M.E.B.A. - Decision 2013

In each M.E.B.A. election since 1995, we have provided a special edition of the Marine Officer as a courtesy to members to allow candidates vying for Union office to present their campaign statements. Though not required, candidates were invited to submit their photo and a message limited to 400 words. Statements that ran over the word count were subsequently scaled back to the 400-word level by the Credentials Committee. Otherwise, candidate statements presented in this issue appear unedited and reflect the complete wording, grammar and spelling mistakes intact, that were part of the original submission.

We present those statements in this issue along with important information related to the election. This edition should help serve as a guide for members deciding which candidates for 13 elected offices and 11 National Convention delegate positions would best serve the Union.

M.E.B.A. voters have three months, following the mailing of the ballots in early September, to cast their ballots. On December 2, 2013, an Impartial Administrator along with a tallying committee will collect the votes, oversee the count and record the results in a report.

This past July, an elected rank and file Credentials Committee confirmed the qualifications of nominees for M.E.B.A. office. Their report appears on the following page.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE ON ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

The Constitution and By-Laws of the M.E.B.A. specify that no member’s ballot shall be counted unless he or she is a member in good standing as of 15 days immediately preceding the closing of the balloting period. Article Ten, Section 3(d) of the District No. 1 M.E.B.A. By-Laws stipulates that in order for a member’s ballot to count, their dues must be paid through December 31, 2013 by November 15, 2013.

SIGNIFICANT ELECTION DATES PER DISTRICT NO. 1 BY-LAWS

September 3, 2013 ............................ Ballots mailed to the membership.

November 25, 2013 ........................... Tallying Committee elected at special Union hall meetings.

November 30, 2013 ........................... Closing date for ballots to be returned to the depository.

December 2, 2013 ............................. Tallying Committee and Impartial Administrator collect ballots and count votes.

December 3, 2013 ............................. Tallying Committee and Impartial Administrator file their report within 24 hours after completion of the ballot count.

December 31, 2013
(at midnight) .............................. Elected officials assume offices and jobs.
1. We the Credentials Committee, elected by the membership pursuant to Article 10, Section 2(a) of the District No.1-PCD M.E.B.A. (AFL-CIO) By-Laws, have examined the nominations for all District No.1 officers and jobs which were received at District No. 1 Headquarters, 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington D.C. 20001 during the nomination period.

2. All nominations, with the exception of those not addressed to the Credentials Committee, were received sealed and unopened by the Credentials Committee.

3. All nominations were submitted to the Credentials Committee in accordance with Article 10, Section 1(b) of the District No.1-PCD M.E.B.A. (AFL-CIO) By-Laws.

4. The Credentials Committee accepted all timely nominations regardless of the method of delivery.

5. All nomination letters listed were received in a timely manner at Headquarters as required by Article 10, Section 1(e) of the District No.1-PCD M.E.B.A. (AFL-CIO) By-Laws.

6. The dues of all nominees were found to be current through the time of nomination (September 30, 2013), in accordance with Article 9, Section 3 and Article 20, Section 8 of the District No.1-PCD M.E.B.A. (AFL-CIO) By-Laws.

7. The membership status of all nominees was checked and all were determined to have been a “member of the District for one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the closing of the nominations” as required by Article 10, Section 8(a) of the National M.E.B.A. Constitution.

8. All disqualified nominees were notified of the reasons for their disqualification, and their right, if any, to appear before the Committee to appeal the decision or appeal to the membership, as required by Article 10, Section 2(c) of the District No.1-PCD M.E.B.A. (AFL-CIO) By-Laws.

9. Letters were sent to all nominees found to be disqualified, to inform them of their disqualification.

10. The Committee makes the following findings concerning all nominations received:

   **Nominations for the Office of the President of District No.1:**
   (Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
   1. H. Marshall Ainley ................. Qualified
   2. Patrick Calder ....................... Qualified
   3. Alex Carlin .........................Qualified
   4. Joseph Daniel DiSarno .............. Disqualified
   5. Marc Hoffman ........................ Qualified
   6. Mike Jewell .......................... Qualified
   7. Mark Joseph Suneson ................ Qualified

   **Nominations for the Office of Secretary-Treasurer of District No.1:**
   (Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
   8. Bradley “Scott” Ducharme .......... Qualified
   9. Bill Van Loo .......................... Qualified

   **Nominations for the Position of Branch Agent of New York (Atlantic Coast V.P.):**
   (Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
   10. John Burke ......................... Qualified
   11. Chris Guerra ....................... Qualified
   12. Charles Jerrier ..................... Qualified
   13. Steven L. “Red” Pike .............. Qualified
   14. Salvatore “Torey” Zingales Jr. .... Qualified

   **Nominations for the Position of Branch Agent of New Orleans (Gulf Coast V.P.):**
   (Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
   15. Tony Carubba ....................... Qualified
   16. Benjamin Darr ..................... Disqualified
   17. Lawrence Holbert .................. Qualified
   18. Jonathan Lincoln .................. Qualified
   19. Phillip Sistrunk ................... Qualified

   **Nominations for the Position of Branch Agent of San Francisco (Executive V.P.):**
   (Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
   20. Joseph Brooke ...................... Qualified
   21. Adam Vokac ....................... Qualified
Nominations for the Position of Branch Agent of Norfolk:
(Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
1. Seth Brightwell .................. Disqualified
2. Greg Quintana .................. Qualified

Nominations for the Position of Branch Agent of Houston:
(Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
3. Erin Bertram .................. Qualified
4. Brian Evjen .................. Disqualified
5. William (Billy) McLaughlin ....... Qualified

Nominations for the Position of Branch Agent of Los Angeles:
(Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
6. Rich Doherty .................. Qualified

Nominations for the Position of Branch Agent of Seattle:
(Ex-Officio National Convention Delegate)
7. Jeff Duncan .................. Qualified
8. Dave Nashif .................. Qualified

Nominations for the Position of Patrolman in the Port of New York:
9. Michael T. O’Toole Jr ................. Qualified
10. Nico Sermoneta .................. Qualified

Nominations for the Position of Patrolman in the Port of Los Angeles:
11. Dave A. Nolan .................. Qualified

Nominations for the Position of Patrolman in the Port of Seattle:
12. John McElhone ................. Qualified
13. Kevin M. Cross ................. Qualified
14. Wilson “Wil” Johns ............... Qualified

Nominations for Representatives to the National M.E.B.A. Convention:
15. Kevin M. Cross .................. Qualified
16. April Fleischer .................. Qualified
17. Mark S. Gallagher ................. Qualified
18. Brian W. Gerrish .................. Qualified
19. Joseph Hood .................. Disqualified
20. Wilson “Wil” Johns .................. Qualified
21. John McElhone .................. Qualified
22. Dave A. Nolan .................. Qualified
23. Michael T. O’Toole Jr ................. Qualified
24. George M. Poor .................. Qualified
25. Nico Sermoneta .................. Qualified
26. Adam Smith .................. Qualified
27. Ray Twitty .................. Qualified
28. Steven D. Walker ................. Qualified

11. The campaign statements submitted by the nominees were reviewed and will be limited to 400 words according to the Election Notices on the Inside Cover & Page 2 of the Marine Officer, Winter/Spring 2013.

12. All disqualified members failed to meet Article Ten Section 1(c) 5 or Article Ten Section 1(e) of the M.E.B.A. By-Laws.

13. The Committee wishes to thank the staff and officials at Headquarters for outstanding support and cooperation.

14. The Committee notes that the numbering system used will be modified by the removal of disqualified candidates.

Recommendations from the Committee:
1. That candidates be required to include a copy of their latest dues receipt to be included in their election packet.

2. That candidates include a Plans-generated statement of days of covered employment instead of discharges, pay stubs and/or vacation stubs. Interpretation of hours worked or other accounting procedures from specific companies makes it difficult to ensure that days of covered employment requirements are met.

3. Election material should emphasize that employment in the election year does not count towards required employment.

Respectfully submitted,
Chairman/ John Durrant
Member/ Wilfred Jones
Member/ Charles LaCour
Alternate/ James Moore

Candidate numbers indicated in the Credentials Committee report are not synchronized with the numbering system on the ballot.
Patrick Calder

Vote PATRICK CALDER for MEBA DISTRICT PRESIDENT. I am seeking to be President of our union because over the last three years I have watched as our wages have dropped, the number of jobs has gone down, and the viability of the entire American merchant marine has been questioned. I cannot stand by and watch as our future is destroyed. I have been sailing with MEBA since graduating from Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 2004. I hold an Unlimited Chief Engineer license and sail as permanent 1st A/E on the NCL Pride of America. In 2012 I was a candidate for US Congress in my home state of Maine.

