

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*



## M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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### **GONE TOO SOON: TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR TTD's LARRY WILLIS**

The labor world is hurting this week after word came on Monday that Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO President Larry Willis succumbed to injuries suffered last week in a terrible biking accident in Maryland. Larry was a warrior for working men and women with a clear grasp of the diverse issues of the many transport sectors for which he advocated. TTD represents 33 transportation-related unions including our Union.

Larry was 53 years old and had led TTD since 2017 following years sharpening his skills as secretary-treasurer, chief of staff, general counsel, and legislative counsel. TTD Secretary-Treasurer Greg Regan said, "Larry dedicated his life to the labor movement, working tirelessly to enhance the rights and livelihoods of those who work on the front lines of our transportation system. During his tenure at TTD, Larry faced some of transportation labor's most daunting challenges. He met those and other crises head on, showing an unwavering dedication to working people and their unions, and a deep-seated desire to help those suffering from circumstances beyond their control."

An outdoor enthusiast, Larry was struck by a car while biking near Maryland's Great Falls Park just outside of Washington D.C.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said, Larry "paid incredible attention to detail, always looking for opportunities to win more power and prosperity for the working people who move America. As a lawyer, congressional staff member, policy expert and worker advocate, Larry was respected across the aisle and throughout our movement. Larry's passing is a reminder that we cannot take a single day for granted, and the AFL-CIO will honor his memory by fighting for the issues he championed and the people he loved."

The M.E.B.A. sent condolences to the TTD, participated in the many virtual tributes and memorials set up for Larry and contributed to a pair of organizations important to Larry: McGaw YMCA Camp Echo, a children's summer camp in Michigan - as well as the National Employment Law Project, which fights for policies to create good jobs and strengthen worker protections.

TTD's Regan noted, "Millions of people have had their lives improved because of the work Larry did, yet most of those people will never know Larry's name. For Larry, that didn't matter. He was not

motivated by fame or fortune – his end goal was always about doing the most good for the greatest number of people.”

### **UN RESOLUTION PROMOTES SEAFARERS AS EARLY VACCINE RECIPIENTS**

The United Nations adopted a resolution this week at their General Assembly calling on member states to designate mariners and other maritime personnel as “key workers” and take measures to help end the international crew change crisis. The key worker designation would also help prioritize seafarers and maritime workers to be among the early recipients of the forthcoming COVID-19 vaccine.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Kitack Lim said, “sadly, hundreds of thousands of seafarers, who are vital to maintaining supply chains, remain stranded at sea for months beyond their contracted time. This is causing immense strain, fatigue and exhaustion and is unsustainable...I hope that the key worker designation will ensure that seafarers can be vaccinated expeditiously. This will go some way to resolving the ongoing crew change crisis,” he added.

The text of the resolution is available at [www.undocs.org/en/A/75/L.37](http://www.undocs.org/en/A/75/L.37)

### **NAUTILUS INT’L CAMPAIGN TO DELIVER SEAFARERS HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**

Nautilus International is promoting a campaign to raise awareness of the global crew change crisis and to help deliver captive seafarers from their plight before Christmas. Nautilus International is a trade union and professional organization serving, supporting and protecting the interests of more than 22,000 maritime professionals around the world.

400,000 seafarers are thought to be stranded on ships worldwide due to the failure of governments to allow travel to and from vessels during the COVID-19 crisis. The Nautilus International campaign encourages governments to designate seafarers as key workers and help ease the way for long overdue crew changes. With quick action, governments could help get seafarers repatriated and back home before Christmas. There are an offensive amount of mariners on ships worldwide that have been confined to their vessels since last Christmas.

“Our members work hard to supply food, medicines – and to deliver Christmas – to households. They often do so without much acknowledgement or public recognition,” Nautilus International general secretary Mark Dickinson said. “This year, the coronavirus pandemic has given rise to unprecedented levels of stress, fatigue and safety concerns due to countries closing their borders and preventing them from seeing loved ones. Now many of our members are left re-considering their very future in the industry. Normally at this time of year we remind people that seafarers deliver them Christmas. This year we are calling on everyone to deliver seafarers home for Christmas.”

### **IMO MAKING STRIDES TO IMPROVE INDUSTRY GENDER DIVERSITY**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) announced its sponsorship of a number of women for a maritime leadership program to help equip them with the skills and know-how to serve at the highest levels of our industry.

The “Maritime SheEO” accelerator program is part of an effort to support gender diversity in the maritime sector and help foster the next generation of female industry leaders. IMO sponsorship will enable the selected women to benefit from the maritime leadership training which includes mentoring and networking opportunities.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said, “empowering women fuels thriving economies across the world, spurs growth and development, and benefits everyone working in the global maritime community and beyond.”

Research shows the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating pre-existing inequalities and threatening to halt or reverse the gains of decades of collective effort – with data revealing that the pandemic will push 47 million more women and girls below the poverty line. IMO notes increased reports on violence against women throughout the world due to the lockdowns, and women losing their livelihoods faster, because they are more exposed to hard-hit economic sectors.

