

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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NEW M.E.B.A. WORK! SALVAGING SHIP EQUIPMENT AT ARMY INSTALLATION

M.E.B.A. continues to secure a variety of new opportunities for our membership to apply their expertise in innovative, non-traditional roles. The Union inked a new Memorandum of Understanding with Pasha/Sunrise putting M.E.B.A. Day Engineers to work at Fort Eustis, an Army installation in Newport News, VA, working aboard Government vessels headed for the scrapyard. M.E.B.A. is overseeing the removal and preservation of salvageable equipment aboard vessels in deep layup.

M.E.B.A. already has three of our Applicants on the job at the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet (NDRF) facility in Fort Eustis. They include Joseph Largo, Heath Lewis, and Donovan Thornhill. The three are currently working aboard the former Military Sealift Command replenishment oiler USNS WALTER S. DIEHL, and our people will continue work aboard the former MSC Prepositioning ship USNS HARRY L. MARTIN. Additional vessels are expected at a later date.

The Memorandum of Understanding covers full M.E.B.A. Pension, Medical and Training benefits, as well as MPB & 401k. Many thanks to the Union's Government Fleet Rep. in Norfolk, VA who beat the bushes for this new opportunity. This agreement is part of the M.E.B.A.'s ongoing efforts to broaden job opportunities for our highly skilled members, both at sea and ashore.

APL PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH JOINS FLEET

M.E.B.A.-contracted company American President Lines has welcomed the newbuild PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH, part of the ongoing rejuvenation of the company's U.S.-flag fleet. This is the fourth new ship (following the PRESIDENT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, PRESIDENT GRANT and PRESIDENT REAGAN) that APL is bringing into its fleet this year to replace older vessels. The new ships are part of a significant 22-vessel order placed by APL's parent company, CMA CGM, with China Shipbuilding Corporation, with the majority destined for APL's international fleet.

The BUSH was christened and flagged into the U.S. registry on August 26 in Oakland. M.E.B.A.'s Executive V.P. Claudia Cimini and the Oakland Patrolman were on hand and visited with the ship's crew. M.E.B.A. Engine Officers on the BUSH include C/E Trevor Lapham, 1st A/E Par Hagberg, 2nd A/E Wendall Wilson, 3rd A/E Matthew Jones and 3rd A/E Joseph Short who is covering the Electrician billet.

The Union has an MOU with APL to allow the company to call an additional rotary Third Engineer billet to perform electrical maintenance and repair duties aboard the ship when an unlicensed electrician is not available. Those members sailing as 3AE with an ETO endorsement under the agreement get 2AE wages. The agreement provides 2AE wages and discharges for those sailing with the ETO endorsement and 2AE license.

Before the end of the year, APL plans to also bring in the PRESIDENT JAMES MONROE and the PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON. The TRUMAN, ROOSEVELT, EISENHOWER, KENNEDY and WILSON are being phased out at various points this year to accommodate the new vessels.

The newbuild sisterships are 837-foot 5,598 TEU, 59,052 gross tonnage vessels that can carry 72,963 deadweight tons. The BUSH is propelled by a powerful Winterthur Gas & Diesel (WinGD) 7X82-2.0-HPSCR, LLT, Tier III main engine, delivering 23,500 kW x 70.5 rpm, and achieves a service speed of 21 knots. It features a 5-blade right-handed, fixed-pitch propeller with a diameter of 8900 mm.

M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFOW mariners will continue to crew the replacement ships under the existing agreement with APL.

MSC PLAN WOULD SIDELINE SUPPORT SHIPS

The U.S. Naval Institute is reporting that the Military Sealift Command (MSC) is mulling over a plan to withdraw crews from 17 Navy support ships due to a shortage of qualified mariners. The draft plan, known as the "force generation reset," includes placing two Lewis & Clark-class replenishment ships, a fleet oiler, 12 Spearhead-class Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessels, and two forward-deployed Navy expeditionary sea bases into an "extended maintenance" phase. It was reported that they would then reassign crews to other ships within the fleet. USNI notes that a defense official confirmed the general outline of the plan, though it needs approval from Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti.

If the "reset" is implemented, the Navy believes 600 to 700 mariners would be released back into the MSC pool and be available to crew newer support vessels that have not been able to deploy due to crew shortages. Ongoing retention issues on top of draconian COVID shore leave restrictions and increased work demands have made the job less desirable and has helped whittle away the pool of qualified mariners in the MSC fleet.

AGREEMENT WITH ATC SIGNED & RATIFIED

The M.E.B.A. recently finalized a new five-year Memorandum of Understanding with Alaska Tanker Company (OSG), retroactive to June 16, 2024, an agreement that was ratified by members at the August membership meetings. The MOU was sent to each of the M.E.B.A. Union halls for review by members in good standing. It includes a reopener in 2026 that will allow negotiators to more

closely align the economic terms with the OSG fleet contract. ATC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Overseas Shipholding Group.

M.E.B.A. represents engineers onboard the ALASKAN EXPLORER, ALASKAN LEGEND, ALASKAN NAVIGATOR and the ALASKAN FRONTIER, which was recently brought back into service after a long layup.