We have seen what happens with broken and empty promises. We have watched as we’ve lost jobs, lost wages, and gave up our greatest strength: our pension plan. This administration has sacrificed what made our union great in the first place all so that a handful in our leadership can keep living large. I’ve had enough of this and I bet you have too.

I have decided to run for President because I believe the integrity of the MEBA needs to be restored. Simply put the MEBA Membership, Constitution, By-Laws, Collective Bargaining Agreements and Plans form the foundation of our union. Integrity of this foundation is essential for the MEBA to sustain itself. Regard for and adherence to the MEBA Constitution, By-Laws and Collective Bargaining Agreements should be of concern to all.

I also believe the representation the MEBA membership has received has been inadequate. The MEBA must operate with “Democracy” and “Transparency” otherwise it should not be considered a union. The membership does have specific rights to be involved in discussions and debates, when decisions or actions are considered, which affect the membership and direction of the union.

With regards to our union administration, contracts and plans; I will work with all elected officials, representatives and the MEBA membership, to focus on the most important issues which will benefit and sustain our union into the future. We can obviously accomplish more unifying our efforts, talents and experience.

I believe, working together, we can restore the integrity of the MEBA and in doing so ensure a stronger union for the next generation of MEBA members. I sincerely hope all members vote for the candidates who will best represent the MEBA moving forward.

I promise to restore MEBA and work for three primary goals: 1) Increase the wages and benefits of the jobs we have to ensure they remain attractive and lucrative for our members. 2) Bring more jobs into the union, like the drill ships in the Gulf, and by working with companies to help expand their fleet, and take back the jobs we have lost in the last three years. 3) Work with political leaders in both parties to ensure the long-term strength and stability of the American merchant marine and therefore our union.

I will bring in new jobs not by cutting sweet-heart deals and back room promises with companies – it will be by showing what MEBA is – a union of the best maritime officers in the world. I will put the needs of the entire union first – not just a handful who want a cushy retirement. When Patrick Calder is your President, you will know that any contract negotiation or change will go out to the membership to a vote. I will make sure there is no more secrecy, and no more retaliation against our membership for not just falling into line. Vote Patrick Calder for MEBA District President, so that together we can all work to restore MEBA to what it once was, and ensure it remains strong for decades to come.
Alex Carlin

My name is Alex Carlin and I am running for the position of MEBA President. I am humbled and flattered by the outpouring of support and encouragement of my union brothers and sisters to run for office. I am a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy and have sailed for over a decade with the MEBA. I hold a Chief Engineer’s license and I sail as permanent First on the Horizon Kodiak.

I am running to stop the current DEC in their tracks before our union becomes little more than a fading memory of proud merchant seaman! We have a legacy to uphold and a stewardship to our retirees, current members, and future members. I humbly ask for your vote for MEBA President, District 1-PCD.

I want to empower the membership in making and deciding union policy. I aim to amend the current by-laws, thus limiting the power of the DEC. I have laid out a plan and new ideas to get our membership more involved. We need to bring our union into the 21st century by connecting our members via the internet. We can use this tool to inform, educate, and vote on contracts from around the globe!

I will bring youth, energy, and a new vision to the membership. Unlike the current DEC, I have a vested interest in making this union a profitable entity. Getting elected into office is not an option instead of retiring. I will most likely be sailing under the contracts that I negotiate and I will be accountable for my actions.

I truly believe that this election year is the most important one in recent history. We have already lost benefits and wages that were considered cornerstones of labor contracts. This is absolutely not acceptable!

Please look at your union brother or sister and ask them if we are better off than we were three years ago. Are we in a better bargaining position? What is our reputation in the industry? Are our pensions, our wages, and our livelihoods better off now? What is the future of this great union? Please follow me on twitter @MEBAPRESIDENT, visit my face book page, or watch me on YouTube to learn more about my ideas that promote union democracy!

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to humbly serving the membership as your President.

Fraternally,
Alex Carlin
Carlin4president@gmail.com

Marc Hoffman

Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Marc Hoffman and I am running for MEBA D1 President.

Let me first state and make clear that I am not a politician. I do not know how to dodge questions and manipulate facts. What I do know is that the key to a stronger and more cohesive union is to take into account the opinions, values, and voices of every contributing member, in regards to voting and daily operations. Way too many decisions have been made without the consent of our members. This must change.

I am a Hawse Piper who knows how and with whom to fight. I know what it takes to get things accomplished. I have owned and operated three businesses. Throughout my life I have supported my family through perseverance and hard work. All who know me and have worked with me know that I never quit until the work is done. I’m sure all of you have heard the saying “If it aint broke don’t fix it!” Well it is broke, let’s fix it.

I am proposing an alternative to a failing system. I want to help ensure a future for our great union – one where all the hard work and sacrifices we’ve made guarantee that when we retire our benefits are still viable and our pensions maintained.

I’ve been a working man all my life. I know what it’s like to be yanked around by people who may not have your best interests at heart. Let’s do this together. We need to bring honor and strength back to MEBA. I need your help, support, and your vote. NO YANK!

Fraternally,
Marc Hoffman
Email: MarcHoffman4MebaPresident@yahoo.com
Marine Officer

Mike Jewell

Brothers and Sisters

It has been an honor to serve the MEBA membership as President for the past three years. Throughout my career I have held many jobs, from 3rd Engineer up to Chief Engineer, and I served for 30 years in the U.S. Navy Reserves, retiring with the rank of Captain. All of these jobs built the skill set I bring to leading this Union.

At our first DEC meeting we came up with the catch phrase that has been our creed: Is this the best we can do for the membership? Having watched for many years how infighting among the DEC has brought great harm to this union, it was my goal to create a strong sense of teamwork. We’ve done that and the Union is stronger for it.

With regard to our Pension Plan, we quickly found out we DID NOT have three years of overfunding as we had been repeatedly assured from the previous administration, but rather less than one year. Over the next year the entire DEC battled tirelessly to save our Pension Plan and to find a solution. The companies were adamant that we downgrade to a 401 (k) plan. We saved our tradition Pension Plan, but not without a price, as the membership is well aware. This is leadership – making the tough decisions. In a time where traditional pension plans are disappearing, saving our traditional Pension Plan was a huge achievement.

In this, and in every decision we have made, we have looked out for what is best for the Union as a whole, and for the individual members, over the coming 5, 10, and 20 years. We chose to not take what appeared to be a simple short-term solution, which would hurt our memberships’ retirement security and the MEBA’s ability to recruit and retain members.

We stand on the shoulders of those who have come before and we must leave this Union stronger for those who will follow. If we don’t fight for progress, there will be none. It’s up to us, it’s our watch.

We are a UNION of mariners, PROUD of our heritage and CONFIDENT of our future. We stand together like the proverbial bunch of sticks, hard to break as a whole. I hope you will support my team, MEBA PROUD and me for another three years of solid future-oriented leadership.

U&F
Mike Jewell

Mark Joseph Suneson

Written at the head while taking a nice, long reflective moment:

No disturbance from the company – must be election season. If my memory of all the givebacks get flushed, then I could re-elect Mike so that Mike can come up with more givebacks that he can sell at the next contract ratification meeting. Or I can flush twice – it’s a long way to the negotiation table. Put the stink where it belongs – at the negotiation table not the ratification meeting. Take ‘em to a donnybrook with Suneson.

Candidates For The Office Of Secretary-Treasurer Of District No. 1

Bradley “Scott” Ducharme

Dear fellow MEBA Brothers and Sisters,

I am extremely humbled and proud to announce my candidacy for Secretary-Treasurer of District No. 1 Marine Engineers Beneficial Association. I have been a member of good standing since I joined MEBA in the fall of 1979. Prior to signing up, I graduated from Maine Maritime Academy in 1977 and sailed with Military Sealift Command, East Coast for two years. In 1984 I received my Chief Engineers license and have worked in this position for MTL, OSG, Central Gulf Lines, Farrell Lines, Matson, APL, MLL, and Horizon Lines. At the present time, I am Chief Engineer onboard the Horizon Consumer.

In 1992 my wife and I purchased a small cottage resort and have since successfully operated this business. In the last 7 years I have developed and sold two condominium developments (17 and 10 units). As a Businessman and Real Estate Developer I bring the required knowledge for financial accountability and responsibility.

