

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 15 – April 13, 2017



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HALLS CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Union halls and offices will be closed tomorrow for Good Friday. Officials and some staffers can still be reached by cellphone and email during the lead-in to Easter weekend. Business resumes as normal on Monday.

WELCOME CHIMACUM! THIRD OLYMPIC CLASS FERRY JOINS WSF FLEET

The newest Washington State Ferry, CHIMACUM, joined the fleet late last week following its construction at the Vigor Harbor Island Shipyard in Seattle. The CHIMACUM will carry ferry riders on the Seattle/Bremerton route this summer after crews complete vessel outfitting, operational training and drills. The ferry's name honors the Chemakum tribe's gathering place, which is now the present day town of Chimacum near Port Townsend.

"We're excited to welcome the Chimacum to our fleet," said Washington State Ferries Assistant Secretary Amy Scarton. "This new vessel replaces the 59-year-old KLAHOWYA and allows us to continue providing safe and reliable service for the 2.7 million customers who use the Seattle/Bremerton route each year."

With room for 144 cars and 1,500 passengers, CHIMACUM, like its sister vessels TOKITAE and SAMISH, offers flexible seating configurations, wider vehicle lanes and two passenger elevators, making it the most accessible vessel in the fleet for passengers with disabilities. The total construction cost was \$123 million in addition to equipment provided by Washington State Ferries.

CHIMACUM is the third of four funded Olympic Class ferries that replace the aging, midcentury-era Evergreen State Class vessels - the MV EVERGREEN STATE, MV KLAHOWYA and MV TILLIKUM. The first Olympic Class vessel, TOKITAE, joined the Mukilteo/Canton route in June 2014. The second, SAMISH, started service on the Anacortes/San Juan Islands route in June 2015. SUQUAMISH, the fourth vessel in the class, is under construction at Vigor's Seattle yard and will enter service in 2019.

PRESIDENT AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR EX-IM BANK

This week, President Trump gave his stamp of approval for the Export Import Bank supporting indications that he is in favor of returning the Bank to full operational status.

The Ex-Im Bank helps keep American businesses competitive by assisting U.S. companies with financing the export of U.S. goods and services to international markets – at no cost to taxpayers. Importantly, a portion of cargo generated by the Bank is required to be transported aboard U.S.-flag ships. For transactions above \$20 million, 100% of all cargo financed by the Bank must be carried on US-flag vessels.

Some in Congress, especially many “Tea Party” lawmakers, consider the Bank a form of corporate welfare and claimed victory in 2015 when Congress allowed the Bank’s charter to expire. Soon after, pro-Ex-Im Bank forces managed to get the Bank rechartered through September 2019 though the Bank has been only able to operate at half-speed because of continued obstacles. In particular, there are two vacancies on Ex-Im’s Board of Directors and the Bank needs at least one more Director to field a quorum. Without a quorum they can’t approve loans for more than \$10 million. Ex-Im Bank opponent Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Alabama), who was chairman of the Senate Banking Committee in the last session of Congress, had refused to allow any confirmation votes for the vacant board seats.

President Trump announced his support for the Bank this week after questioning the Bank’s usefulness during his campaign. The President said he would nominate two board members to fill the vacancies and noted, “It turns out that, first of all, lots of small companies are really helped, the vendor companies. But also, maybe more important, other countries give [assistance]. When other countries give it we lose a tremendous amount of business. Instinctively, you would say, 'Isn't that a ridiculous thing?' But actually, it's a very good thing. And it actually makes money, it could make a lot of money.”

LABOR SAFE EASTER

In time for the Easter Bunny’s rounds, Labor 411 has detailed a labor-friendly way to make sure your Easter supplies help support good jobs. **Eggs** - Alta Dena, Horizon, Clover Sonoma; **Food Coloring** - Betty Crocker; **Candy** - Marshmallow Peeps; Cadbury Creme Eggs and other chocolate products; Jelly Belly; Malted Milk Eggs (PAAS, Mighty Malts); Tootsie Rolls and Pops; Haviland Nonpareils; Gimbal’s Gourmet Jelly Beans; Mike and Ike; Laffy Taffy; Smarties; Necco; Dum Dums.

S.O.S CALLING ALL SEAFARERS

United Seamen’s Service (USS) needs your support to make capital improvements on its facilities and to maintain their programs that serve the various needs of American and international seafarers. USS Executive Director Roger Korner put out the following call to mariners asking for support for the next generation of mariners:

“Whether you are an “Old Timer” or have just started sailing, it’s more than likely you have visited or will visit a USS Center during your sailing career. Many of us have fond memories of particular Centers and their friendly staff who for almost 75 years, have helped make your stay in port pleasant and enjoyable. Whether a casual conversation with someone new, bantering with seafaring friends and shipmates or simply getting information on local shops and /or points of interest, seafarers have benefited from USS services since 1942. Our industry has changed tremendously over these past years. Our time in port is limited, and our time ashore is shorter, if it exists at all. This has greatly impacted mariners’ personal well-being and the long-standing Centers’ ability to serve the needs of seafarers and military personnel. USS was born as a result of President Roosevelt’s concern for seafarers’ needs during World War II, recognized by Congress with the Seamen’s Service Act, and acknowledged by our government for the critical role we play at times of peace and war. In an effort to keep these

Centers available we are appealing to you to help sustain these important centers: USS Bremerhaven, USS Casablanca, USS Diego Garcia, USS Okinawa, USS Busan & USS Yokohama.

