

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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M.E.B.A. WRAPS UP NEW CONTRACT WITH SAMSON TUG & BARGE

M.E.B.A. recently hammered out a new three-year contract with Samson Tug and Barge covering about 60 bargaining unit members. In operation since 1937, Sitka, Alaska-based Samson is a fully-integrated, intermodal, interstate marine freight common carrier that offers a range of barge, freight and cargo hauling services on a scheduled year-round basis. Routes go to, from and throughout Alaska, carrying seafood, construction materials, groceries, and general re-supply items.

Bargaining unit members unanimously ratified the terms of the new deal which bring them pay increases each year along with a wage incentive and travel improvements.

M.E.B.A. Seattle Branch Agent Jeff Duncan headed up talks with the assistance of Juneau Representative Ben Goldrich along with rank-and-file participation and input.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE FOR SHORT-SHRIFTED S.I. FERRY MARINERS

New York City Transportation officials have expressed renewed interest in restoring the Staten Island Ferry to prominence by adequately compensating its neglected mariner force.

Fleet mariners haven't had a pay raise in almost 12 years after the contract expired in 2010 and wage stagnation began to erode the system's highly-trained workforce through the years. The pandemic ushered in another exodus of undercompensated mariners who flocked to better paying jobs elsewhere. The City's failure to attract and retain qualified mariners has continually created service disruptions including last Wednesday when frustrated commuters were forced to cool their heels as understaffing led officials to cancel Ferry sailings during rush hour.

The M.E.B.A., which represents Captains, Assistant Captains, Engineers and Mates on the ferries, has looked to reignite talks and get a deal done and new Mayor Eric Adams has echoed that desire. Last week the Mayor noted, "we will continue to engage with the ferry workers' union to reach a voluntary, pattern-conforming agreement in the same way that we have done with virtually all other city unions for these rounds of bargaining."

But since 2010, every other bargaining unit among the city's 300,000 municipal workers has received a new contract. Mayor Michael Bloomberg, then his successor Bill DeBlasio failed to get the job done. Now M.E.B.A. has engaged the Adams administration as we look to help return this historic

ferry system back to prominence by repairing the broken wage structure and making the fleet a great place to work again.

Staten Island Ferry mariners have the support of local politicians including Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY-11), who represents the borough. She told the Mayor that “operational and passenger safety risks will continue to grow” because the City is not providing the incentive to attract and retain qualified mariners. She said the city’s failure to offer a fair contract to the M.E.B.A. officers comes “at the expense of our mariners and commuters alike.”

M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland “Rex” Rexha, along with our Shop Stewards in the unit, have been working hard to get City officials to do the right thing and they continued intense negotiations this week. M.E.B.A. will continue to support the dedicated mariners in the fleet with every tool and legal means available to help bring a fair contract across the finish line.

The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) has created an online petition calling on NYC Mayor Eric Adams to give the hardworking State Island Ferry mariners the (long overdue) contract they deserve. Add your name to the letter by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/sifttd> Let’s make this happen!

SURVEY FOR SEAFARERS ON HOURS OF WORK/REST, WORKLOAD & SHIP MANNING

The World Maritime University (WMU) is calling all seafarers who are currently working on any commercial ship, or have worked on such ships at any time after February 1, 1997, to participate in a survey on hours of work/rest, workload, and ship manning.

WMU is conducting the survey in collaboration with the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA), the Nautical Institute (NI), the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), and the International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN). The survey is part of research funded by the ITF Seafarers' Trust. At the conclusion of the survey, WMU will work with the maritime community to consider improvements.

The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete and all responses will remain strictly confidential. The participation deadline is December 31, 2022.

Follow this link to complete the survey: <https://lnkd.in/eBqRxcSG>

NASSCO CONTRACT FOR ANOTHER MSC ESB, MORE FLEET OILERS

The General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard will build a sixth Expeditionary Sea Base ship (ESB 8) and two additional John Lewis-class fleet oilers bound for the Military Sealift Command fleet after winning a \$1.4 billion Navy contract. The contract modification also provides an option for the Navy to procure an additional oiler. Construction of the ships is scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2023 and continue into 2027.