I joined MEBA because of the outstanding wages, medical benefits, voting rights, and the pension plan offered to me. In the last couple of years our wages have been reduced and benefits taken away without one vote from the membership. Members under 50 years of age with over ten years of pension credit have seen their pensions reduced 10 percent with applicants looking at 25 years of service getting just over 50 percent of their base for a pension. As a Pension Plan Trustee I hope to change these rules and as DEC member I pledge that MEMBERS will have their right to VOTE on any major wage and benefit contracts negotiated.

continued on next page
Bill Van Loo

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As a proud third generation M.E.B.A. member I respectfully ask for your vote for re-election as your Secretary Treasurer.

I take great pride in my service to the M.E.B.A. membership for the last eighteen years. It has truly been an honor. Starting as an elected rank and file representative to the National M.E.B.A. Conventions in 1996 and 1999, I gained valuable experience as I worked my way up to Baltimore Branch Agent in 2002 and then Secretary Treasurer in 2006. This process has provided me with the tools necessary to continue to serve the M.E.B.A.

Successfully managing the Union’s finances, as audited by the rank and file Financial Review Committee, has been both challenging and rewarding. Reports over the last several years show that my initiatives have maximized the M.E.B.A.’s effectiveness while minimizing expenditures in these tough financial times.

**Fighting for the Union, the viability of the maritime industry, and our retirees is my life’s calling.**

Our Union and the maritime industry are under attack on a daily basis and it will take experience, knowledge, and established professional relationships to lead the M.E.B.A. into the future. While fighting in Washington D.C. I have used my 17 years of sailing experience to give a “real life” perspective to the Union’s advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, the Department of Defense, the Maritime Administration, and other associated agencies. I am proud to have testified before the Congressional Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation as to the importance of a strong U.S. Merchant Marine.

I am determined to put in the long hours needed to stay current and engaged on the issues affecting every facet of the Union’s business. From the Union Constitution and contract negotiations to shipping rules and political activities, every issue warrants attention. Further, I recognize the importance of every membership group within the M.E.B.A. Whether sailing deep sea or employed through POID, NOAA, Ferries, Army Corps, MSC, or MARAD, every Union member deserves the leadership’s attention and support.

Every decision I make is based on the same premise: What is best for the M.E.B.A.? I will continue to be fully accessible to the membership by attending Union meetings and providing my cell phone number so that I am available at all times. Fighting for the M.E.B.A. is my passion and I respectfully ask for your vote for me and the M.E.B.A. Proud Team.

John Burke

John Burke

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My name is John Burke and I am proud to be sumitting my name for the nomination of Atlantic Coast Vice President.

Since graduating from Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1990, I started sailing with the MEBA and found myself traveling to numerous union halls from Los Angeles, Houston, New Jersey, and Boston. While sailing out of the halls I found myself helping many engineers and mates to navigate these new waters of union protocols. Today however, I believe the union should set a course for new additional opportunities in the maritime industry so as the union grows to its fullest potential it shall allow more options for its members.

Becoming a union official has been a passion of mine for many years. As a member of the MEBA for over 20 years, I have often found myself being the voice of others in labor disputes, benefits, and regulations. In most recent years, I became growingly frustrated with the strength of the Union. The logistics of the Maritime Industry have made cohesion of the membership difficult to maintain, and the lack there of has created a weakness that the bargaining units have been able to capitalize on. As Your Atlantic Coast vice president I will represent you to my fullest.

As a husband and father of three children, I understand the financial challenges facing families in this tough economy, most notably, medical coverage. The task to increase benefits and maintain a fiscally sound budget is a goal that I will strive for.
Since 2008 it has been my privilege to serve the membership and the union as Patrolman and Atlantic Coast Vice President here in the Port of New York. I am seeking your continued support in my candidacy for reelection as ACVP. These past five and one half years have been a great experience and I am grateful to the membership for their continued trust in me and in my performance.

I have continued to foster and build the relationships that are essential for an ACVP to function effectively. Not only with our contracted employers but also with governmental and regulatory agencies and the local labor community of Northern NJ. Relationships built on trust and respect and a full knowledge of the history of events in this jurisdiction will allow me to continue keeping the MEBA visible and relevant.

I have administered the contracts under my supervision to the very best of my ability while always keeping the best interests of the members and the union itself in clear focus. I have upheld the grievance and arbitration procedures in our contracts and have represented our members in the hall and on the ships.

If reelected to the position of ACVP I will continue on all of these paths that strengthen and preserve our organization. I will continue to build the solid labor/management relationships while serving my port and all

**Charles Jerrier**

The Civil War in Our Union is over. A new front has formed as the Companies rally to take Our way of life and enslave the future of Our Membership. Intelligent Governance is the key to the next generation of leadership. Unity and Force is Our only alternative. The politics of the past must be ended. Special interests and dysfunctional practices can no longer dominate Our Direction. Decline has set in. We are now at an historic crossroad. Failure to act will result in a crisis of Legitimacy for Our Governing System – either thru loss of growth/employment or by shutting out diverse public voices which will under mind effective consent of the governed. For those of you, who like me, can say “I have got mine”, let us get it for the rest of Our Brothers and Sisters. This is a Battle Cry. My name is Charles Jerrier future East Coast VP (with your Help) and I did not want WAR. It found Us, so let’s stand together and tell those who engage, we will not go lightly into the night.

**Steven L. “Red” Pike**

Dear union brothers and sisters;

I’m Steven Pike, known as Red to those of you who have sailed with me, and I’m running for Atlantic Coast Vice President. I have taught briefly at Kings Point, and before joining MEBA I sailed on U.S. Navy nukes. Any member wishing more detailed information about my background can access my LinkedIn profile at:

http://www.linkedin.com/pub/steven-l-pike/2b/752/967/

You know that the current DEC has done very little to enhance our industry standing. One of my guiding precepts is to fulfill
Dear MEBA Brother and Sisters,

I am proud to announce my candidacy for Atlantic Coast Vice-President – Branch Agent of New York. I am running as an independent in this election because, like many of you, I feel that our Union leadership in this administration has let us down. I believe we need new leadership and a new direction. I am committed to doing my best to provide solid leadership with True Union Democracy and Transparency.

In 1999 I graduated from Kings Point, and sailed for 8 years on my License, with the last four years shipping out of the New York hall. I took a break from sailing in February 2007, because I was appointed by Don Keefe to be MEBA’s Cleveland Representative. It was a privilege to serve the Great Lakes and Deep Sea Members in that position. During my time as Representative, I gained valuable experience in Contract Negotiations, Grievance procedures, Organizing, and Lobbying efforts. I served as MEBA’s representative to the Cleveland Port Council, MTD (AFL-CIO) and the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force. In those positions I built and maintained strong relationships with other Maritime Unions and with State and Federal Legislatures. After the last election, I went back to sea, shipping out of the New York hall with APL.

I pledge to use my work ethic, experience and abilities to work hard for each and every member of the MEBA, no matter what bargaining unit you belong to. Whether you are from Deep Sea, Great Lakes, Ready Reserve Fleet, Tug/Barge, Ferry Boats, MSC, POID, CBJ, I will work tirelessly on your behalf each and every day.

I humbly ask that you please exercise your Democratic right and Vote Salvatore “Torey” Zingales Jr. for Atlantic Coast Vice-President. Thank you.

Salvatore “Torey” Zingales Jr.

Candidates For Atlantic Coast Vice-President – Branch Agent Of New York (New Jersey) (continued)

my obligations to the organization in such a way that it is better when I leave than it was upon my arrival. In order to accomplish this I propose to:

- Maintain open communications with the membership;
- Recruit a tough labor negotiator to be on our team to represent MEBA’s best interests;
- Consolidate each contract into a single document;
- Aggressively pursue employment opportunities: deep sea; drilling; off-shore; foreign;
- Pursue the organizing of shipping companies, and other deep sea opportunities, to bring more, good paying, jobs into the union;
- Aggressively recruit maritime academy graduates;
- Post DEC calendar and travel schedule online;
- Prepare a research report (and update as needed) on each company with which we are contracted, or are attempting to organize.

As Atlantic Coast Vice President I promise to always be fully prepared for meetings and negotiations, and responsive to the membership.

I will be posting more information, providing more details, on Coffee Time, Slop Chest and the MEBA Bulletin Board during the campaign.

