



The Future is Now!

Change of Command at Nation's Oldest Maritime Union

The New Year began with renewed promise for the nation's oldest maritime labor union after M.E.B.A. members elected Don Keefe as their president. Part of the forward-thinking "M.E.B.A. Future" slate, Keefe moves into M.E.B.A. Headquarters following a 90-day balloting period in which he prevailed over three other major candidates for the Union's top job.

He takes over the mantle from two-term President Ron Davis. In 2004, Davis staved off an M.E.B.A. members' democratic tradition of limiting their presidents to one term, but the tide of members clamoring for a different direction keelhaunched his chances for a third.

Experience won't be an issue for the 51-year old Keefe who is coming off two consecutive terms as Atlantic Coast Vice President and 12 total years as a Union official, including stints as Representative in Boston and New York. He has earned a reputation as both a straightforward, no-frills advocate for the membership as well as a sturdy negotiator who drives a hard bargain. Following his graduation from Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1978, Keefe joined the Union and shipped out under the M.E.B.A. blue and gold for 17 years earning his Chief Engineer's License (Steam/Motor/Gas Turbine Unlimited) before becoming an official.

Don Keefe immediately began the task of trying to put the M.E.B.A.'s house in order to create conditions conducive to union prosperity. Such goals include steering the Union back to more responsible fiscal oversight and strengthening the M.E.B.A. benefit plans to ensure future solvency. Keefe will attempt to unify a collection of M.E.B.A. Union officials elected from three different slates as he moves forward to fulfill campaign pledges for accountability, transparency and a step-up in organizing job opportunities for the membership.

Campaign season typically generates its share of infighting and bitterness, But Keefe is confident that the collective desire to improve this Union will be the impetus behind an Administration dedicated to furthering the fortunes of our members and their families. Said the new President, "Unquestionably, [a] combination of unity and democracy will allow us to move forward and advance the interests of our Union, both for the present and into the future.

"We're all going to work together on behalf of the membership," President Keefe pointed out. "We'll be very busy over the next three years."

THE D.E.C.

Don Keefe is joined on the Union's five-person District Executive Committee (D.E.C.) by Executive V.P. Ed MacCormack, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, Atlantic Coast V.P. Bill McHugh, and Gulf Coast V.P. Marc Huber. The D.E.C. is the District's governing body.

25-year member Ed MacCormack has spent the last three years serving as the Patrolman in San Francisco where he has rewarded members with his integrity and hard work. Ed was loosed into the shipping world following his 1979 graduation from Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He tirelessly toiled in ship engine rooms for over 20 years working himself up to Chief Engineer (Steam & Diesel). His concern for the membership and acumen in dealing with issues got him elected as Patrolman in San Francisco running as an independent. He quickly won over members by proving his determination to supply them with the best representation possible. This has manifested itself in his frequent vessel visits, his tenacity in solving member grievances and disputes as well as his diligence and determination at the bargaining table.



Left: The elected rank and file Tallying Committee along with the Impartial Administrator Ken Egger and his team oversaw the ballot count in M.E.B.A.'s 2007 election. The Committee consisted of (l-r) Brian Evjen (Houston), John Ebanks (New Orleans), Recording Secretary Jon Anderson (Seattle), Chairman Jim Langmeyer (NY/NJ), Steve Byerley (L.A./Wilmington), James Howard (S.F./Oakland) and Tom Birago (Baltimore).

