

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

The Official Union Newsletter



Number 36 – September 7, 2017

In this issue//Irma, Harvey-Related Vessel Activations//S.I. Ferry Approves Bargaining Unit Dues Referendum//Matson Upgrading Cranes, Awaits Newbuilds//Instructor Position at Maine Maritime//SPEARHEAD Takes Part in Narcotics Mission//Feel Great about Drinking Beer!!/

IRMA, HARVEY-RELATED VESSEL ACTIVATIONS

Last week's onslaught of Hurricane Harvey coupled with the impending catastrophe promised by Hurricane Irma has prompted the Government to activate a series of vessels including a trio of school ships. In Charleston, SC, M.E.B.A. is crewing up the deck and engine positions of six Keystone-managed Ready Reserve Force vessels to help shelter the ships from possible damage from Irma. The approaching hurricane is currently ravaging the island chain southeast of Florida with the U.S. mainland next up. Those activated RRF vessels include the CAPE DUCATO, CAPE EDMONT, CAPE DIAMOND, CAPE DOUGLAS, CAPE DECISION and CAPE DOMINGO. The Patriot-managed surge LMSRs USNS SHUGHART and USNS YANO also received their marching orders and are sailing towards safety from their berths in Violet, LA.

The Military Sealift Command vessel USNS WILLIAM McLEAN, a dry cargo and ammunition ship, left Norfolk, Virginia last week to support federal, state and local authorities' ongoing relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The fleet replenishment oiler USNS JOHN LENTHALL was also readied to assist the Navy's disaster relief efforts. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC's Civilian Mariner fleet

Last week before Hurricane Harvey made landfall, Texas A&M Maritime Academy Superintendent Mike Rodriguez reached out to the M.E.B.A. to supply a Chief Engineer to ride out the storm aboard the Academy's training ship, the T/S GENERAL RUDDER. Member Dave Reid answered the call and along with crew and several midshipmen, battened down the hatches and secured the ship during Harvey's assault.

Since then, the Maritime Administration (MarAd) received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to activate the GENERAL RUDDER. The training ship remains in-port at Galveston and is being used to support recovery efforts by providing power, housing, food and water to first responders.

In addition, MarAd activated two other Academy ships which serve as part of the National Defense Reserve Fleet. The State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College's training ship, EMPIRE STATE VI, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy's training ship, KENNEDY are also joining Texas relief efforts for at least a 30 day period. Combined, the three academy ships can house over 1,200 workers to free up local hotel resources for displaced individuals.

STRENGTHENED SUPPORT FOR STATEN ISLAND FERRY UNIT ENABLED BY REFERENDUM VOTE

A strong referendum turnout by members sailing in the Staten Island Ferry fleet coupled with a decisive vote will enable bolstered representation for the bargaining unit.

More than 95% of eligible voting members in the ferry fleet participated in a two-week online dues equity referendum that ended at 9 a.m. this morning. A remarkable 94% of voters elected to change their dues structure from the previous fixed amount per year to a percentage of their base wage. This was done to better equip the bargaining unit with a strengthened hand to wage future battles.

The implementation of the new rate is set to go into effect on October 1. Specifics are being shored up and bargaining unit members will be kept apprised of the new process.

MATSON UPGRADING CRANES IN HONO; AWAITING NEWBUILDS

A Matson Navigation subsidiary has inked deals with Paceco Corp. for three new 65 long-ton capacity cranes and modifications to upgrade three existing cranes at its Sand Island Terminal in Honolulu Harbor.

The investments are part of a broader \$60 million terminal expansion and modernization program Matson is preparing its operational hub in Hawaii for the arrival of four new ships the company has on order with deliveries starting next year. The first vessel to arrive will be the DANIEL K. INOUE set to debut in 2018. The new cranes will be installed in early 2019 by Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding.

Matson has two Aloha Class ships under construction at Philly Shipyard in Philadelphia with deliveries scheduled for the third quarter of 2018 and first quarter of 2019, respectively. The 850-foot long, 3,600 TEU vessels will be Matson's largest ships and the largest containerhips ever built in the U.S. They will also be faster than any of Matson's current vessels, designed to operate at speeds in excess of 23 knots.

