

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"
Number 33 – August 22, 2019



In this issue//M.E.B.A. Working toward First Contract with Hornblower for NYC Ferry//Notification for WSF Members as Referendum Approaches//Foremast Being Readied for M.E.B.A. Mariner Memorial//Labor Day Savings on New & Used Vehicles with Union Plus//Make Sure Your Email Address is on File//Important M.E.B.A. Docs Available Online//Photos for M.E.B.A. Social Media Sought//

M.E.B.A. WORKING TOWARD FIRST CONTRACT WITH HORNBLOWER/NYC FERRY

M.E.B.A. continued talks with Hornblower today at a bargaining session in New York City in a step toward a first contract covering Captains serving in the NYC Ferry fleet. As members know, M.E.B.A. recently won the right to serve as the collective bargaining agent for approximately 42 NYC Ferry Captains. The Hornblower-operated HNY Ferry, doing business as NYC Ferry, has a 23 vessel fleet on six New York City routes connecting locations in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. The company is still appealing a National Labor Relations Board ruling that denied the company's contention that Captains in the NYC Ferry fleet should be classified as "supervisors."

Our new members are asked to remain patient as talks progress - Hornblower has been a traditionally non-union company. Negotiators have been taking the opportunity in these early bargaining sessions to familiarize themselves with each other and explore the dynamics of our association going forward. The parties are looking to fashion a cohesive working relationship that will help the ferry unit thrive well into the future.

At the talks earlier today, the Union was represented by Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan, NY/NJ Patrolman Nico Sermoneta, M.E.B.A. In-House Counsel Nils Djusberg and HQ Contracts Rep. Mark Gallagher. Proposals were exchanged and the sides made plans to build on the negotiating session with future talks.

NOTIFICATION FOR WSF MEMBERS AS VOTE APPROACHES

Letters were mailed to members sailing in the Washington State Ferry fleet today asking for their participation in an important referendum vote that begins on September 1 and runs until midnight on September 30. WSF members – not applicants - will vote during the 30 day online referendum on whether or not to support a fair and progressive dues increase proposal that would reinforce the Union's ability to provide sustainable future representation. The proposal has been structured by the District Executive Committee (DEC) to provide for a more equitable dues structure, similar to comparable inland bargaining units who have voted to implement dues increases in recent years.

In addition, an email communication with similar information was also sent to WSF members earlier today. The communications provide instructions and access for voting online. WSF members who DID NOT receive today's email are strongly urged to provide a current email address with

Headquarters using an update form found on the M.E.B.A. website which can be sent to the HQ Membership Department at membership@mebaunion.org. A working email address will help make the voting process effortless for WSF members. Those without functional email addresses on record with HQ will still be able to vote – but the process will be slightly more protracted. WSF members are urged to make sure their personal (not work) email address is on file with the M.E.B.A.

In order to be eligible to participate in the vote, WSF members must be in “good standing” as of September 15, 2019. Most M.E.B.A. members sailing in the WSF are on Dues Check-Off which keeps them current. WSF members who are not on Dues Check-Off must make sure their dues are paid through the end of the 3rd Quarter in order to be eligible to vote. Those whose dues are not current before midnight on September 15th, 2019 are not eligible to participate in the vote and will not be granted access to the online ballot.

WSF Rep. Eric Winge, who works out of the Union’s Seattle hall, is keeping members informed and can be contacted at ewinge@mebaunion.org to answer additional questions.

FOREMAST BEING READIED FOR M.E.B.A. MARINER MEMORIAL

The M.E.B.A. is awaiting several new additions that will further enhance our tribute to mariners at the Memorial Park in Easton, MD. The Memorial, located at our training facility, honors the Merchant Marine and fallen mariners who helped blaze the proud tradition our members continue today.

The park is shaped like a 600-foot merchant vessel complete with 5-ton anchors, a ship's bell, bow section with plaques memorializing mariners of the past and a stern section with a six-bladed, 22-foot diameter bronze propeller.