Regardless of who you vote for, I encourage all members to ensure their dues are paid and vote. The democratic process is the strength and foundation of our union.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Tony Carubba

My name is Tony Carubba, and I respectfully ask for your vote for Gulf Coast Vice President. I have sailed with MEBA for the last thirty years, on all three coasts. I have been sailing as First Engineer aboard the M/V Sealand Intrepid since 2004. As a Calhoon Engineering School graduate in 1983, I began my career when shipping out of the hall as a Group II applicant was almost impossible. I know how bad things can get. I believe we are going a bit backwards once again on negotiating contracts. When there is a worldwide shortage of marine engineers, why are we taking pay cuts?

If elected Gulf Coast Vice President, my main objective will be to improve our contracts, and to secure new employment wherever possible. I promise I will never accept any cuts in our shipping contracts. We must hire experienced negotiators to obtain the best wages and benefits. I will investigate companies’ financial records well before contract negotiations are started, and use this information to our advantage. The oil industry is paying decent wages for engineers, and it is high time we organized and procured these new job opportunities for our membership. I promise you I will do whatever it takes, using common sense and integrity.

I am running for Gulf Coast Vice President as an independent, and I ask for your vote. As a young child in New Orleans, I remember going to the hall with my father, and the place was packed with engineers competing for the many jobs posted. I don’t know if we will ever get back to those days, but I will work hard to put more high paying jobs on the board again, and I will focus on ensuring we have the best contracts possible.

Sincerely yours,

Tony Carubba

Candidates For Gulf Coast Vice-President – Branch Agent Of New Orleans
Dear Brothers and Sisters;

My name is Lawrence Holbert and I am running for the position of Gulf Coast Vice President. I feel that I can be effective as Gulf Coast V.P. by ensuring that, the M.E.B.A. remains an Officers Union unto itself without being lost within some other entity, Plans Trustees are accountable for their expenses and are subject to the same reductions in expenses as the M.E.B.A. membership is, Companies are made aware that adhering to contract language is in their own self-interest creating less disharmony aboard vessels, and most importantly I will promote respect for the M.E.B.A. membership which seems so sadly lacking.

The idea of unifying, merging, or melding into some other entity is not beneficial for the membership and will most likely completely do away with the Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association. This union was established in 1875 and through the years we as a union have aligned, associated, joined in legislation, and worked with every maritime union & many other unions with shared interests. At no time was it necessary to unify with any other union. I will ensure the M.E.B.A. will make another 138 years.

The various contacted companies either through inaction or direct involvement that are undermining contacts must be made aware that any money they think has been saved is more than lost in; ill will, disharmony, and lack of motivation to work for the most offending companies. I will try to get through to the bean counter in every company representative I meet with.

Due to a lack of respect for the M.E.B.A. membership, those representing us have made decisions with little or no regard to the voice of the membership and companies would not be disregarding the contracts as they have. This union is only as strong as the respect it has from those outside of the union, and the respect given to the membership by those representing us. My mission is to restore that respect to the membership.

Lawrence Holbert

I am Jonathan M. Lincoln and I am asking for your continued support as Gulf Coast Vice President. In the past three years, there have been important changes in our union and I have consistently fought for one thing: keeping the MEB PROUD and I focused on creating sound financial footing for the union, continuing and extending our existing contracts with employers, seeking out avenues for new contracts, and working with our Political Action Committee to achieve legislation that benefits our industry.

Change is never easy and the union has changed over the last three years. These changes saved our fully-funded defined benefit pension plan and created sound financial footing for the Union, providing a path towards a comfortable retirement for not only our older members but also our younger members. The MEBA pension plan is an important recruiting tool to keep new members joining our ranks, a viable part of keeping MEBA in the forefront of our industry.

Throughout the past three years, I have created strong relationships with our current employers, relationships that are beneficial in solving issues that affect our members and creating the right environment as contracts come up for renewal. Employers are frequently in contact with me as the Gulf Coast V.P., concerning the issues that arise as STCW and ISM are implemented in a changing world. With an eye toward vital new business, I have forged relationships with those who are creating the business of LNG exports from the United States. I ask for your continued support so the MEBA can grow these relations to gain footing in placing U.S. officers onboard the world LNG fleet.

The current MEBA leadership works closely with our friends in Congress fighting for the survival of the U.S. maritime industry, crafting working relationships with those on Capitol Hill who understand the importance of the Jones Act, MSP and Cargo preference. The MEBA PROUD officers are using our established relationships with MARAD and MSC in an effort to minimize the effect of sequestration on our members and to preserve these contracts for the future.

As your re-elected officer, I will continue working toward maintaining MEBA as a strong, vital force in the maritime industry. I will always stand for the best interest of the Association when dealing with issues and tough choices we continuously face for

Jonathan Lincoln
**Phillip Sistrunk**

Born the son and grandson of oilfield workers, I learned the meaning of hard work at an early age. As a young man I joined the United States Navy, serving in Vietnam. This is where I learned the importance of leadership and will carry these values into the office as your Gulf Coast Vice President.

Upon returning to civilian life I worked on push-boats as a Deckhand and Tankerman up and down the Mississippi river, and inter-coastal waterways. By the request of my father I entered the Oilfield Industry, where I worked as a Roustabout, a Roughneck, a Derrickman, and a Motorman, until I worked my way up to Licensed USCG Chief Engineer of MODU unlimited, and Offshore Installation Manager.

When the Offshore Drilling Industry hit a slump, I changed over to the Shipping Industry where I had to start a second time at the bottom as a hawspiper. I sailed under the NMU and later the SIU flags.

Aspiring to Third Assistant Engineer, and under the direction of my uncle a Chief Engineer of 30 years with M.E.B.A. I joined the M.E.B.A. Family. I am both 3rd generation Offshore Drilling Industry, and 2nd generation Shipping Industry.

With the recent up surge of the Oil Industry boom in the Gulf of Mexico, and the expansion of the Panama Canal, as well as the future of LNG shipping in the Gulf Coast Region. The growth potential for more Merchant Maritime Industry Jobs must be addressed with the utmost urgency in the coming months.

If elected M.E.B.A. Gulf Coast Vice President I will work diligently in the pursuit to increase jobs, and higher wages. Bring about better Benefits. Promote a wider public form addressing issues concerning contract negotiations.

My Goals will be to resolve issues between union management, and union members, to provide a better understanding of shipping and contract agreements to you the union members. Allowing union members to express their concerns in regards to any contractual changes in all matters of interest now and in the future will be one of my many top priorities.

This election is about you the members of M.E.B.A., and about the future of this union, putting aside our differences and working together for a better future. I want to lead our members in the right direction for a better and stronger union.

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**Joseph Brooke**

My name is Joseph Brooke and I am announcing my candidacy for Executive Vice President MEBA PCD-1.

I have been a union member for over 20 years and been sailing as first engineer since 1994. Most recently have been sailing on my license as Chief Engineer, a license I earned in 1997. I applied for and was charged with the duties as the Oakland representative following the patrolman’s vacancy in March of this year. I have been asked: “Why did I take this job?” The answer is simple. I have always been the kind of individual who has gone for a wrench when a leak appeared, and not a rag. Doing and contributing what one has to offer is the back bone of our union. Now is the time to step up reinvesting in the MEBA.

Our Union is facing challenging times. I have already made a difference to the union membership. Keeping membership informed of issues and assisting them to get answers has been my goal. I have also personally met with our regional legislators who are sympathetic to our fight in Washington D.C. Keeping contracts growing and jobs secure for the long term health of the MEBA is my vision.

Another aspect of our union which I believe needs improvement is our solidarity. More than a few people know what the “U&F” on our national symbol mean. Unity and Friendship are two attributes which I sincerely believe will assist us in our common goals; unity to me means solidarity. I am joining the present Administration’s slate because I believe that there has been honest work done for the long term. Difficult choices were made and many of the things we hold important to the identity of the MEBA are still intact. However, our industry is under constant threat and only by our vigilance and determination will the MEBA prevail for another 125 years or more. Further, I would not have the opportunity to run for the Executive Vice President if Dave Nolan had not declined re-election and decided to run as Patrolman in the Port of Oakland. If elected, our West Coast Team will continue to reestablish the representation and the prominence that the West Coast deserves.

You have a choice; I ask that you take advantage of the experience I have in the union and put it to work for you. I thank you for your vote.
Adam Vokac

Vote ADAM VOKAC for West Coast VP. Do you make less money and have less shipboard rights than you did 3 years ago? If I am elected I will work hard to make sure that doesn’t happen again. The Company Executives didn’t take pay cuts, why did the rest of us? The Telex Times has had unending calls for Firsts and Chiefs for the last few years; obviously they aren’t paying enough if no one wants the jobs, but yet the MEBA United/Proud administration still reduced our wages! Did you get to vote to freeze the old pension plan? This administration traded all company liability in our old pension plan for short contract extensions, and then started a new pension plan only getting participants 66 cents of every dollar they contribute? I will fight to get our money back and RESTORE our pride as the best maritime union!

