

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 16 – April 20, 2017



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TWO NEW BOARD NOMINEES WOULD BRING EX-IM BANK TO FULL POWER

A few days after announcing his support for a more effective Export-Import Bank, President Trump nominated two new members to the Bank Board that, if confirmed, would allow the Bank to field a quorum and restore Ex-Im to full operational status.

The Ex-Im Bank assists U.S. companies with financing the export of U.S. goods and services to international markets. 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. The Ex-Im Bank helps create jobs in this country and turns a profit at no cost to taxpayers.

However, two vacancies on the Ex-Im Board prevented the Bank from fielding a quorum which blocks the Board from approving loans over \$10 million. Ex-Im opponents had prevented the vacancies from being filled over the past year. But the President's newly announced support for the Bank and the nomination of the Board members bodes well for a fully functioning Ex-Im Bank that will help generate cargoes for U.S.-flag bottoms.

The President's two nominees to the Board late last week included Alabama Republican Spencer Bachus. Bachus supported the Ex-Im Bank during his service in Congress from 1993 to 2015. The other nominee was New Jersey Republican Scott Garrett, also a former Congressman. However, Garrett voted against the reauthorization of the Bank in 2015 and once said that Ex-Im "embodies the corruption of the free-enterprise system." He has been nominated to lead the Ex-Im Board and is likely to face opposition from some Senators, especially Democrats, on his path to confirmation.

FRC REVIEWS FINANCES, FORWARDS REPORT

A six-person rank and file Financial Review Committee spent 3 days at M.E.B.A. Headquarters this week poring over the Union's financial records for calendar year 2016. The FRC was created as a Democratic safeguard adopted by the M.E.B.A. in the mid-1990s to examine union finances from the previous year.

This year, the Committee was made up of the following six members: Ray Collector (Houston - Chairman), Scott Adler (NY/NJ-Alternate & Recording Secretary), Tom Eastwood (Norfolk), Tom Stenquist (Oakland), Joe Salas (Seattle) and Ed Figelski (Tampa). The Committee signed off on a report that will be made available and voted upon at the May membership meetings.

AFL-CIO CALLS ‘BUY AMERICAN’ ORDER A “GOOD FIRST STEP”

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka was encouraged by an Executive Order signed this week that could signal changes to a temporary visa program used to replace American workers with cheap foreign labor. The order could also be used to multiply purchases of American products in federal contracts. Trumka called it “a good first step toward making Buy America provisions more effective and discouraging excessive waivers.” However, he said that “more needs to be done to pivot the U.S. economy toward steady wage and job growth.”

“Although short on specifics,” he continued, “today’s order addresses critically important issues. With respect to immigration, the labor movement consistently has called for reform, rather than expansion, of temporary work visa programs that make U.S. and foreign workers more vulnerable to discrimination, displacement and exploitation. A serious look at the impact of these captive-work programs on rights, wages and working conditions is long overdue. It’s crucial that working people’s experiences inform efforts to crack down on employer fraud and abuse. The labor movement will continue to push for trade, procurement and immigration reforms that unite and empower communities, while protecting the rights, dignity and livelihoods of all working people.”

3-DAY QUALIFIED ASSESSOR CLASSES ADDED TO 2017 CMES SCHEDULE

Due to membership needs, the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School has added three Qualified Assessor classes to their 2017 schedule. The three day courses have been set for June 5–7; July 31–August 2; and September 11-13.

Each three-day course begins on a Monday morning and ends on the Wednesday. Applications may be sent via the CMES website (www.mebaschool.org), fax (410) 822-7220, or email to applications@mebaschool.org

PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT FOR M.E.B.A. INLAND CONFERENCE

Organizers are seeking participants from key inland bargaining units for an upcoming one-day meeting at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School in June. The meeting will bring together M.E.B.A. members working at various ferry operations, tug and barge outfits and other inland bargaining units. This “Inland Transportation Coalition” (ITC) will discuss matters of mutual concern, such as contract negotiations, grievance resolution, union administration and other important issues. Conference organizers are reaching out to officials around the country to identify inland members who want to get involved and can represent their bargaining unit at the meeting which will take place on June 14, 2017.

