

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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UNION FULFILLS OBLIGATIONS FOR MARAD PAPER BREAKOUT

Earlier today, M.E.B.A. satisfied our exercise obligations for a massive tabletop Government fleet activation by (virtually) filling engine and deck jobs for 19 vessels. The M.E.B.A.-crewed MarAd (RRF) vessels that were "activated" are managed by Patriot Contract Services, Matson Navigation and Keystone Shipping.

The Maritime Administration oversees this simulated breakout that helps evaluate whether the industry's workforce is capable of supporting a major ramp-up of surge sealift ships. This was a paper exercise and mariners were not required to report to the vessels.

Specifically, the Command Post Exercise simulated the activation of the Ready Reserve Force fleet and Military Sealift Command surge vessels to test procedures and coordination necessary to meet strategic sealift requirements.

The exercise began on Wednesday afternoon requiring phone calls to members with the appropriate licenses and qualifications. Members currently serving aboard vessels were not eligible for the exercise. Many thanks to our Point Persons on this exercise: Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway, NY/NJ Patrolman Nico Sermoneta, Oakland Dispatcher Michelle McGlaston and Seattle Dispatcher Joshua Hahn. Each proved relentless in the task as they summoned qualified mariners and began to "crew up the ships" on paper.

Those who filled virtual jobs are not precluded from taking actual shipping work. Exercise participants may receive a follow-up communication from MarAd to verify their information. Our thanks go out to all the members and applicants who participated in Breakout 2022!

Members, applicants and retirees should make sure to keep the Union updated with their latest contact information and other important data to assist our records and ability to better pursue initiatives and job opportunities for our membership.

UPCOMING CONTRACT TALKS WITH SEACOR; INPUT, PARTICIPATION SOUGHT

M.E.B.A. will be negotiating a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with Seacor/Waterman. The first round of talks will take place from May 16-18 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Negotiations will cover licensed engineers for the PC/TCs: GREEN COVE, GREEN LAKE, GREEN POINT, GREEN RIDGE, as well as the heavylift vessels: OCEAN GIANT and OCEAN GLADIATOR.

The M.E.B.A. negotiating team, led by Gulf Coast Vice President Adam Smith, is seeking Rank & File input and participation. You can contact GCVP Smith at the Houston hall or at asmith@mebaunion.org Collective bargaining works best when we work together collectively.

WSF CREW SHORTAGES PROMPT ALLIANCE WITH SEATTLE MARITIME ACADEMY

Washington State Ferries has teamed up with Seattle Maritime Academy to address worker shortages, that have become more problematic in the last few years. Senior crew members reaching retirement age were joined by another exodus of mariners during the COVID era. The State hasn't made ferry jobs attractive enough for mariners who can seek more rewarding opportunities elsewhere with less risk. The State's vaccine mandate led to the separation of additional longtime Ferry workers and the system has suffered delays, reduced schedules and canceled sailings.

As a result, Washington State Ferries is looking to increase interest and enrollment at Seattle Maritime Academy. The Academy is part of Seattle Central Community College and the facility is located on the shore of Lake Union in Seattle. Marine engineering students train in classrooms, aboard vessels and in a state-of-the-art engine room simulator.

"There's huge demand for merchant mariners, not just at Washington State Ferries, but across the entire industry," said academy Associate Dean Dale Bateman, who hopes to reach people who may have never thought about a career in the maritime sector. "We offer a fast-track program to train the next generation of mariners. Students in the marine engineering technology unit can graduate and be on the water in as little as a year."

The enrollment outreach, as well as ongoing WSF recruitment, encourages people from communities of color, women and other under-represented groups in the maritime industry to consider maritime training and careers. For people interested in a fast track to a family-wage job at WSF, the academy hosts monthly public tours and information sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. "Engine room employees are a part of ferry operations that a lot of people don't know exist, yet they're absolutely vital to ensure the largest ferry system in North America can safely serve the people of Washington," said WSF Chief of Staff Nicole McIntosh.

PACT WITH PASHA FOR SHORT TERM WORK ON GOLDEN BEAR

M.E.B.A. and Pasha/Sunrise recently inked a limited agreement to provide augmenting engineers aboard the California State Maritime Academy Training Ship GOLDEN BEAR for a three-month period.

The Company was awarded a General Agent (GA) contract with the Maritime Administration to perform short term work on the training ship. The work will be compensated at current MarAd

ROS wage/fringe benefit rates. Additional information can be obtained from the Oakland Union hall.

LAST HOORAH FOR SUNY'S EMPIRE STATE; STEAM ENGINEERS SOUGHT FOR TRAINING CRUISE

SUNY Maritime College needs steam engineers for the “B” portion of this summer’s training cruise onboard the EMPIRE STATE VI, lasting approximately 35 days.

The B half will start on 6/27 in Porto Portugal. The vessel will then sail to Belfast UK, 7/14 – 7/18 and return to SUNY on 8/2, with the cruise ending on 8/5. Applicants need a valid MMC and TWIC and must have their COVID vaccinations.

SUNY is also seeking watch standers and instructors. You can express your interest and seek more information from Joann Sprague at jsprague@sunymaritime.edu

This may be the last hoorah for the 60-year old EMPIRE STATE. The construction of much-needed replacement vessels for the five maritime academies is underway and the SUNY is expected to receive the first of the next-generation National Security Multi-Mission Vessels (NSMV) in 2023.