I, Adam Vokac, hold an Unlimited Chief Engineer’s License and currently sail as a permanent 1st A/E. I graduated top of my class at Kings Point, joining the MEBA the very same day. After a few ships I furthered my education by earning two masters degrees from MIT. I then continued sailing until getting the opportunity to work as a union official. I served the union as the Honolulu Representative from 2008-2010. During my time as Honolulu Representative, I relocated the hall to a much improved location and streamlined operations and transparency for members. I negotiated the NCLA 2009 long term (9 year) contract which saw major gains for all ratings as well as union funds. Once MEBA United/Proud took over, I returned to sailing and earned my Chief Engineer’s License.

I joined the MEBA 13 years ago because it had the best jobs and the most talented engineers. The current administration and current West Coast VP thinks the union can do better copying the practices of AMO. I believe we need to move closer to the traditional standard agreement in all contracts and follow the shipping rules. We don’t want to continue this administrations march towards an AMO style hiring service.

Vote ADAM VOKAC for West Coast VP and I will strive to RESTORE the pride and prominence the MEBA has given away the last three years. If you have never met me, ask someone you trust who has – I will work hard and honestly for this union.

Candidates For The Position Of Branch Agent Of Houston

Erin Bertram

Dear MEBA Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Erin Bertram and I ask for your vote for Branch Agent, Houston. I have been with MEBA since 1991, shortly after graduating from Texas Maritime Academy. I have been a sailing member, an appointed Dispatcher and am currently appointed Representative/Dispatcher.

I have worked with the current and past officials to make the Houston Hall efficient and smooth running for the members. We have answered questions about Plans documents and helped members file paperwork for vacation and retirement; we have reviewed member’s paperwork for STCW, MMC, and TWIC. We have maintained a good relationship with the companies. We have answered questions about contracts in a timely manner.

As Representative/Dispatcher, I have continued the long standing effort of providing ships with information regarding current events, in MEBA and industry, taking requested and new forms to the members aboard, and providing answers and resolutions to members regarding contracts, Plans, and grievances. When notified by Houston members about facility access issues, we have worked with the local Port Authority to help officers get to and from the vessels.

Getting information to the membership, in the hall and on the ship, has long been an important issue for Houston. Getting information from the members has been equally important. The feedback from the members does and will continue to make its way to the DEC. The feedback from the members help determine where our efforts need to go to resolve issues. The feedback from the members help steer the direction of the Union.

I once read that as a Union Member, I would not always agree with what my administration did, but I would be required to support my Union. This is true. Differing opinions have widened my understanding of the issues, so I welcome discussion on them. I have attended Union meetings, even on vacation, to hear what members have to say. I encourage all members to participate, especially now during this election.

With your vote, Houston will continue to be a source of information and answers. Your voice, your concerns, will continue to be heard. I pledge to Represent the Membership and Support the Administration.

Let your voice be heard, vote.
William (Billy) McLaughlin

My name is William (Billy) McLaughlin. I am 53. My sailing career started in 1978, on Cape Cod with the MVWH steamship authority as an o.s., but my dream and goal from the beginning was to be a MEBA engineer. I started with the NMU, and took advantage of every upgrading class offered in order to reach that goal.

I was born in Boston, MA. I shipped out of all the East coast and Gulf coast halls. That experience showed me the good and bad of how union halls are run, it all came down to the people.

I went to Texas A&M in 1994, with the plan of finally getting my engineering license. I got married instead, and started a family; we bought a house in Houston. The marriage ended in 2000, we are amicable.

Shipping was slow. I started sailing with MMP. I was hired to work retrofitting. The S.S Gulf Spray into the SS New River at the Avondale shipyard in Louisiana. In 2000 I became director of education for the NMU. In 2002 NMU and SIU merged.

The merger was necessary, because NMU had members, but we were losing contracts, I do not want to see that happen with MEBA.

In order for a union to survive you need qualified people and good relationships with companies, which equal jobs.

In 2002 the SIU hired me as safety director for the port of New York.

In 2003 I went back to sailing, so at I could go back to school and finally reach my goal of becoming a MEBA engineer. In 2005 I finally got my license.

I shipped out of the Houston Hall. I took what was available. I did the MMP pass through AHL, Interlake, Patriot, Maersk, CGL and ferries.

At 53 I am at the top of my game. I love MEBA, because as MEMA goes so do I.

MEBA is only as good as its members, and the people we elect to represent us. I am a proud member of MEBA, and hope to represent the membership as the next Houston branch agent.

Thank You
Sincerely William (Billy) McLaughlin

Rich Doherty

My name is Richard Doherty but most people just call me Rich. I am running as an Independent for the position of Branch Agent in the Port of Wilmington, CA. I graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1976 and have been a member in good standing in the D1-MEBA since 1985. I’ve shipped off both coasts and shipped out of the Wilmington Union hall until 2010 when I became a Union Official. My wife of 25 years and I relocated from Connecticut to San Pedro, CA in 2001.

I’ve worked on various steam and diesel ships including but not limited to Victory ships, tankers, NOAA research ships, Alaska State Ferries, Washington State Ferries, C-8, C-9, C-10 and C-11 class ships. I’m also a plank owner on the New York City Department of Transportation/Corrections Prison Ferry Boats. While employed with the NY DOT/DOC I completed a degree in Business Management.

I’ve walked picket lines in support of local job actions and I have participated in Matson, FOSS and Connolly-Pacific contract negotiations held in the LA Hall.

I have been serving as the Wilmington, CA. Hall Branch Agent since October of 2012. My time as Wilmington’s Patrolman and Branch Agent has afforded me the opportunity to meet and assist many members, participate in contract negotiations, work with and resolve member grievances, visit ships, run job calls and manage the office staff as well as the day to day demands of a very busy union hall. I have made a point, in the course of doing both jobs, to take the time to maintain and to grow the relationships we have with the other unions that we work alongside of.

I’ve always considered knowledge to be a gift which I have given back and shared freely with those I have worked with. I’ve climbed inside steam drums and been pushed head first into mud drums to repair tube leaks (you really have to trust the person tasked with pulling you out!). I also know my way around C-10 and C-11 crankcases. My over all career experience has served me well when assisting members who have come to me for help.

I have, and will continue to make sure, that the service members have come to expect from the Wilmington hall continues during my term. I ask for your support. Thank you!

Integrity without Compromise
Candidates For The Position Of Branch Agent Of Norfolk

**Greg Quintana**

Three years ago I successfully ran as a delegate to the National Convention. Now I am requesting your vote for Norfolk Branch Agent. Many of you know me in the capacity of a union official and know that I am there for the membership and I have come through time and time again when needed. I make it a point to be truthful and concise with the membership and the administration. I am more concerned with getting the membership accurate information than I am with hurting feelings or telling people what they don’t want to hear. The membership must be informed accurately.

In three years I have:

- Chaired monthly meetings in Boston, Easton, Charleston, Jacksonville and Tampa.
- Participated in the 2011 National MEBA Convention.
- Handled the lock-out involving the Liberty Bulkers working in Galveston, Texas and obtained valuable information that has assisted the union in our pending legal proceedings.
- Chaired the Hillsborough County HELIOS program, which operates the first maritime high school program of its kind. That program is successful and has been greatly expanded.
- Renegotiated a contract with OSG in which MEBA received valuable gains in language and First Engineers received considerable economic gain.
- Sit on the local congresswoman’s Federal Academy Nomination Board to select the students for congressional nomination to Kings Point and Annapolis.
- Built co-sponsorship of Maritime friendly bills through relationships with politicians and their staff.
- Renegotiated the Interlake contract for an additional 12 years with large wage and benefit increases.
- Forged solid relationships with senior level executives in companies throughout the Gulf Coast where I have been able to obtain valuable information and new future employment prospects for MEBA members.
- Served as an alternate trustee twice and possess a solid understanding of our plans structure and operation.
- Successfully handled grievances with effectiveness and efficiency.
- Visited vessels and obtain feed back from members on vessels from Miami to the Great Lakes and in between.
- Built relationships and worked with key personnel in all the major sailing maritime unions to protect the Jones Act, MSP and Preferential Cargo.