Matson has also ordered two Kanaloa Class vessels from General Dynamics NASSCO in San Diego with deliveries scheduled for the end of 2019 and mid-year 2020. These ships will be combination container and roll-on/roll-off (Con-Ro) vessels built on a 3,500 TEU vessel platform 870 feet long and 115 feet wide, with enclosed garage space for up to 800 vehicles.

In addition, all four new vessels will have state-of-the-art green technology features, including a fuel efficient hull design, environmentally safe double hull fuel tanks, fresh water ballast systems and dual-fuel engines, meaning that they will be able to operate on either conventional fuel oils or liquefied natural gas (LNG) with some adaptation for LNG.

MEMBER SOUGHT AS MAINE MARITIME INSTRUCTOR

Maine Maritime Academy has an opportunity for a member to serve as a Machine Shop assistant professor of engineering. The position involves the instruction of general undergraduate engineering courses including machine tool operations, graphic design, CAD & CNC technology and associated labs as assigned by the Engineering Department head.

The position is open to those with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering/Engineering Technology, at least five years of industrial experience in machine shop & general CNC practice and someone with excellent communication and leadership skills. Though not a necessity, the Academy would prefer applicants with a Master's Degree, prior marine and/or teaching and machine shop experience. A complete description of the position along with how to apply can be accessed on the M.E.B.A. website at www.mebaunion.org/Jobs/

USNS SPEARHEAD TAKES PART IN NARCOTICS DETECTION MISSION

The versatile Military Sealift Command's USNS SPEARHEAD was involved in yet another high-profile mission, a regular occurrence for the expeditionary fast transport (EPF) vessel.

The SPEARHEAD crew recently wrapped up detection and monitoring patrols in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility to assist in the interdiction of illicit drug trafficking, during Southern Partnership Station 2017. The Southern Command covers the Caribbean, Central, and South American regions.

SPEARHEAD partnered with the DEA, FBI and U.S. Coast Guard. During the mission it transited its designated operational area and was responsible for reporting any suspected illegal trafficking targets.

In fiscal year 2016 (FY16), a task force documented more than 4,000 drug smuggling events in the waters of the western Caribbean Sea. The area between Honduras and South America is the most active illicit trafficking zone in the region with cocaine listed as the primary narcotic.

"We work with the bridge, civilian mariners and embarked security teams to make sure everyone is communicating when we get a contact in the water," said the leading chief petty officer of the Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 1 team embarked aboard SPEARHEAD. "The detection and monitoring operations have allowed everyone a chance to learn more of how our counterparts work together with other agencies and where we fit in the big picture."

SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION/PENSION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Pension Plan and Vacation Plan Direct Deposits 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 and Documents, Vacation Plan Forms) & (Forms and Documents, Pension Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans' website as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org & pension@mebaplans.org for more info.

In order for your October 1st pension check to be direct deposited into your banking institution, the Pension direct deposit forms must be completed and received at the Plan Office **no later than September 14, 2017.**

FEEL EVEN BETTER ABOUT DRINKING BEER!

Today is National Beer Lover's Day (Did you need an excuse?). Labor 411 has released a list of "ethically" produced beers that will aid your beer choices today, on September 28th (National 'Drink Beer' Day), Oktoberfest, and any day in between you might choose. They've isolated 250 beers made by employers that treat their workers fairly. Here are just a few:

Alexander Keith's; Bass; Beck's; Black Hawk; Blue Moon; Budweiser; Bud Light; Busch; Butte Creek; Coors; Coors Light; Czechvar; Dundee; Duquesne; Goose Island; Henry Weinhard's; Hoegaarden; Icehouse; Iron City; Keystone Light; Killian's; Kirin; Labatt Blue; Land Shark Lager; Lazy Mutt; Leffe Blond; Leinenkugel; Lionshead; Mendocino; Michelob; Michelob Ultra; Miller Genuine Draft; Miller Lite; Miller High Life; Milwaukee's Best; Molson; Moosehead; Natural Light; O'Doul's (non-alcoholic); Pabst Blue Ribbon; Red Dog; Red Tail; Rolling Rock; Red Stripe; Sam Adams; Sharp's (non-alcoholic); Schlitz; Shock Top; Steelhead; Stegmaier; and Stella Artois. There are a lot more! Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ycbgwvy7> to see the entire list.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, October 2 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;
Tuesday, October 3 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;
Wednesday, October 4 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;
Thursday, October 5 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;
Friday, October 6 - 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. Visit us on Facebook. For publication and related inquiries contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org