls of Congress.

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.**

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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