The MEBA Proud team saved the industry’s strongest Pension Plan and significantly increased MEBA’s visibility and prestige both in the maritime industry and organized labor. We cannot afford as a union to go through yet another change in leadership where we allow opportunity to pass us by while we train a whole new batch of union officials.

Greg

Candidates For The Position Of Branch Agent Of Seattle

**Jeff Duncan**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Jeff Duncan, and I am proud to announce my candidacy for Branch Agent in the Port of Seattle. It has been an honor to serve the MEBA membership as Patrolman, and prior to that as WSF Representative for the last eight and one half (8 1/2) years.

These last three years have been the most challenging of my career. I did not run with the current administration in the last election. I have done my very best to obtain and distribute the most accurate information possible to the membership, often being at odds with this administration. I have always known who I work for, you the membership. That is why I have decided to run for Branch Agent.

I truly believe that this can be a Change Election. I have always advocated for bringing youth into the elected ranks of MEBA. Those who do not have their twenty years of pension credits are much more accountable to the membership. Ask yourself what happens if the current administration gets unelected? How many of them will retire?

I have been married to my wife Erinn for 20 years. We have two sons, Luke age 18 and Jake who is 13. I started my sailing career in 1988 on factory trawlers in Alaska and have been an M.E.B.A. member for 14 years.

My labor education at the University of Oregon and the National Labor College includes Grievance Handling, Arbitration Preparation and Presentation, Collective Bargaining and Communication Skills for Union Activists.

My negotiating history, as lead negotiator, includes six (6) WSF contracts, Two King County Passenger Only contracts and assisting with the Black Ball contract. Throughout my career I have also settled some sixty (60) grievances and testified in dozens of Arbitrations.

If elected Seattle Branch Agent I will continue my proven track record of working hard to improve the lives of the membership and their families every day. Also, I would like to ask you to support Kevin Cross for Seattle Patrolman. Together we will do our best to run the Seattle Hall as effectively and efficiently as possible, always remembering whom we are elected to serve, you the member.

I would like to thank you for your support. PLEASE VOTE!!!

Jeff Duncan

Seattle Branch Agent
Candidates For The Position Of Branch Agent Of Seattle (continued)

**Dave Nashif**

Re-elect Dave Nashif,

*Experience Where it Counts!*

I am proud and honored to announce my candidacy for re-election as your Seattle Branch Agent with the MEBA Proud team. I bring a proven work ethic and a strong personal commitment to serving the diverse membership. What I alone offer is the experience gained from a 30 year MEBA career including 3 years’ experience as Seattle Branch Agent. Prior election by the membership, 27 years spent sailing aboard many types of MEBA contracted vessels, active service in the military during a Southeast Asian war, and a family history of MEBA membership. Serving the union and the membership a sacred responsibility I commit to without reservation.


As a member of the MEBA Plans Board of Trustees for the past 3 years, I have worked to ensure the health and stability of MEBA Plans for members, retirees and their families now and in the future. Every action I have taken has been in the best interest of the participants and the Plan.

With the support of negotiating committees I have negotiated contracts for:
- AHMS
- WSF
- Samson Tug & Barge

Every contract experienced gains. With Dave Nolan and rank-in-file ATC, overtime wage losses by STCW captured for members.

Sailing Senior Engineering Officer 17 years for Horizon Lines, a position earned by merit and proven work, is an asset when re-elected. Five Horizon Lines vessels call in Puget Sound. Solving problems with a phone call, results from having relationships with all parties for years. I’ve expanded the now M&R Ship Keeper agreement for Shipboard wages. *Relationships*, Seattle now has increased work with Cargotech.

As Branch Agent negotiated $750 per month rent reduction, made numerous physical improvements to the Hall. *Where others have talked, I’ve delivered.*

I proudly graduated Calhoon MEBA Engineering School February 1983, shipped out of the Seattle Union Hall. Most employment was relief 1st and 2nd Engineer work aboard APL steamships, and Sealand D-9J’s. Sailing aboard MEBA vessels 27 years provides indelible perspective.

During my shipping career I married a wonderful woman named Kimberley, and blessed with 3 daughters, and 4 grandchildren. Traveling, training, and separations at sea, an experience the Nashif family is very familiar with.

Candidates For The Position Of Patrolman In The Port Of New York (New Jersey)

**Michael T. O’Toole Jr.**

Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Mike O’Toole, I’m running for Patrolman in the Port of New York. I’ve been a member of the MEBA since 1996 spending my career as an Engineer at the Staten Island Ferry, the last 12 as Shop Steward. Since retiring from New York city in 2006 I have worked as a paid rep for MEBA giving me a total of 18 years dealing with many grievances, arbitrations, disciplinary proceedings, and contract negotiations. This experience will enable me to hit the ground running representing the entire New York membership.

As a representative / steward it has been my pleasure to work closely with ACVP Chris Guerra and his predecessor Bill McHugh. As patrolman I will uphold the high standard they have set. I will cover the ships and be a presence in the hall.

Mike Jewell made a campaign promise to give a voice to our inland fleet members. He made good on that promise by hosting a conference at the school attended by members from across the country and across the spectrum. The topics were just as diverse as the attendees touching on some common issues. Topics such as TWICS, Coast Guard medical requirements, and many others were discussed. At the initial conference I was elected Chair. We have since has our second one and plan on having future “gatherings” electronically or via conference calls. See face book MEBA ITC hosted by Secretary Wilson Johns.

I recognize that some members who sail exclusively deep sea may be hesitant to support my candidacy. Be assured that I have familiarized myself with the Dry Cargo agreement, including grievances and arbitration files here in New York.

My years of experience have made me uniquely qualified for this position. I will answer that 2:00 AM phone call when you are in need.

I have spent my entire working career in New York. The best were as an active sailing member. I live in New York with my wife Elisa, and 3 grown children.

*continued on next page*
MEBA put food on my table and put my kids through school. They were there when I needed them, I’ll be there for you. I believe in Labor and I believe in MEBA. Years ago I was accused of “bleeding MEBA blue.” I do!

I am honored to be a part of the MEBA proud team.

Fraternally,

Mike O’Toole
Candidate for N.Y Patrolman

Nico Sermoneta

Brothers and Sisters of the MEBA, I want to serve you as Patrolman for the Port of New York. I’m a deep-sea officer and for the last 6 years, I have made a good living sailing out of MEBA union halls. I’ve found work in the New York, Baltimore, Jacksonville and Houston halls.

Recently, we’ve all taken some serious financial hits in the name of our union. Nobody is happy about it, but this is not the first time, nor will it be the last time that we as a union face hardship. Our leadership and our membership took the tougher path. Maybe it stems from being primarily an engineer’s union; I don’t know, but the MEBA membership will always prefer to fix an underlying flaw than to kick the can down the road.

The role of Patrolman is especially important for the deep-sea sailor. Having a point of contact both at the hall, and on the ship serves to keep the membership informed of union news and holds the union accountable to the members. I want to be known as the Patrolman who always shows up. I currently have a home in Queens New York, but if you elect me, I will move to the Jersey City area. My wife and I have made this commitment, because it has become apparent that the role of Patrolman is too much of a burden for someone who isn’t living near the major regional port facilities.

MEBA is not just an important part of our lives. It is America’s oldest Maritime Trade Union. The role of a union is crucial to the functioning of a free society. Where the government is meant to represent the interests of the electorate, and the corporations are meant to represent the interests of their investors, only a union is responsible to the workers of a given industry. At its best, a union can help to align the needs of tradespeople and their employers in the public and private sectors. The MEBA plans program and the MEBA’s capacity to meet specialized staffing needs have made us an attractive choice for employers. The biggest threat to that balance right now is poor recruiting. The MEBA needs not only to market our people to Employers; we need to market ourselves to potential members. Let me be a part of this process.

Vote Nico in New York!

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Candidates for the Position of Patrolman in the Port of San Francisco (Oakland)

Dave A. Nolan

Once again the MEBA elections are upon us and the membership have the opportunity to make a choice in their union. The choice of this election is whether to maintain continuity and stability of their elected officers or change. Consistently in our history we have chosen to start over electing new officers and I would ask our membership this year to consider the ramifications of this practice and break the cycle.

Today the environment strongly supports the re-election of experienced union officers. Our industry’s environment today is not good, in fact it has not been this poor since my association began with MEBA 33 years ago. The political forces against our industry have never been greater and it is time for our union membership to pull together.

