

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"

M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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NMC ANNOUNCES SERVICE UPGRADES

The National Maritime Center (NMC) has announced three upcoming improvements aimed at making the maritime credentialing process faster, clearer, and more convenient. Coming next month, NMC will introduce their new and improved website which will prioritize user experience and offer plain-language guidance and easy navigation centered on NMC’s core services: Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMCs), Medical Certificates (MCs), Courses and Examinations. Key features include streamlined navigation with a new menu and search functionality, access to essential information in 1-2 clicks and a clear “How to Apply” pathway as the central theme, guiding mariners step by step through the application process.

Secondly, also in the new year, NMC will debut its Application Submission and Awaiting Information Portal (ASAP). ASAP is designed to provide mariners with a fast, secure, and convenient way to submit applications online. With the new portal, mariners will be able to submit an MMC Application, submit a Medical Certificate application and upload additional documents for an existing application. This is a one-stop portal to submit mariner documents directly to the NMC – no more e-mailing attachments.

And lastly, coming soon, the NMC will be delivering Medical Certificates by e-mail. The e-mailed Medical Certificate will eliminate mailing delays and the need to request duplicate certificates. With this improvement, mariners can receive their medical certificate via e-mail; save it directly to a mobile device; and print it at their convenience.

Together, NMC says these exciting updates will help simplify the process, reduce waiting times, and give mariners more control over their documents. More details will be shared on the [NMC website](#) as they get closer to launch. If you have any questions about any of the upcoming changes, contact the NMC Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST, by using the [NMC online chat system](#), by e-mailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

CHIEF, STATIONARY ENGINEERS NEEDED FOR SF BAY AREA BUILDINGS

Equiliem has taken over for Eco-Alpha managing buildings in the San Francisco Bay Area. They have some local openings in SF and Oakland they need to fill. Equiliem is seeking candidates for the

positions of Permanent Chief Engineer and Permanent Stationary Engineers. The location and schedule is as follows:

455 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco CA

- One Stationary Engineer (Monday-Friday, 6:00am-2:30pm)
- One Chief Engineer (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm)

50 D Street, Santa Rosa CA

- One Stationary Engineer (Monday-Friday, 6:00am-2:30pm)

These jobs are considered local, it is strongly encouraged for any candidates to plan to live in the Bay Area. Those interested will be responsible for their own housing arrangements. These permanent shoreside jobs pay competitive wages and include M.E.B.A. Medical, Training, and MPB contributions.

To apply for these jobs, forward your resume and at least three references to Equiliem Personnel Daniella@equiliem.com and "CC" Executive Vice President Maxim Alper at malper@mebaunion.org and Oakland Patrolman Chris Coombs at ccoombs@mebaunion.org.

AVIATION BONUSES SKIPPED FOR MOST PASS WORKERS

The Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration recently announced that air traffic controllers and FAA technicians who continued working through the recent government shutdown without missing a day will receive \$10,000 "Patriot" bonus checks. Though 20,000 aviation workers ensured airspace safety during the shutdown, only 776 of them were eligible for the bonuses.

M.E.B.A. affiliate PASS (Professional Aviation Safety Specialists) noted its appreciation that 423 PASS-represented employees in the FAA's Technical Operations Division and others in the Flight Program Operations were slotted to receive the bonus. However, they said that overall, more than 6,000 PASS-represented employees worked without pay during the shutdown.

A PASS statement noted, "They maintained all of the equipment and systems needed by air traffic controllers to communicate with pilots to keep the National Airspace System (NAS) operational and the American flying public safe. Other employees performed a wide range of critical services needed to maintain the aviation ecosystem. It took many hands to ensure that not one delay during the historic 43-day shutdown was attributed to equipment or system failures."

PASS represents over 11,000 Federal Aviation Administration and Defense Department workers throughout the air traffic control system. About 40 percent of them were furloughed during the shutdown while 60% remained on the job, though they weren't receiving checks. Lawmakers ultimately passed a continuing resolution to keep the government funded through January 2026.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), the ranking member of the Senate aviation subcommittee, is urging DOT to extend its \$10,000 bonus to all air traffic controllers and FAA technicians who worked without pay during the shutdown. She said, "Excluding 96 percent of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Air Traffic Controller and Technician workforce from this bonus is unfair, divisive and disrespectful to the over 20,000 dedicated Federal employees who worked under

extremely stressful conditions to ensure our Nation Airspace System (NAS) was safe during the 2025 shutdown.”

ITF ADDS TO FOC LIST

The International Transport Workers’ Federation has added three more countries to its Flag of Convenience (FOC) shipping list swelling the number of countries which take registration fees but avoid flag state responsibilities. The majority of ship registrations in the newly added states are taken from owners with no link whatsoever to that country. They are exploiting a loophole in international law in order to employ cheap labor and avoid taxes.

Dominica, The Gambia and Niue are the latest flags added to the list after a meeting of the ITF’s Fair Practices Committee made up of seafarer and docker unions from around the world. The additions bring the total number of FOC flags to 48 countries.

