

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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FINISHED WITH ENGINES: FORMER SCHOOL DIRECTOR PETER HAMMOND

Peter Hammond, a past Director of the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School, sailed into the sunset on Monday at the age of 69. He shipped out for years with the Union as an engineer aboard various vessels eventually sailing as Chief.

His experience and qualifications prompted M.E.B.A. President Alex Shandrowsky to appoint Peter as CMES Director in 1996. He served as Director until 1999 and helped raise the profile of the School by upgrading the campus and curriculum, launched a series of new courses, and initiated the construction of the Luebbe Center, among many other accomplishments. Under his service, the School attained DNV and ACE certifications, Calhoun Alumni Association reunions were established and the first School calendars and course catalogs were introduced. He was most recently a resident of Vancouver, Canada. A memorial service will likely take place sometime in February.

UPDATE TO QUALIFIED ASSESSOR REQUIREMENTS

Assessments of competence for STCW endorsements must be signed by a Coast Guard-approved Qualified Assessor (QA). QAs must be approved by the Coast Guard either individually or as part of a Coast Guard-approved or accepted course or training program, as described in Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 19-14 (Policy on Qualified Assessors).

NVIC 02-14, (Grandfathering and Transitional Provisions for Merchant Mariner Credentials), Enclosure (2), allows for the acceptance of STCW assessments, performed for and signed by an assessor not approved by the Coast Guard, until December 31, 2016. Such an assessor must meet the professional requirements to determine competence for the specific endorsement.

The Coast Guard is aware that as a result of the limited number of approved QAs, there may be a hardship on mariners trying to complete STCW assessments after December 31, 2017. In consideration of this, the Coast Guard will continue to allow STCW assessments to be signed by an assessor who meets the requirements specified in NVIC 02-14 until December 31, 2019. These assessments must be submitted to the Coast Guard as part of a complete application no later than June 30, 2020.

Mariners are encouraged to obtain approval as a QA. Additional information on obtaining approval can be found in NVIC 19-14 Enclosure (1). NVIC 02-14 and NVIC 19-14 may be viewed on the

National Maritime Center website. Mariners and other interested parties should contact the Customer Service Center at IASKNMC@uscg.mil or 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662) with any questions or feedback.

DELIVERY OF NEW MSC EPF

The Military Sealift Command took over the Navy's new expeditionary fast transport vessel USNS CITY OF BISMARCK following her delivery last week from Austal USA. The vessel is the ninth of twelve expeditionary fast transport (EPF) ships. The 10th and 11th vessels in the EPF Spearhead class are under construction and will be named the USNS BURLINGTON and the USNS PUERTO RICO. The EPF class ships were formerly known as Joint High Speed Vessels (JHSVs). Crews of the Military Sealift Command EPF fleet are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

EPFs are 338-foot-long aluminum catamarans, complete with a 20,000-square-foot mission bay area that reconfigures quickly through the use of Adaptive Force Packages (AFP). These ships feature a flight deck capable of landing a CH-53 helicopter, a slewing stern ramp for vehicle access to the mission deck and seating for 312 passengers. All EPFs are designed to transport 600 short tons of military cargo 1,200 nautical miles at an average speed of 35 knots. They have a crew of 26 civil service mariners, with airline-style seating for 312 embarked troops and fixed berthing for an additional 104 military personnel.

USNS CITY OF BISMARCK is scheduled for post-delivery availability in the Gulf of Mexico before heading to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story for additional certifications prior to deploying to the Pacific.

MERPAC NEEDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Coast Guard is accepting applications for membership on the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC). MERPAC advises the Department of Homeland Security on matters related to personnel in the U.S. Merchant Marine including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. They also review and comment on related proposed Coast Guard regulations. They meet at least twice a year. Applications are being sought for 8 positions that will either be vacant on August 13, 2018, or are currently vacant. These positions are three year terms. To be eligible, you must have the experience listed for the applicable membership position:

- (1) Three positions for members who serve as representatives standing for the viewpoint of merchant marine deck officers. One member shall be licensed for inland or river route, with a limited or unlimited tonnage; one shall be licensed for oceans any gross tons; and one member shall be a licensed deck officer with an unlimited tonnage master's license with significant tanker experience;
- (2) one position for a member who serves as a representative standing for the viewpoint of licensed merchant marine engineering officers who is licensed as a chief engineer, any horsepower;
- (3) one position for a member who serves as a representative standing for the viewpoint of maritime training institutions other than state or federal academies and shall represent the viewpoint of the small vessel industry;
- (4) one position for a member who will be appointed from the general public who will serve as a Special Government Employee. Preference will be given to applicants who can provide relevant input

regarding matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards.

(5) one position for a member who must be jointly recommended by the state academies who will represent the viewpoint of the state academies; and

(6) one position for a member who must be recommended by the federal academy who will represent the viewpoint of the federal academy.

Your application must reach the Coast Guard on or before February 26, 2018. Send a cover letter expressing interest in a MERPAC appointment that also identifies which membership category you belong to, along with a resume detailing experience. Send it by email to davis.j.breyer@uscg.mil, Subject Line: The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee, by fax to (202) 372-8382, or by mail to Davis J. Breyer, Alternate Designated Federal Officer, MERPAC Commandant (CG-MMC-1), U.S. Coast Guard Stop 7509, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE., Washington, DC 20593-7509. For further information contact Davis Breyer at (202) 372-1445, fax 202-372-8382 or davis.j.breyer@uscg.mil.

AFTER PARTY RELIEF – UNION-STYLE

If you wake up on New Year's Day having had one too many, no worries! There's plenty of union-made relief out there. Stock up for the start of 2018 and beyond, and know that by buying union-made products, you are supporting good middle class jobs and recharging your way to a stronger America: **The Medicine Cabinet** – Afrin; Aleve; Alka-Seltzer; Bayer; Milk of Magnesia; Pepto-Bismol. **A Strong Brew** - Eight O'Clock Coffee; Folgers; Kauai Coffee; Maxwell House; Millstone Coffee; USA Coffee Company. **Hydration** – Alhambra; Crystal Springs; Hinckley Springs; Pocono Springs; Sierra Springs; Wisconsin Glacier Springs.

PHOTOS FROM THE FLEET NEEDED!

We are always looking for photos from any of the M.E.B.A. bargaining units to keep our Facebook site current. Members are urged to send in your photos to marco@mebaunion.org. Any photos with an M.E.B.A. connection, at sea or on shore, are appreciated. Digital pictures should be taken at the highest resolution setting. In all cases, make sure you I.D. the photos. Check out the M.E.B.A. Facebook site which is usually updated daily.

TAKE FIVE MINUTES TO SUPPORT THE JONES ACT

Over 20,000 letters have been sent to Members of Congress to help counteract the wave of anti-Jones Act B.S. that flooded social media following Hurricane Maria and its devastation of Puerto Rico. We need to send more letters! Don't let the Average Joe (or Jane) be influenced by the lies. Take five minutes and tell your Congressional delegation how critical the Jones Act is for U.S.-flag shipping. Click on this link for a ready-made (modifiable) pro-Jones Act letter – <https://tinyurl.com/JonesActLetter> Fill in your info and a few clicks later, your entire Congressional representation will take note their constituent is urging them to support the Jones Act. With all the lies and misinformed anti-Jones Act nonsense that has fouled the waters in the wake of Hurricane Maria, five minutes of your time can really make a difference.

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, January 8 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, January 9 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, January 10 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, January 11 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, January 12 – Honolulu@1100.

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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