The NMSVs will be capable of supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in times of need. They are being constructed at Philly Shipyard, in Philadelphia, PA.

The second vessel in the series will relieve the 54-year old TS KENNEDY at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The third and fourth newbuilds will replace vessels at Maine Maritime Academy and Texas A&M Maritime Academy while the fifth will go to the California State University Maritime Academy (CMA).

NSMVs will feature numerous instructional spaces, a full training bridge, and have space for up to 600 cadets to train in a first-rate maritime academic environment at sea. Each ship will feature modern hospital facilities, a helicopter pad, and the ability to accommodate up to 1,000 people in times of humanitarian need. They will provide needed roll-on/roll-off and container storage capacity for use during disaster relief missions.

CG POINTS MARINE TRANSPORTATION PARTNERS TOWARD CYBERSECURITY SITE

With an eye on the volatile Russia situation, the Coast Guard is recommending that Marine Transportation System (MTS) partners familiarize themselves with the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) “Shields Up” website (www.cisa.gov/shields-up)

A newly released Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) (02-22) says the CISA site “remains the primary location for information and recommendations for adapting a heightened cybersecurity posture, and we highly encourage all MTS stakeholders to visit the site regularly for updates and reminders.”

Considering heightened risks, they recommend that operators should closely monitor their computer systems, telecommunications systems, and networks for suspicious activity and breaches of security

and, when in doubt, report to the National Response Center. The MSIB has been made available on the M.E.B.A. website in the “Documents & Member Notices” section.

MAKE SURE YOUR LATEST INFO IS ON FILE!!!

Members and applicants should make sure that M.E.B.A. Headquarters has your e-mail address along with your other contact information. If you haven’t filled out an M.E.B.A. Database Update Form – or if your information has changed – grab the form off the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) located in the “Documents & Member Notices” section. Update Forms should be sent to the HQ Membership Dept. by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail membership@mebaunion.org The HQ database is NOT LINKED to the databases at the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore OR the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School. To update your information with Plans, you can find a change of address form on the Plans website (www.mebaplans.org) under “Forms & Documents” and “Member Services Forms.”

TTD CALLS FOR SAFETY MEASURES IN WAKE OF NYC SUBWAY SHOOTING

Transportation Trades Department (AFL-CIO) President Greg Regan noted that this week’s Brooklyn subway station shooting is another unhappy reminder of the ongoing “public transit and workplace safety crisis” that needs to be met with tangible reforms to ensure the protection of passengers and workers in public transport.

M.E.B.A. is a founding member of the TTD which represents 37 unions in the maritime, aviation, rail, transit, trucking, highway, longshore, and related industries.

“TTD and our affiliated transit unions have repeatedly called for increased safety measures at the federal, state, and local level,” he said. Some of these calls for reform include implementing transit safety provisions in the bipartisan infrastructure bill and ensuring fully-staffed to assist with evacuations and emergency communications. In addition, TTD is looking to step up the amount of Station Agents. Regan said, “It is imperative that we improve public confidence in the safety of our nation’s transit systems and workplace safety for the frontline transportation workers who are tasked with the immense responsibility of safely moving millions of passengers every single day.”

ILO, IMO CALL FOR URGENT ACTION FOR STRANDED SEAFARERS IN UKRAINE

The heads of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) called for urgent action to protect seafarers and vessels stranded in Ukrainian ports and nearby waters following the Russian aggression against the country.

According to the IMO, as many as 1,000 seafarers are trapped on more than 100 vessels in Ukraine and in nearby waters.

They noted, “As well as the dangers arising from bombardment, many of the ships concerned now lack food, fuel, fresh water and other vital supplies. The situation of the seafarers from many countries is becoming increasingly untenable as a result, presenting grave risks to their health and well-being.”

They implored several international agencies, including the United Nations, to take urgent action to assist in re-provisioning the ships with vital supplies needed by seafarers onboard.

FRIDAY CLOSINGS, BOSTON HALL CLOSED MONDAY FOR PATRIOTS' DAY

Union halls and offices will be closed tomorrow (4/15) for Good Friday. Officials and some staffers can still be reached by cellphone and email during the lead-in to Easter weekend.

The M.E.B.A. Union hall in Boston will be closed on Monday, April 18 for Patriots' Day. Patriots' Day (no, not the football team!) is a state holiday in Massachusetts, Maine and Connecticut. School kids in Wisconsin have the day off as well. It is observed on the third Monday in April in those states and commemorates the Revolutionary War battles of Lexington, Concord and Menotomy. The Boston Marathon takes place every year on Patriots' Day. The observance should not be confused with Patriot Day, which is held on September 11 in remembrance of the terrorist attacks in 2001. All other M.E.B.A. offices and halls will be open during their normal operating hours on Monday.

NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS *(All times are local)*

Monday, May 2 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, May 3 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, May 4 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; **Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, May 5 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, May 6 – Honolulu@1100.

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



*M.E.B.A. does not tolerate assault, or harassment of any kind.
If you see something, say something – The M.E.B.A. Emergency Hotline
can be reached at 1-888-519-0018.*

The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. M.E.B.A.'s expertise and demonstrated track record of readiness, safety, and loyalty in answering America's call to action in times of both peace and war is unrivaled in the world. M.E.B.A. HQ – Phone: (202) 638-5355; mebahq@mebaunion.org. For publication and related inquiries (and to send photos & hot news tips) contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.