Thus, I am asking you to visit the USS' website: www.unitedseamensservice.org and the USS Crowd Funding site: www.youcaring.com/USSRising and support our request for a financial contribution to "USS Rising", a \$500,000, Capital Funding Campaign. Any amount you can give would be appreciated – we are seeking thousands of small donations. All donations are tax deductible as approved by law under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donated funds will go directly to supporting our mariners."

YOU COULD WIN \$5,000 IN 50/50 RAFFLE; AUCTION DONATIONS SOUGHT

\$2 tickets are now available at each of the M.E.B.A. Union halls for a 50/50 Raffle that will assist the Good & Welfare fund. The winner will receive 50% of the proceeds (as much as \$5,000!!) with the other half going to the Fund. The raffle is open to anyone who wants to purchase a ticket. The drawing will be held on October 12th and will take place at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School during a Silent Auction & Fundraiser. Ticketholders do not need to be present at the drawing to win. Every ticket that you buy puts another dollar into the Good & Welfare Fund.

To help support the Auction & Fundraiser, the G&W Committee is asking for donations of gifts and prizes such as nautical items, sporting memorabilia, art, etc. You can contact Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo at Headquarters or any Branch Agent to forward monetary or item donations. Remember, your contributions to the fund are tax deductible so please give liberally in order to help a Union brother or sister in need. M.E.B.A. members are encouraged to support this important cause. The Fund is used to help active and retired members and their families in times of crisis. The Fund has proven itself numerous time helping members, retirees and their families recover following devastating storms and unexpected tragedies. Strengthening the G&W will allow additional support to those in the M.E.B.A. family during their times of need.

MMC/STCW EXPIRATION DATE(S) REQUESTED

The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) requests that every M.E.B.A. member and applicant submit the expiration date for their Merchant Mariner Credential to them. This info will allow CMES to better determine how many BST Refresher and/or BST Revalidation courses should be added to the schedule by understanding how many members need to renew their credentials in a given year. If your STCW Endorsement expiration date differs from your MMC expiration please include that information as well. You can send an email with your info to info@mebaschool.org. Make sure you properly identify yourself (last 4 numbers of SSN will help). A webform on the CMES website (www.mebaschool.org) makes it easy for members and applicants to submit this information.

STATIONARY ENGINEER POSITIONS IN PACIFIC NW

M.E.B.A.'s new contract with Commercial Transcontinental Services (CTS) is putting members to work in shoreside positions. CTS is accepting resumes for members to serve as temporary facilities engineers in the Seattle, Portland and Spokane areas. Jobs range from 1–90 days in duration, and generally run from 8-5 each day. This is covered employment for medical, training and pension purposes. M.E.B.A.'s Executive V.P. Adam Vokac is the point of contact and is accepting resumes. Interested members and applicants in the Pacific Northwest are encouraged to submit a current resume along with copies of their USCG officer's license and current M.E.B.A. drug test to Adam at avokac@mebaunion.org. If this arrangement proves successful, there could be additional opportunities in other West Coast locations including Oakland and Los Angeles.

ITF TASKFORCE HAILS BIG JONES ACT FINE

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Cabotage Taskforce has hailed the recent Department of Justice announcement that Furie Operating Alaska LLC will pay \$10 million to satisfy a Customs and Border Protection civil penalty for violating the Jones Act. The company was penalized for transporting a jack-up drill rig from the Gulf of Mexico to Alaska in 2011 using a foreign-flag vessel without acquiring a Jones Act waiver. This is believed to be the largest Jones Act penalty in the nearly century-long existence of the law. The Cabotage Taskforce noted that though its preference is for proper adherence to individual nations' respective cabotage laws, it's critical that when regulations are violated, those breaking the rules are held accountable. In its announcement of the \$10 million penalty, the DOJ noted, 'Resolution of this case demonstrates that the Jones Act will be actively enforced and that an intentional violation will not be rewarded'. Speaking from its Oslo meeting the Taskforce's chair, James Given, said: "This is a really momentous decision. The size of the fine, the decisiveness and resolution of the decision and commitment to future action are the strongest possible markers of the importance and value of the Jones Act." David Heindel, chair of the ITF seafarers' section, added: "Once again the Jones Act has been rightly used to defend safe and lawful maritime operations in American waters. This is the right decision at the right time."

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

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans' website – www.mebaplans.org (Forms, Vacation). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org for more info.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, May 8 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, May 9 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, May 10 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, May 11 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, May 12 - 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.

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