When I speak of the environment today as poor it is because we have seen cuts into funding of the Maritime Administration, the PL 480 Food for Peace Program, loss of Title XI shipbuilding construction, loss of US citizen participation, and now sequestration. The funding associated with our plans indentures have been inadequate causing the employers attempted demise of our pension plan, and the critical position and changes of the training plan.

The current administration have fought a hard and tough political battle on Capitol Hill and a continued fight as plan trustees against our employers, in addition to defending with grossly wasted resources the defense of our union and its pension plan from a vocal minority of membership. In order for MEBA to survive our current industry downturn the membership need to become united and supportive working together towards the same goals that will allow our union to prosper.

continued on next page
Candidates for the Position of Patrolman in the Port of San Francisco (Oakland)

The requirements of the position of Executive Vice President which I head during the last administration were very comprehensive and required many hours of work and travel, headquartered in Oakland with extensive work in Washington DC required considerable travel to represent the west coast membership. I believe that I fulfilled this promise to the membership but not must step aside as I am no longer able to travel away from home and family. I ask for your support as the Patrolman in the Port of Oakland during the next administration.

I am confident that the candidate I personally chose and endorse, Mr. Joseph Brooke will excel in providing the same representation and fight for the membership that I have given during the last...
we can do better! I will represent YOU, the MEMBERSHIP, regardless of who doesn’t like what we say. Speak Truth to Power.

If you have ideas you would like to share to make MEBA stronger and more secure for the next 138 years please contact me: (Cross4SeattlePatrolman@Gmail.com) follow me on Twitter (@Cross4Seattle), or Facebook (Cross4Seattle).

The current elected Seattle Patrolman, Jeff Duncan, has my support in his bid for Seattle Branch Agent. He has worked diligently for the Membership, and deserves your consideration.

I hope to continue on his path, and give voice to YOU, the Membership.

I’m in the middle of my MEBA Career, and I’ll work hard for all of us. If I don’t do a great job for the membership I’ll be back in the hall, sailing under contracts that I worked on. How many of the current administration do you think will sail under contracts they worked on? If they lose, they will retire. Where’s the honor and pride in that?

We need change now, and with your help we can move forward together.

Wilson “Wil” Johns

My family was involved in union organizing on the docks of San Francisco before Bloody Thursday, 1934. My own work on behalf of the MEBA began in 1992 with picket duty outside the Portland union hall. Then I spent eight nights sleeping in the Wilmington, California hall during the MEBA/NMU de-merger. I was an applicant then, but knew my union needed help and it was time to step up.

In 1994 I began attending maritime roundtables with Northwest federal and state officials and their staff. Then, as now, it is clear that public officials need education on our industry. Bad policy is defeated and good policy happens because of our outreach. Citizen activism is one example of my dedication to our union. Buoyed by these successes, I initiated the effort to get the MEBA reinstated with the state AFL-CIO, soon becoming the Maritime Trades Section chair. A position I turned over to the ILWU when I left when you elected me to become the New Orleans Patrolman three years ago. My close association with the ILWU was forged in 2002 when I was the liaison while they were locked out. In 1998 I was elected as Tally Committee Recording Secretary. I have also been honored to have been Acting Seattle Patrolman, Acting San Francisco Representative and Portland Coordinator of Political Activities. My experience serving this union is unmatched.

In 2008 I was asked to be in a campaign video of the successful candidate for the United States Senate. The other U.S. Senator and I are on a first name basis. All of us are professionally connected to Washington, D.C. Please allow me to continue to serve you and your families.

I have poured my heart and soul into making the New Orleans hall better. I took the lead in getting local businesses to park in our lot, bringing in $1,500 a month to the union treasury. No one else has brought in this type of outside revenue.

Realizing New Orleans shipping has slowed, I suggested the D.E.C. move the Vice President, and make my job into a full time representative.

I have a verifiable record of fiscal responsibility and respectfully ask for your vote to continue to have me serve you.

April Fleischer

Dear M.E.B.A. Brothers and Sisters,

My name is April Fleischer and I request your vote and support for Delegate to the National Convention.

I come from a family of Union workers, my dad was a firefighter, my mom a teacher, and I am honored to be a member and representative of MEBA. I have been a member of MEBA (POID Division) since 1989 while working at American President Lines. I served as an office delegate in the 90’s and again from 2007-2011 where I gained valuable experience as an active rank and file participant representing members individually and at the 2008 contract negotiations. I volunteered many hours each week enforcing our contract. I believe that every member deserves the respect and attention of their office delegates and elected Union officials.

In 2011 I had the opportunity to run for office as the MEBA POID Representative. I was successful in my campaign and became an elected official in May of 2011. MEBA had worked hard for me during very rough times and and this was my chance to work hard for MEBA. I knew I had the voice and...
the past three years, his team has not only secured our defined 
I believe that 
that our Union continues to grow and progress at every corner .
Our Union, the Maritime industry has gone through some 
The biggest concern that I have is protecting the future of 
Engineer aboard the Overseas Long Beach . 
been sailing for OSG ever since . I am currently sailing as 1st 
representative at MEBA headquarters in Washington, DC . 
I left military service in 1992 and sailed as a relief engineer 
with the Navy, I completed a nine month deployment to the 
Persian Gulf in support of operations Desert Shield/Desert 
Storm . This experience, more than any other in my life up to 
that point, hit home the importance of working together as a 
team for a common goal .

I left military service in 1992 and sailed as a relief engineer 
out of the Baltimore union hall on various MEBA dry cargo 
and tanker vessels . In 1996, I was asked to serve as a full time 
representative at MEBA headquarters in Washington, DC . I 
in this capacity, I work as the Contracts Representative, tracking 
and adjusting wages and benefits as required under the various 
MEBA collective bargaining agreements and perform the 
function of union liaison between the contracted operators and 
the MEBA Benefit Plans providing a seamless implementation 
of those contractual adjustments . Additionally, I perform 
research and cost analysis during contract negotiations and 
reopeners; draft contract language, review and formulate 
government bid proposals for approval and support the out 
ports by providing assistance with contract interpretation, 
research and enforcement .

The last three years have not been easy by any stretch of the 
imagination, yet, President Jewell and his administrations 
through hard work, honesty, integrity and open dialogue with 
the membership were successful in preserving what is by far 
our most sacred national treasure-the MEBA Defined Benefit 
Pension Plan . Today, our Pension Plan stands in stark contrast 
to the other in the maritime industry as a beacon of what is 
possible when we work with one voice for a common goal .

As your representative to the National Convention, I will 
put forth my best effort to preserve and strengthen MEBA’s 
democratic policies . I ask for your continued confidence in 
myself, President Jewell’s administration and the entire MEBA 
PROUD TEAM to keep MEBA on our tried and true course 
involved politically, the Maritime industry as a whole has come 
under fire increasingly . I feel that continuity in our leadership 
will be the major factor in strengthening our future . Now is not 
the time to let someone new step in and just try to figure out 
what they are doing, now is the time push forward!

I am respectfully requesting for your vote as Delegate to the 
National Convention, as well as urging you all to guard our 
union’s future and elect the entire MEBA Proud team .

Very Respectfully,
Brian W. Gerrish
George M. Poor

Dear MEBA Brothers and Sisters,

I request your vote for representative to the National MEBA Convention.

I have been part of the MEBA family since entering the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School in 1981. I have sailed on container ships, reserve fleet ships, tankers, and WA State Ferry vessels out of the Seattle Hall. I have worked for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) for the past 12 years, currently as Chief Engineer aboard MV Fairweather, Juneau, AK.

I have worked on the AMHS Negotiating Committee for the past 4 years, the Inland Transportation Coalition for 2012 and 2013, and the 2013 MEBA Financial Review Committee. I am a graduate of the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School, and I have a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Washington.

One-third of the MEBA membership works on ferries and inland vessels and I want to ensure that this group has a voice at the NMEBA convention. I believe in prudent financial management and sound democratic policy. I will bring my experience and knowledge to work for all MEBA members, addressing the issues that impact our financial security and our work as professional Mariners.

I have worked with our current elected officials the past three years on preserving the defined benefit plan and protecting our jobs, and I will continue to battle the challenges facing the MEBA. To continue the effective, experienced leadership for the MEBA, I ask that you return Mike Jewell, the DEC, Dave Nashif and the entire MEBA Proud team to office.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the men and women of the MEBA.

Fraternally,

George Poor

Nico Sermoneta

My name is Adam Smith. I am asking for your vote to be your representative as a delegate to the national convention.

