

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 REACHED WITH MLL

After three months of hard negotiations with Maersk Line, Ltd., the Union hammered out final details with the company leading to agreement between the parties. The new agreements, taking effect tomorrow (10/1), include improved wages, benefits, and economic terms of employment. It affects 19 ships over three contracts (MLL, E-Ships & M-Ships). This is a four-year reopener, with the overall contracts expiring in 2025.

M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac helped bring the talks to the finish line along with Atlantic Coast Vice President Jason Callahan, who headed up negotiations for the Union, with support from Headquarters Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher. Great contributions were made at the negotiation table by rank-and-file members who helped bring the process to a successful conclusion. Those members included Chief Engineers Keith Turcotte, Craig Moran, Rob McGuire, Josh Reed, Fil Gaylan, Todd Bilodeau and Captain Dan Davis. Additionally, gratitude is expressed for all the members who forwarded input and suggestions for the reopener talks.

WWII MARINERS HONORED AT AMMV CONVENTION

Last week, the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) honored the incredible contributions of World War II mariners at their annual convention in Linthicum Heights, MD and celebrated the legacy of the U.S. Merchant Marine. The AMMV is an organization of active and retired mariners that trumpets the vital role of the men and women of the Merchant Marine and their service to the country during peace and war.

At the Convention, attendees got an advance look at the design for the forthcoming Congressional Gold Medal that will be created to honor World War II mariners. After a tireless fight by U.S. shipping interests and several key lawmakers including Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) and Sen Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed by Congress, will be awarded to the WWII U.S. Merchant Marine. A single gold medal will be struck, as early as the end of the year, and placed on display in the American Merchant Marine Museum at the Academy in Kings Point, NY. Duplicates will then be created and made available to the public. M.E.B.A. will be working with the Maritime Administration and the AMMV on plans to create reproductions of the Gold Medal.

M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac, Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha and several other M.E.B.A. representatives and retirees, as well as American Maritime Congress President Jim Caponiti attended

the Convention. President Vokac presented an award to the AMMV on behalf of the American Maritime Partnership honoring the group's efforts and its hand in securing gold medal recognition for WWII mariners, a long overdue tribute.

Another highlight of the Convention came when family members accepted special recognition for the groundbreaking Capt. Hugh Mulzac, the first black person to command a U.S. merchant vessel. Capt. Mulzac, born in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, earned his unlimited Master's license in 1918, but discrimination denied him opportunities to sail as an officer. In 1936, he rejected an offer to serve as Master because he would have had to cross a picket line as a scab. Finally in 1942, he was offered command of the Liberty Ship BOOKER T. WASHINGTON with an all-black crew but refused the assignment unless the vessel was integrated. His terms were agreed to and Capt. Mulzac commanded the ship on 22 overseas runs (without a casualty) carrying vital equipment and troops and assisting the winning Allied efforts. After the war, he again struggled to find appropriate work commensurate to his license and experience and was blacklisted during McCarthyism. He lived long enough to see the beginnings of societal changes brought about by the civil rights movement in the 1960s that laid the foundation for future seafaring men and women of color getting a fair shake. Capt. Mulzac died in 1971 at the age of 84.

NEXT COMMANDER AT TRANSCOM NEARS SENATE CONFIRMATION

Full Senate confirmation is expected for Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost who is set to succeed Gen. Stephen Lyons as the Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command. USTRANSCOM is responsible for the global, joint movement of combat units and sustainment cargo.

A recent confirmation hearing for the General hosted by the Senate Armed Services Committee went smoothly. The nominee expressed support for the integral role U.S.-flag shipping plays in the security of this nation and also affirmed the need for the Tanker Security Program, a newly established program modeled after the Maritime Security Program. It is planned as a fleet of 10 commercial U.S.-flag petroleum product tankers supporting our nation's long-term strategic defense needs. The program would reduce military reliance on foreign-flag commercial vessels while also expanding the qualified mariner pool. The vote on her nomination before the full Senate, which could happen at any time, is expected to be noncontroversial. The change of command with the outgoing General Lyons will likely take place in mid-October.

Gen. Van Ovost currently heads up the Air Mobility Command. She spent much of her early career as a test pilot, then served as Air Force staff director, Vice Director of the Joint Staff and deputy director for politico-military affairs for the Joint Staff.