The leadership program is expected to be fully launched by International Women's Day set for March 8, 2021.

### **M.E.B.A.-CONTRACTED NCL, OTHERS CONTINUE VOLUNTARY CRUISE SUSPENSION INTO 2021**

The U.S.-flag Norwegian Cruise Line-America cruise ship PRIDE OF AMERICA and many other cruise ships with U.S. port stops won't get back into operation until at least the beginning of March, NCL's parent company announced this week. A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announcement cleared the way for the resumption of U.S. port cruise sailings under certain conditions. But Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd., and several other cruise ship companies, announced they would continue the voluntary suspension of cruising through March to allow them additional time to implement extensive COVID-19 safety measures for future sailings. NCL Holdings said the company “will continue to work in tandem with global government and public health authorities and its Healthy Sail Panel expert advisors to take all necessary measures to protect its guests, crew and the communities visited.”

### **TUNE IN FOR THE ONLINE AOTOS AWARDS ON WEDNESDAY**

The United Seamen's Service has issued the link and additional details for the December 9<sup>th</sup> live virtual presentation of the annual Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) Awards. The 40-minute ceremony will begin at 2:30 on Wednesday and will highlight “four pillars” of the maritime community: merchant mariners, U.S.-flag shipping companies, longshoremen, and the Maritime Administration.

The presentation will be available through the link: <https://zoom.us/j/99871134803?pwd=YTM5NzZocWVaYnR6LyswWjdpcU1mdz09> and afterwards at [www.unitedseamensservice.org](http://www.unitedseamensservice.org). The traditional silver statuette of Christopher Columbus - the first Admiral of the Ocean Sea - will be accepted by Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao on behalf of the honorees and the statuette will have a permanent home displayed at MarAd Headquarters in Washington, DC.

### **M.E.B.A. ELECTION: BALLOTS TO BE TABULATED ON MONDAY**

The 2020 M.E.B.A. District election reaches its conclusion on Monday (12/7) as three months of ballots accumulating at a secure depository will be collected and tabulated. An Impartial Administrator will perform the count overseen by a six-person rank-and-file M.E.B.A. Tallying Committee. The Administrator and the Committee will each file reports within 24 hours of the completion of the count.

In accordance with the M.E.B.A. By-Laws, members should have returned their ballots to the depository by November 30. As stated in the By-Laws, ballots not received in the depository when the ballots are collected on December 7, shall be disqualified and not counted. Ballots were mailed out to the membership on September 1. TrueBallot, Inc. along with the Tallying Committee, will retrieve the ballots then proceed to 400-444 North Capitol Street, N.W. Washington D.C. in Suite 383/385, where the ballots will be counted. Interested members in good standing are welcome to attend as observers.

### **M.E.B.A. ELECTION: ELECTED TALLYING COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE MONDAY'S BALLOT COUNT**

On Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, six Union halls elected rank-and-file members to serve as the Union's Tallying Committee for the M.E.B.A. District election ballot tabulation. In accordance with the By-Laws, five members were elected as members of the Committee, with one alternate for the six-person Committee. Elected were Tracy Redding (Seattle), Reggie Abrams (Houston), Bill Cadden (NY/NJ), William Hardinge (Norfolk), Michael Ferrino (Tampa) and Kelsey Barrion (Alternate - San Francisco/Oakland).

Tallying Committee members and alternates will meet in Washington D.C. on December 7<sup>th</sup> to oversee the tabulation of the ballots. In accordance with the By-Laws, the Tallying Committee will issue its report within 24 hours of the completion of the vote count.

### **M.E.B.A. RETIREE PENS ENTERTAINING NEW BOOK OF LIFE BELOW DECK**

Longtime West Coast member James Sundfors, now a retired Chief Engineer, has penned an entertaining new book that highlights the indispensable role of engine room mariners. "Blackgang Chronicles: Life & Times of Freddie" is not a true story, but the fictionalized Freddie comes alive as a real representation of a shipboard engineer in the late 1960s - thanks to accurate and true-to-life shipboard description that'll have engineers nodding their heads in approval throughout this quick read.

With enough detail to satisfy the wonkish itch of seagoing engineers, that even includes several hand sketches illustrating onboard ship systems, the book is also amazingly accessible to the shipping novice. The author accommodates the maritime neophyte with his use of laymen's language accompanied by an included glossary of industry terms that will keep all readers enthralled throughout this page turner. M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo declared it, "a fun read that's a 'treat' for ship engineers and an 'eye-opener' for industry amateurs." You can easily find this book on Amazon which only costs \$3.99 for a paperback or .99 cents for a digital version delivered immediately to your Kindle device.

### **ONLINE DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – (*All times are local*)**

**Monday, December 7** – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

**Tuesday, December 8** – *CMES@1430 (CMES Meeting will be conducted In-Person)*; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

**Wednesday, December 9** – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

**Thursday, December 10** – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

**Friday, December 11** – Honolulu@1100.

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