

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH MATSON; RATIFICATION VOTE NEXT WEEK

M.E.B.A. has nailed down new contract language for members sailing with Matson Navigation and will meet with the company in mid-August to work on a new agreement covering Port Engineers. Negotiators secured a tentative 10-year agreement with Matson covering the Matson A3, CV2600 and the newbuild vessels. The tentative agreement provides wage and penalty rate increases, improved medical and pension provisions as well as increased Plans contributions among other things. It also provides job security and continued Port Relief Engineers on the West Coast.

The tentative agreement will be put before members for a ratification vote to take place at the regular membership meetings next week. Details have been sent to the Union halls for members to review.

The M.E.B.A. negotiating team was led by Executive Vice President Adam Vokac and included L.A. Branch Agent Richard Doherty and Oakland Patrolman Max Alper as well as a rank and file team of Pete Gedney, Tom Pote, Brian Humphrey and Tom Stillwachs.

M.E.B.A. will meet with Matson the week of August 13 to negotiate an agreement covering Port Engineers.

FARM BILL - CONFEREES WILL IRON OUT FOOD-AID DISCREPANCIES AFFECTING U.S.-FLAG SHIPPING

On Tuesday, the Senate voted to commence negotiations with the House to work out final details of the 2018 Farm Bill – a five-year package that includes authorization for food aid programs. Conferees will tackle those issues shortly after they return from their August recess at an undetermined date. Members have already left town for the August recess, and at press time, Senators were racing to complete work on must-pass bills before going into recess for an abbreviated summer break.

The House and Senate each passed their respective Farm Bill versions in July, with the final details to be worked out through the Conference process prior to expiration of the current authorization on Sept. 30th. As expected, the Senate version includes several provisions which would negatively impact the U.S. Merchant Marine by decreasing the total amount of food aid available for export.

Maritime unions and carriers are actively lobbying both the House and Senate to ensure that the House version prevails.

You can help by visiting the Navy League's "Voice to Congress" page on its website. The site assists you in easily sending a ready-made letter to your lawmakers urging their support for the carriage of Food for Peace cargoes by U.S.-flag ships. Check it out at www.voterveice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/59973/Respond

NEWBUILD SUQUAMISH JOINS WSF FLEET

The Washington State Ferry system has taken delivery of the newbuild SUQUAMISH which is set to enter service this Fall after crews complete outfitting and training. The vessel is the fourth of four funded Olympic Class ferries that are replacing the aging, midcentury-era, diesel-electric Evergreen State Class vessels. The SUQUAMISH was constructed at Vigor Shipyard in Seattle and joins the TOKITAE, SAMISH and the CHIMACUM, the other recent Olympic-class additions to the WSF fleet.

The 144 vehicle/1,500 passenger ferry will operate on the Mukilteo/Clinton route in the summer and will serve as a maintenance relief vessel in the winter, filling in when other vessels are out of service.

"Welcoming the SUQUAMISH to our fleet brings us one step closer to providing much-needed relief to our system," said Washington State Ferries Assistant Secretary Amy Scarton. "This new ferry will help modernize our aging fleet and allow us to perform necessary maintenance to keep our ferries reliable and in good working order."

The new ferry meets Environmental Protection Agency Tier 4 emission standards, making it the cleanest vessel in the fleet. Suquamish means "people of the clear salt water" in the Southern Coast Salish Lushootseed language.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CADET INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT CMES

63 cadets from maritime academies across the country got a head start on their shipping careers after taking advantage of M.E.B.A.'s three-week Licensed Cadet Internship summer program that concluded on Friday. The program is designed to help mold the next generation of M.E.B.A. mariners and helps ease their way toward a shipping career with the Union. Almost a third of the cadets attending made application with the Union by the July 9 start date of this year's program and many more declared their plans to apply for membership as the three-weeks wrapped up July 27 at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School in Easton, MD.

This year's program participants were split between recent graduates and incoming seniors. They were loaded up with a full itinerary as they learned more about the excellent career opportunities the M.E.B.A. presents. Many took advantage of Government Vessel Operations training which includes Small Arms, CBR-D, Civilian Mariner Engineering Officer (CMEO) and Damage Control. Others received training in the high voltage safety, diesel engineering, electricity and refrigeration courses. The School also offered one-week seminars for cadets covering diesel, welding, machine shop and electrical troubleshooting. M.E.B.A. President Marshall Ainley and Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo addressed cadets on Thursday providing a detailed summation of the maritime industry, Union membership and important M.E.B.A. programs and functions.