JUNEAU HALL RELOCATING

M.E.B.A.'s Union hall in Juneau is relocating to a new space on November 1st. The new hall is 2 ½ blocks away still in the heart of Juneau, close to the State Capitol. It's located at 130 Seward St. Suite 304 in the Goldstein Building.

M.E.B.A.'s Juneau Representative Ben Goldrich acknowledged that the new space will produce a cost savings for the Union while providing the same amenities for members utilizing the hall. The hall phone, fax and email addresses will remain unchanged.

POID GETS READY TO MOVE TO NEW DIGS; DELEGATES ELECTED

Members at M.E.B.A.'s POID division in Nashville, TN will be relocating around the corner to a newly renovated building. The shoreside professionals at M.E.B.A.'s Professional Office and Industrial Division (POID) handle Customer Service as well as Inbound Vessel Close, Container Incident Management, Cargo Readiness, Documentation, and Finance/Cashier services for APL US-Flag vessels at American President Lines, and contract work for CMA CGM.

APL/CMA CGM announced that the unit will occupy the entire top floor and parts of the 4th floor of new offices in Highland Ridge II at 555 Marriott Drive. The company is hoping that the move can be completed to allow employees to start 2022 at the new location. The new office boasts scenic views, ergonomic furniture, nearby restaurants and plenty of parking. Building management is looking to create walking trails in the vicinity, as well as a gym.

April Fleischer is M.E.B.A.'s POID Representative and helps keep our members in the unit on good footing. She announced that POID members recently elected a trio of new Delegates that will help build a strong and amicable relationship with APL while continuing to fight for the interests of our members. April gave a "shout out" to the new Delegates that include Emmanuel Adjei, Lawrence Jeter and Brandie Davis. Jason Yarbrough will serve as an Alternate Delegate. Congratulations!

MATSON WORK: VACCINATIONS BECOME PART OF FITNESS-FOR-DUTY

Beginning tomorrow (10/1/21) Matson Navigation is requiring its mariners to be inoculated against COVID-19. Vaccinations will be considered part of a member's fitness for duty assessment. The Union recently entered into a Letter of Understanding with Matson that codifies the implementation while also setting up protections of members' rights. The agreement secured \$500 incentives, through October 15, 2021, for prospective Matson crew and port engineers to get vaccinated – including compensation for those who have already received the vaccine.

As of tomorrow, only fully vaccinated members can be dispatched to a Matson vessel as crew or port relief, or dispatched to a Matson port engineer position. Vaccinations are also required for port agents or Union officials boarding Matson vessels for Union business. As part of the agreement, the company will provide notice to the Union approximately 20 days prior to any Off-the-Board Rotary and Relief jobs until the end of 2021 to help facilitate a successful implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination Fitness-for-Duty requirement. This earlier notification gives all LDOs and LEOs an opportunity to bid on a job regardless of vaccination status. If a person bidding is not vaccinated at the time they bid, then they will still have time to receive a vaccination (if receiving the one-shot J&J) and be fully vaccinated prior to joining the vessel.

As shipping companies begin to institute 100% vaccine requirements, the M.E.B.A. has been working to make sure members are properly incentivized to support the effort, while also ensuring that the execution of these mandates don't encroach on specific circumstances of our mariner force. Additional details are available at the M.E.B.A. Union halls.

SIGN A PETITION SUPPORTING UNION BROTHERS & SISTERS AT IATSE

Fellow union members at the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) have launched a petition calling for a fair deal for film and TV workers. Enough signatures will send a message of solidarity as they look to end unsafe hours, unlivable wages and the lack of reasonable rest on set. The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), which represents major

film and television production companies, has stalled talks and is no longer interested in addressing worker concerns. The union is considering a strike and is asking its membership for authorization. The union said that it “is incomprehensible that the AMPTP, an ensemble that includes media mega-corporations collectively worth trillions of dollars, claims it cannot provide behind-the-scenes crews with basic human necessities like adequate sleep, meal breaks and living wages...the explosion of streaming, combined with the pandemic, has elevated and aggravated working conditions, bringing 60,000 behind-the-scenes workers covered by these contracts to a breaking point.”

You can support IATSE workers by signing the online petition available here: <https://tinyurl.com/353p9prn>

MLL’S WOODHOUR, SIU/ITF’S HEINDEL AMONG NEWLY ANNOUNCED AOTOS HONOREES

Three new recipients of the prestigious maritime honors – the Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) statuette – were announced this week by the United Seamen’s Service. The AOTOS awards are essentially lifetime achievement honors for towering industry figures. The United Seamen’s Service (USS) sponsors the event which will take place in New York City on December 3, 2021.