ESB ships are highly flexible platforms designed to support multiple maritime-based missions. The USS LEWIS B. PULLER, USS HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS and the USS MIGUEL KEITH have been delivered. The future ESBs USS JOHN L. CANLEY and USS ROBERT E. SIMANEK are currently under construction. Civilian Mariners aboard each of the ESBs and fleet oilers are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

NASSCO had previously been contracted to construct the first six vessels in the John-Lewis class fleet oilers. They delivered the USNS JOHN LEWIS last month and work continues on the other five Lewis-class vessels, the USNS HARVEY MILK, USNS EARL WARREN and USNS ROBERT F. KENNEDY. They are also contracted to build the future USNS LUCY STONE and the USNS SOJOURNER TRUTH.

UNMANNED TRIALS ON MSC EPF

The future USNS APALACHICOLA, an Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessel operated by the Military Sealift Command, underwent a series of planned test events assessing autonomous capabilities integrated into the shipboard configuration.

EPFs are shallow-draft, all-aluminum, commercial-based catamarans that are capable of intra-theater personnel and cargo transport, which provide combatant commanders high-speed sealift mobility. EPF civilian mariner crews are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

The APALACHICOLA is expected to be delivered later this year. It is the 13th EPF, but the first of the class with autonomous capabilities. Tim Roberts, the Navy's Strategic and Theater Sealift program manager said, "this testing is a game changer and highlights that there is potential to expand unmanned concepts into existing fleet assets."

Future test events will add levels of difficulty and include night navigation, and differing weather and sea states. The Navy said these trials will set crucial groundwork for autonomous vessel operations, to include vessel encounter and avoidance maneuvering and compliance with International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

CMES CLARIFIES DATES FOR UPCOMING SMALL ARMS COURSE

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School has clarified the dates for upcoming Small Arms courses that still have openings. Students can register now for the August 22–26 as well as the September 19–23 Small Arms classes. There are also openings in the September 12–16 BST Refresher course and those interested should take advantage now.

Applications can be sent via the CMES website (www.mebaschool.org), faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to applications@mebaschool.org

DIRECT SUBMISSION OF MEDCERT APPLICATIONS TO NMC

The Coast Guard has an established option for submission of medical certificate applications (CG-719K and CG-719K/E forms). Mariners may submit medical certificate only applications directly to the National Maritime Center (NMC). Regional Examination Centers will accept medical certificate application submissions as well, but, for faster processing, it is recommended to submit a CG-719K or CG-719K/E directly to the NMC.

The CG-719K and CG-719 K/E forms can be sent directly to the NMC via e-mail at MEDAIP@uscg.mil. Electronic submission requirements can be found on the NMC website. Direct submission to the NMC is only for the medical certificate application. Applications for a Merchant Mariner Credential (CG-719B/MMC) cannot be submitted directly to the NMC.

If you have any questions, please contact the NMC Customer Service Center by e-mailing IASKNMC@USCG.mil, by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662), via their online chat system, or by visiting the website at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/>

UNIONS POWER AMERICA – CONTEST & SWEEPSTAKES

Union Plus has launched its second annual “Unions Power America” contest and sweepstakes in which they will be awarding over \$100,000 in prizes to union members through August 29th. The grand prize winner will receive as much as \$25,000.

To enter, share a story about how you, or a fellow M.E.B.A. member, powers America. Winners will be announced on Facebook Live on September 5.

Union Plus programs, which are available to M.E.B.A. members, applicants, retirees and our affiliates, provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services. The M.E.B.A. is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts.

Visit <https://unionplus.click/labor22> to access the entry form and for more details.

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

Monday, September 5 – Halls Closed – *Labor Day*

Tuesday, September 6 – Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Wednesday, September 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; **Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, September 8 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, September 9 – 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.