The M.E.B.A. negotiating team was led by Gulf Coast V.P. Adam Smith and Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway. Among other things, the new MOU includes increases in wages, pension and medical and adds Jesse Calhoun Day as a paid holiday.

M.E.B.A. ELECTION: ONLY VOTES FROM MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WILL COUNT

According to the Union's By-Laws, members who are not in good standing by November 15, 2024, with dues paid through the end of the quarter, where applicable, are not eligible to vote in the upcoming M.E.B.A. election. Next week, M.E.B.A. members should begin receiving ballots for the officers' election.

SHULER: THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE RUNS THROUGH UNION HALLS

In her second annual Labor Day speech, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler highlighted the crucial role that the labor movement will play in electing the next President. Shuler noted that one in five voters in the battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota is a union voter, which includes active members, retirees and members of the AFL-CIO community affiliate Working America. In the key battleground state of Pennsylvania, that number is even higher, at 22%. She also said that with commensurately high enthusiasm, union voters will be the difference makers in these and other battleground states.

“Union workers are growing our power in this country in a way that we haven't seen in a generation,” she said. “We can run up the margins in where it counts, we have built an organizing machine that can mobilize on a dime, and we have built a singular trust and connection with workers, families and neighbors. When you ask a union member who their most trusted source in the world is on politics, it's not their friends, family or loved ones—it's their fellow union member. There is no question that the road to the White House runs through America's union halls.”

In the final 10 weeks of the 2024 cycle, the AFL-CIO is conducting its largest-ever voter mobilization. The program includes hundreds of thousands of volunteer shifts to contact millions of battleground state voters and engage workers on the job sites.

PORT OF SEATTLE HIT BY CYBER-ATTACK

The Port of Seattle as well as Seattle-Tacoma International Airport were hit by a cyberattack over the weekend, underscoring the growing trend of hackers setting their sights on critical infrastructure. It is unclear whether sensitive data was compromised. The Port reported that its Maritime Facilities phone systems were down, and both the Port and airport's websites, as well as email and phone services for Port staff, were inaccessible. Flights and security checkpoints were unaffected, but the incident caused significant disruptions to baggage services and led to the failure of many flight information screens inside the terminal.

Ports and airports are appealing targets for hackers primarily due to the wealth of valuable data they possess. Yatharth Gupta, CEO of data access governance startup Codified, emphasized that these facilities hold a “gold mine of data,” including passenger information and cargo manifests, which can be exploited for various secondary attacks or sold on the dark web for substantial profits. Ransomware attacks, where victims are forced to pay a ransom to regain access to their data, are particularly prevalent in such high-stakes environments.

The broader U.S. Marine Transportation System, which supports \$5.4 trillion in economic activity annually, is increasingly under threat. In response, the Department of Homeland Security and the Biden Administration announced an executive order in February to strengthen the security of maritime critical infrastructure. However, experts warn that attacks will likely continue, given the availability of SaaS-based and AI-powered tools that enable hackers to execute large-scale and sophisticated attacks with relative ease.

CMES MEMBERSHIP MEETING CANCELED NEXT WEEK; MEMBERS ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP FOR ONLINE HQ MEETING

With a hiatus from classes offered at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School during Labor Day week along with ongoing repair work on the Administration building and a lack of services, the September 3 membership meeting - which would have taken place on Tuesday - has been canceled. Any area member who may have considered attending that meeting – and really any of our members - is encouraged to sign up for the online Headquarters Informational Meeting taking place on Wednesday, September 4 at 1300 [Eastern Time]. Details follow.

M.E.B.A. HQ ONLINE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY – SIGN UP NOW

The monthly town-hall style M.E.B.A. Headquarters informational meeting will be held online utilizing “Teams” - with no voting and no resolutions introduced - on Wednesday, September 4 at 1300 (Eastern Time). This is not an official membership meeting, but it is an excellent opportunity for Members, Applicants and Retirees to discuss M.E.B.A. business, exchange information and learn more about the latest Union initiatives.

Members, applicants and retirees need to register in advance for this meeting to mebahq@mebaunion.org. Upon confirmation of your status, the Teams access link will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting.

HALLS, OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY FOR LABOR DAY

M.E.B.A. halls and offices will be closed on Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 2nd, but will reopen on Tuesday. Union halls which usually have their regular membership meetings on the Monday of meeting week (Boston & Seattle) will instead conduct their meetings on Tuesday, September 3rd at the regular time. Again, the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School will not be hosting a membership meeting next week, so those members local to Easton, MD are encouraged to sign up for and virtually attend Wednesday’s HQ Informational meeting.

Labor Day is observed on the first Monday in September to pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of everyday working families. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated in New York City on Tuesday, September 5, 1882. Following the deaths of 13 workers during the Pullman Strike in June of 1894, President Grover Cleveland made reconciliation with the labor movement a top political priority, and Labor Day become a federal holiday in 1894.

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

Monday, September 2 – Labor Day – ALL HALLS CLOSED

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

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

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

Friday, September 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. The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School can be contacted at (410) 822-9600 or www.mebaschool.org. M.E.B.A. Plans is at (410) 547-9111 or www.mebaplans.org