The honors will be presented to Bill Woodhour, who is President and CEO of Maersk Line, Ltd., Dave Heindel, who serves as both SIU Secretary-Treasurer and Chairman of the ITF’s Seafarers’ Section, and Kathy Metcalf who is President and CEO of the Chamber of Shipping of America.

A special AOTOS Award will also be presented to Anthony Naccarato, President and Chairman of the American Maritime Officers Service. In addition, a group of American seafarers, to be selected later in the year, will be honored during the ceremony for acts of bravery at sea. The AOTOS Awards have been presented for 52 straight years, including 2020 when the USS conducted the event online.

NOMINATIONS FOR COURAGEOUS MARINERS

The International Maritime Organization is accepting nominations for its “Exceptional Bravery At Sea” award which is doled out annually. Honorees are recognized for performing acts of extraordinary bravery during the nominating period, risking their own lives when attempting to save the lives of others or as part of efforts to protect the marine environment. There is a top winner, but runner-ups are also recognized. Nominations can be submitted through the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) or you can go through your Union which will forward your nomination.

The IMO is looking at acts of bravery that occurred during February 1, 2021 and January 30, 2022. The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2022. Seafarers eligible for the awards perform acts of exceptional bravery, at the risk of losing their own life, and display outstanding courage in attempting to save life at sea or in attempting to prevent or mitigate damage to the marine environment.

Last year, the Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea was given to a search and rescue officer from Vietnam, Tran Van Khoi, who heroically saved the lives of four people from a sinking cargo ship. The seafarer battled extreme weather and stormy seas to complete this daring mission. A Certificate of Commendation was also awarded to another seafarer, Capitan Ritesh Bhamaria. The marine pilot saved the lives of two fishermen in perilous shark-infested waters, upholding seafarers’ long-standing professional and humanitarian commitment to saving lives at sea whenever safely possible.

FALL IS HERE. FEEL GOOD ABOUT BEER!

It's officially Fall. And that means Oktoberfest is here. Labor 411 has catalogued a list of tasty foods and delicious beers.

Oktoberfest Beer - Dundee Oktoberfest (IBT); Goose Island Oktoberfest (IBT); Leinenkugel's Oktoberfest (UAW, IUOE, IBT); Mad River Brewer's Secret (IAM); Mendocino Brewing Engine 45 Pumpkin Ale (IBT); Samuel Adams Oktoberfest (IBT, IUOE, SEIU); Schell's Oktoberfest (USW); Shock Top Pumpkin Wheat (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Shock Top Twister Pretzel Wheat (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Stegmaier Pumpkin Ale (IUOE); Stegmaier Oktoberfest (IUOE). **Bratwurst** - Boar's Head (UFCW, IBT); Koegel's (IBT); Wenzel's (IBT). **Sauerkraut** - Thumann's (UFCW); Claussen (UFCW); Vlastic (IBT). **Pretzels** - Rold Gold (BCTGM, IBT); Snyder of Berlin (UFCW, IBT). **Mustard** - French's (IBT); Gulden's (UFCW); Heinz (IBT, UFCW); Thumann's (UFCW).

YOU SHOULD SIGN UP FOR THE WEDNESDAY HQ ONLINE MEETING!!!!

The monthly town-hall style M.E.B.A. Headquarters informational meeting will be held online – with no voting and no resolutions introduced - on Wednesday, October 6th at 1300 (Eastern Time). This is not an actual membership meeting but it is an excellent opportunity for Members, Applicants and Retirees to discuss M.E.B.A. business, exchange information and learn more about the latest Union initiatives. Members, applicants and retirees need to register in advance for this meeting to mebahq@mebaunion.org

When registering for the Online Headquarters Informational Meeting you must provide your full name and proof of good standing - such as your last dues receipt/service charge number or statement that you are enrolled in Dues Check-Off (DCO) with a particular bargaining unit. Retirees should provide their full name and indicate their retired status. Upon confirmation of your status, the Zoom access link will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS *(All times are local)*

Monday, October 4 – Boston@1200; Seattle-Fife@1300;

Tuesday, October 5 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, October 6 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online Headquarters “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – **Register now at mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, October 7 – L.A.-San Pedro@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, October 8 – 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. 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.