Now, the M.E.B.A.’s Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF), which oversees the Memorial Park, is getting closer to the installation of a ship’s foremast, along with a ship’s whistle and bosun's bell. The items are in the final stages of refurbishment and close to their eventual installation at the Memorial Park close to the “bow section.”

The foremast, bell and whistle were secured from the last of the C-7 Lancer-class vessels, the HORIZON DISCOVERY, before the ship was sent to scrap a few years back. The bell is engraved with “AMERICAN LIBERTY,” the original name of the ship when it was built in 1968 for U.S. Lines at Chester, Pennsylvania’s Sun Shipbuilding. The vessel was later known as the SEA-LAND LIBERTY, SEA-LAND DISCOVERY and CSX DISCOVERY before assuming its final moniker for the last ten years of her operation.

The 4MF continues to accept orders for memorial bricks and bow plaques that will further beautify the Park. Memorial bricks can be engraved with names of loved ones (or anyone!) and are part of the retreat at the Memorial Park. Start up a collection and pay tribute to a shipmate, instructor or friend who deserves a place in the park. Anyone wishing to purchase a brick or bow plaque must complete

and return a donation form and monies. Please continue to help the cause - donations are greatly needed for the maintenance of the park!

For more information and to obtain the form please visit the School's website at www.mebaschool.org and click on the Memorial link on the far right side of the home page. You can email memorial@mebaschool.org to get any related questions answered.

LABOR DAY SAVINGS ON NEW & USED VEHICLES WITH UNION PLUS

Union Plus is helping members save big bucks on cars as we approach the big Labor Day weekend. The non-profit Union Plus is the only consumer benefits organization created and endorsed by the AFL-CIO. Union Plus programs, which are available to M.E.B.A. members, 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. The Union Plus Auto Buying program finds the dealer with the best price PLUS offers union-made vehicle rebates and other bonuses that could be worth thousands.

Auto shoppers can visit unionplus.org/autobuying to learn about the union member benefits and to search for vehicles.

MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE!!!

Members and applicants should ensure that 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. Email addresses are also collected at membership meetings on the sign-in sheet, but *members must write clearly* as many addresses are typically scribbled illegibly.

Update Forms should be sent to the HQ Membership Dept. by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail at membership@mebaunion.org Since the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore and Headquarters databases are NOT linked, you should not assume that info forwarded to Plans is updated in the Union database and vice versa.

IMPORTANT M.E.B.A. DOCS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Union halls are reminded that they should make use of the “Documents & Member Notices” section of the M.E.B.A. website to find important and updated forms useful to members and applicants. There you'll find application forms for Deep-Sea, Government Fleet and the various bargaining units. You'll also find Group Seniority Card application forms, Sailing Time Verification & Transmittal forms and Change of Bargaining Unit Affiliation forms. In addition, the M.E.B.A. By-Laws, Constitution and Shipping Rules are there as well as many other important documents including the Recommendation Form - (*Reminder: two recommendation letters are needed from a Senior officer who sailed with the Applicant for at least 60 days.*)

Some halls have been relying on older forms that contain information that is no longer applicable. To emphasize: The Documents and Member Notices section has the LATEST versions of important M.E.B.A. docs. Please make it a habit to get familiar with that web page and pull the forms off the site as needed. To get there, go to the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) and scroll down to the large “Documents & Member Notices” box on the right side of the main page.

MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR STARRING ROLE ON M.E.B.A. SOCIAL MEDIA

You're at the top of your game. You're an extremely hard worker – and you're soooo good looking! Send us your “on the job” photos and we'll get it out to the world via M.E.B.A. social media! M.E.B.A. has an Instagram site, and along with our Facebook and Twitter sites, the public is hungry to get a glimpse of M.E.B.A. mariners performing their wizardry. E-mail your photos to marco@mebaunion.org and we'll put you on a pathway to the stars - there's still more space on the Hollywood Walk of Fame! Digital pictures should be taken at the highest resolution setting. In all cases, make sure you I.D. your photos.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Monday, September 2 – **LABOR DAY**

Tuesday, September 3 – **Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**

Wednesday, September 4 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

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

Friday, September 6 – **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 Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.