ITC bargaining units include the Alaska Marine Highway System; Black Ball Transport; Boston Marine Transport; City & Borough of Juneau; Connolly-Pacific; Delaware Pilots’ Association; DMC Marine (DonJon), DRBA (Cape May-Lewes Ferry); Foss Maritime (SoCal); Golden Gate Ferry; Governors Island Ferry; King County Ferry; Lamont-Doherty; Samson Tug & Barge; Staten Island Ferry; Washington State Ferry; and the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket Steamship Authority. The groups within the ITC represent one third of the M.E.B.A. membership.

If you feel you would be a good representative for your bargaining unit please contact your local M.E.B.A. representation. They will coordinate with ITC organizers Isaac Seidman (M.E.B.A. WSF Rep.) and Mike O'Toole (NY/NJ Ferry Rep.).

NAVY BANS VAPING ABOARD SHIP

As of May 14, the Navy will ban the use of “Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)” (e-cigarettes) aboard aircraft, submarines and ships including Military Sealift Command vessels. The prohibition applies to Sailors, Marines, MSC civilian mariners and any personnel working on or visiting those units. The policy was put in place after several injuries occurred when e-cigarette lithium-ion batteries exploded during use or while charging. The prohibition will remain in effect until a final determination can be made following a thorough analysis.

BIG MONEY! ONGOING 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 Calhoun 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 times 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.

LABOR-FRIENDLY SPRING CLEANING

As you awake from your winter slumber it's time to put a little spring in your step. Labor 411 has advanced a list of “ethical employers” with products to help you knock out the cobwebs and clean your way to a stronger America: **Cleaners, Laundry, Storage and More** - Ajax; All laundry detergent; Blanco Bleach; Borateem Laundry Detergent; Bowl Fresh Toilet Bowl Sanitizer & Deodorizers; Clorox; Cuddle Soft; DuPont Degreasers, Stone Care; Dynamo Laundry Detergent; Enoz Cedar Pine Moth Balls, Fly Catcher Strips; Fab Laundry Detergent; Final Touch Fabric Softener; HiLex Bleach; Liquid Plumr; Lysol; Minwax; Mop & Glo; Niagara Spray Starch; Osram Sylvania Lightbulbs; Pro-Fusion Color Car Polish; Pure Bright Pro Cleaning Products; Purex; Rit Dye Laundry Treatment; Rubbermaid; Snuggle; Soft Scrub; Sun Detergent; Sunlight Detergent; Surf Detergent; Tide. **Grow, Mow, Relax** - Agrium Fertilizer; Algoma Net Hammocks, Pillows, Wood Benches; DuPont Bird Netting; John Deere Mowers; Kem-Tek Pool Care. **Vacuums** - Craftsman; and Rigid.

PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT COAST GUARD COMMENCEMENT

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is preparing to host President Donald Trump, who is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at graduation on Wednesday May 17. The President traditionally addresses the graduating class at one of the federal service academies on a rotating basis. President Obama came to the Academy in 2015. This will be the first time President Trump addresses a federal service

academy graduating class as Commander in Chief. Academy Superintendent Rear Adm. James E. Rendon said they are “grateful for the opportunity to highlight our Academy and our mission to develop leaders of character for the Coast Guard and the nation.”

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY UPCOMING

Workers Memorial Day will be observed on April 28th using the theme "Safe Jobs. Every Worker's Right." It is a day to honor those workers who have died on the job, to acknowledge the grievous suffering experienced by families and communities, and to recommit ourselves to the fight for safe and healthful workplaces for all workers. This year’s observance will highlight the safety and health gains unions have won and how such progress can prove tenuous with labor union opponents in Congress itching to use their clout.

You are urged to join in observing Workers Memorial Day to highlight the importance of a safe working environment. Please visit www.afcio.org/about/conferences/workers-memorial-day for more information.

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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