LT. GEN LYONS CONFIRMED AS TRANSCOM COMMANDER

Army Lieutenant General Stephen R. Lyons was confirmed by the full Senate this week to serve as the new Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command and will take over for the retiring Gen. Darren McDew. Lyons, who will be the first ever non-Air Force officer to head up U.S. TRANSCOM, is being promoted to the rank of four-star general.

He previously served as Deputy Commander at TRANSCOM under both Gen. Paul Selva and briefly under Gen. McDew before his assignment to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Director for Logistics. TRANSCOM is responsible for the global, joint movement of combat units, sustainment cargo, and service member household goods and privately owned vehicles.

Like previous Commanders, General Lyons understands that the military is dependent on the U.S. Merchant Marine to help project U.S. power overseas.

URGE YOUR LAWMAKERS TO HONOR WWII MERCHANT MARINERS

Bicameral bills honoring the immense contributions of World War II mariners are in need of additional co-sponsors to help propel the legislation over the finish line.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) have sponsored identical bills, in their respective chambers, collectively honoring World War II merchant mariners with the Congressional Gold Medal. The bills, S. 2127 and H.R. 5879 would authorize a gold medal of appropriate design to be awarded to U.S. WWII merchant mariners on behalf of Congress. The medal would be placed in the American Merchant Marine Museum and duplicates would then be struck and made available to the public.

The Merchant Marine played a heroic and vital role in World War II and the feats and accomplishments of the “Fourth Arm of Defense” are deserving of broader public recognition. The bills’ chances for passage would increase dramatically with a larger number of co-sponsors. You can help drum up support by using this link from the Navy League that will let you send a ready-made letter to your Members of Congress urging support for the bills. Visit www.voterveice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/59995/Respond

M.E.B.A.-CREWED MSC SHIPS ADD FUEL TO RIMPAC MISSION

Military Sealift Command combat logistics vessels have been providing continued logistical support for a high-profile 25-nation mission that has been ongoing since late June. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC’s Civilian Mariner fleet.

The USNS HENRY J. Kaiser, USNS RAPPAHANNOCK, USNS CARL BRASHEAR and USNS CHARLES DREW are playing key roles in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2018, the world’s largest, biennial international maritime exercise in Hawaii. The MSC underway replenishment vessels have been delivering the fuel to power the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, foreign navies surface and aviation forces, as well as the groceries that sustained the ships’ crews during the exercise’s underway periods.

MSC is known for its logistics support to ships at sea, but what makes RIMPAC significant is the sheer volume of the support provided. According to the Military Sealift Command Pacific Logistics and Operations departments, over the course of the exercise, MSC delivered over 8 million gallons of diesel ship fuel, 4 million gallons of JP5 aviation fuel and 1,130 pallets of food and supplies during 101 resupply evolutions at sea.

USE M.E.B.A. PORTAL TO IRON OUT LWOP/VACATION DUES LAPSES

Some M.E.B.A. bargaining unit members pay dues by automatic Dues Check-Off (DCO). But when DCO members take vacation or (in the case of the Government fleet) Leave without Pay (LWOP), there are lapses in payroll where dues aren't automatically submitted. Those members can go to the M.E.B.A. payment portal, select their bargaining unit on the "Check Off Catch-Up" section and make sure they remain as a member in good standing. Finally, a "Vacation Pay" option is now available on the portal. This will prove useful for port engineers and Union officials who can now make these payments online. Many members and applicants think the portal is the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing and extend a needed monetary infusion to vital Union programs. You can access the portal by visiting the M.E.B.A. homepage (www.mebaunion.org).

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 & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). 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, August 6 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**

Tuesday, August 7 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**

Wednesday, August 8 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

Thursday, August 9 – **L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

Friday, August 10 – **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. M.E.B.A. HQ – Phone: (202) 638-5355; mebahq@mebaunion.org. Visit us on Facebook. For publication and related inquiries contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org