I earned my Marine Systems Engineering degree from the US Merchant Marine Academy in 2009 and immediately joined the union. I started on the ROS ships in Norfolk, went to Norwegian Cruise Lines, APL, OSG and am currently sailing as a First Engineer on one of the newly acquired UOS ships now being operated by LMS.

I ask you to consider my candidacy as your union convention delegate for three reasons: I’m loyal; I care; I’m tough.

Loyal: I worked on the S-12 vessel the APL Agate for almost 210 days, earning a reputation as a hard working and competent second engineer. I intended to return to the Agate on its next sailing cycle when I got a call saying a union member had walked off a ship and they needed a body to move. Without hesitation I packed my bags, cleared the hall, and went to the ship within hours. I was glad to help the union fulfill its obligation to keep our contracted ships manned.

Care: With the recent changes in the union I have become more active in going to meetings. I have made my voice heard. The 11.7% of pay is a hardship on everyone, but we must also protect the people currently vested in the union and those who will one day be vested since we will depend on them to keep our union strong.

Tough: Anyone who knows me will testify if something is wrong I have no problem standing up and voicing my opinion. For example: while recently working with one company there was an issue with the contract. The crew felt we had no one representing us. Since every contract is nothing more than words on a piece of paper if members don’t speak up, the second
Ray Twitty

Brothers and Sisters: Ray Twitty here. Once again, I humbly seek your support for the position of Convention Delegate to the MEBA National Convention. While I am running with the slate now known as MEBA Proud, I guarantee my vote to no one. In fact, at the last convention, I had problems with the last-minute maneuvering in the race for National Secretary-Treasurer; so I voted against the candidate endorsed by then soon-to-be National President Mike Jewell. The point is that I vote my conscience, and in so doing, show my preference for whom I believe is the person in each office best equipped to serve this membership with distinction and honesty. This is all-important (along with your PAF contribution), when trying to influence members of Congress to support a vibrant American flag Merchant Fleet and crewed by American sailors.

A few faces have changed from the MEBAUnited days to the days to come for MEBA Proud, but I believe the MEBA Proud Team top-to-bottom is the best choice to lead us forward. That just proves when changes must be made, Mike Jewell isn’t afraid to make them. The last three years have been difficult to be sure, but hard honest choices were necessary concerning jobs and for the health of our Plans. If you feel that you haven’t had the input you desired or advanced financially as much as you had hoped, then I challenge you to ask yourself this: “Would I rather have someone leading me that tells me the truth about the condition of our Union and makes those hard choices for my long-term well-being and for the well-being of the young members who will support my MEBA Plans after I retire, or instead, do I elect people (as in our recent past) who tell me everything is fine, and then I wake up one day to discover that I have no defined benefit pension?”

Our brotherhood has regained much of the prestige and respect it had lost over the last decade, or as one DoD official put it, “It’s nice to see that the adults are back running MEBA.” I’m proud of the quality of our leadership for the last three years–MEBA Proud!

Steven D. Walker

Union Brothers and Sisters,
The MEBA and the US Merchant Marine are under constant attack. The MEBA will be losing jobs as the attacks on the Jones Act continue. We must stand together to fight for our place in history and not let the forces against us win. We need a strong union to fight these battles. We need a strong school to educate our members. We need a strong pension plan to support us in our time of need.

Please consider electing me to the National Convention as your representative. I am a member of the MEBA for over 20 years and I will fight for what is right. I will fight for you!

I have a strong community presence in that I am a member of the Inland Transportation Coalition as well as a member of the Catholic Seaman’s Club. I serve as a delegate to the King County Labor Council and serve on the Political Action Committee and the COPE Committee.

I work to promote the MEBA’s agenda offshore and inland.

I would be honored by your vote.

In closing, please donate to the Political Action Fund.

Yours in unity and friendship.

Steven Walker

LET’S WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP THE MARINE ENGINEERS’ BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION UNITED
Election Campaign Mailing Service Instructions

Any requests for a list(s) of District No. 1-PCD, M.E.B.A. membership mailing addresses from Headquarters for the purpose of M.E.B.A. election campaign related mailings, must be made in writing.

The request should specify whether a list of the entire M.E.B.A. membership or one or more subset(s) of the membership (i.e., by bargaining unit or geographical location), is needed. Please mail your request to the following address:

District No. 1-PCD, M.E.B.A.
Attention: Campaign Mailing List
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001-1570

Each request for a campaign mailing list(s) MUST BE ACCOMPANIED by a check in the amount of $100.00 per list per mailing. The check should be made payable to District No. 1-PCD, M.E.B.A. to cover the costs of producing the mailing list and sending the list via courier to the campaign mailing service.

The campaign mailing service will be provided by Accumail, Inc., the same company used in every M.E.B.A. election since 1995. The membership list will be sent from M.E.B.A. Headquarters directly to the campaign mailing service location and the candidate will at no time have direct access to the list. Any candidate requesting a mailing list is responsible for contacting Accumail to arrange payment for the direct mail services, including postage. The mailing location is as follows:

Ms. Peg Dishong,
President
Accumail, Inc.
3381 “H” 75th Avenue
Landover, MD 20785
Phone No. (301) 322-4900
Fax No. (301) 322-4904

M.E.B.A. Headquarters will produce the mailing list(s) in a timely manner upon receiving the written request and accompanying check. Once the list has been produced, the address count will be made available in order for a candidate to know how many campaign pieces to produce and be mailed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Eric Pittman at M.E.B.A. Headquarters. He can be reached at (202) 638-5355.

Impartial Administrator and Duplicate Ballot Information

TrueBallot, Inc. is serving as the Impartial Administrator for the 2013 M.E.B.A. Election. If you are an M.E.B.A. member and do not receive a ballot – or yours has been lost or destroyed – you can request a duplicate ballot in writing. Contact the Impartial Administrator at:

TrueBallot, Inc.
3 Bethesda Metro Center
Suite 750
Bethesda, MD 20814
Office: 301-656-9500
Fax: 301 657-9776
Email: 0221301@trueballot.com

Please make sure you include your address to send the duplicate ballot. As stated in the M.E.B.A. By-Laws, if the original ballot and duplicate ballot are both cast, neither ballot shall count.

All members are urged to vote in this important election. According to our By-Laws, members who are not paid up on their 4th quarter dues by November 15, 2013 are not eligible to vote in this election and any ballot they cast will not be counted.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact M.E.B.A. Headquarters.

M.E.B.A. BY-LAWS - ARTICLE TEN SECTION 4(a)

A Tallying Committee of five members and two alternates who are in attendance shall be elected at a special meeting held in the Ports of New York, New Orleans, Baltimore, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles one week prior to the December meeting of the election year [on November 25, 2013]. One member shall be elected at each of the meetings at the New York Branch, Baltimore Branch, Seattle Branch, Los Angeles Branch and Houston Branch and one alternate shall be elected at each of the meetings at the New Orleans Branch and San Francisco Branch. No officer or candidate for office or job shall be eligible for election to this Committee.

The elected Tallying Committee of five [persons] and the Impartial Administrator shall, on the morning of the regular December meeting [December 2, 2013], proceed to the depository and obtain all the ballots which shall be retained in the custody of the Tallying Committee and the Impartial Administrator until such time as the ballots are checked and counted.

Meeting Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Port</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore@CMES</td>
<td>Tues. 3</td>
<td>Tues. 8</td>
<td>Tues. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Tues. 3</td>
<td>Mon. 7</td>
<td>Mon. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>Tues. 3</td>
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<td>Honolulu</td>
<td>Fri. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Tues. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>Tues. 3</td>
<td>Mon. 7</td>
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<td>Los Angeles (Wilmington)</td>
<td>Thurs. 5</td>
<td>Thurs. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>Wed. 4</td>
<td>Wed. 9</td>
<td>Wed. 6</td>
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<td>New York (New Jersey)</td>
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<td>Norfolk</td>
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<td>San Francisco (Oakland)</td>
<td>Tues. 3</td>
<td>Mon. 7</td>
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<td>Tampa</td>
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Special Meetings, November 25, 2013

According to the M.E.B.A. Constitution and By-Laws, Special Meetings will be held on November 25, 2013 to elect seven rank and file members to tally election ballots.

Members of the Tallying Committee will be elected at the meetings in New York (New Jersey), Baltimore (CMES), Seattle, Los Angeles (Wilmington) and Houston. Alternate members will be elected in New Orleans and San Francisco (Oakland).

According to the M.E.B.A. Constitution and By-Laws, no M.E.B.A. official or candidate for office is eligible for election to the Tallying Committee.