“We’ve been monitoring ships sailing under these three flags this year, and after carrying out the necessary due diligence we can confirm their designation as new Flags of Convenience,” said Steve Trowsdale, ITF Inspectorate Coordinator. “If you are a flag state and you take registration fees, then you have an obligation to ensure the rights of seafarers on vessels under your flag are respected – let there be no doubt that the ITF is watching and that our global network of inspectors will do everything in their power to protect the seafarers on these vessels.”

The ITF defines an FOC ship as one flying the flag of a country other than its actual ownership. ITF released a summary of the three nations’ inclusion on the list:

The Gambia: from having zero tankers in 2023 to more than 35 by early this year, the registry is strongly associated with the ‘dark fleet’. Research showed that 99% of its tankers were under sanctions or believed to be carrying sanctioned commodities, although Gambia now claims to be vetting the registry.

Niue: the registry opened in 2012, but as of this year ITF data shows that where ownership of its 59 vessels can be confirmed it is spread across Asian states including Singapore (16), Malaysia (2), Japan (2), Indonesia (7), India (1), Hong Kong (1) and Thailand (1), in addition to the Netherlands (1).

Dominica: of the registry’s 43 ships, 30 ships have ownership in the UAE (7), India (7), Kazakhstan (3), Saudi Arabia (2), USA (2), Barbados (2) and Norway (2), in addition to Australia (1), Cyprus (1), Finland (1), Great Britain (1) and Guinea-Conakry (1).

POPE ESTABLISHES APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA AS OFFICIAL CHURCH ENTITY

Pope Leo XIV has formally recognized the Apostleship of the Sea as the Church’s central organization responsible for pastoral outreach to the “people of the sea.” The decision, announced Thursday in a signed Papal document, also includes approval of the group’s statutes. For decades, the Church has supported seafarers, port workers, fishermen, and their families — people who often cannot rely on regular parish life due to constant travel and isolation. The Pope’s decree says this new central body stems from “the fervent desire that the Church’s spiritual care in the pastoral ministry of the sea may continue with enthusiasm and generosity.”

The move follows a global consultation that began in 2022, bringing together national directors and bishops involved in maritime ministry. Discussions continued through 2025 to clarify the mission and structure of the newly established entity. The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development coordinated the process and will oversee the Apostleship of the Sea in line with the Church's current governing norms.

VACATION BENEFITS – 2025 YEAR-END CLOSING

Apply for Vacation and Port Relief Benefits early to avoid the year-end rush. - FILING DEADLINE: The deadline for issuing checks dated in 2025 in the Plan Office is Wednesday, December 17, 2025. DIRECT DEPOSIT: The final Direct Deposit Transfer for 2025 will be made on 12/18/2025 and the funds will be deposited into bank accounts on 12/22/2025. Any requests for Port Relief and Vacation checks received after 12/17/25 at 12:00 PM EST will be paid in the order received beginning 1/2/2026.

Any member who requires that his/her check be dated in 2025 must file before this deadline. Remember, Thursday, December 25, 2024 and Thursday, January 1, 2026 are holidays and the Plan Office will be closed. It is always wise to plan ahead, so you should verify the specific holiday schedule with the Plan Office Representative.

Split Your Vacation Payments between 2025 and 2026 - You can submit an Application for Vacation Pay prior to the end of the year and request that the payment of your vacation benefits be split. Two checks will be issued to you, one in 2025 and a second in 2026. The 12/17/2025 deadline applies to split claims also. The vacation benefits paid in this manner **MUST** be a continuous vacation period. Please contact the Vacation Plan staff in Baltimore at Vacation@mebaplans.org or by phone at 800-811-6322 if you have any questions.

M.E.B.A. SUPPORTING TOY DRIVE AT SATURDAY WEYMOUTH EVENT

The Union is urging those who can attend to take part in the annual Jim Langmeyer Toy Drive taking place this weekend in Weymouth, MA. The event will be at the Red Rose Irish Pub in Weymouth on Saturday, December 6 at 7 p.m. This was an important cause of 30-year M.E.B.A. member Jim Langmeyer who sailed into the sunset in 2011. Saturday's toy drive continues in his honor to help children in need. Show up with a toy – new in its package, and not gift wrapped. Members who can't attend can still help the cause. You can bring a new packaged toy to any of the upcoming M.E.B.A. Atlantic Coast holiday parties and we'll make sure it goes to Jimmy's Toy Drive!

UPCOMING HOLIDAY PARTIES

December 5 – **Seattle** – At the hall from 1300 to 1600

December 8 – **Boston** – At the hall after the 1200 membership meeting.

December 9 – **Charleston** - 1630 at Holy City Brewing (1021 Aragon Ave.).

December 10 – **New Orleans** – at the hall at 1500.

December 11 - **Los Angeles (San Pedro)** – 1400-1600 aboard the SS LANE VICTORY (2400 S. Miner Street, Berth 52 in San Pedro).

December 11 - **New York/New Jersey** – At the hall after the meeting (around 1400).

December 11 – **Norfolk** - At the hall after the meeting (around 1400).

December 11 - **Baltimore** – At the hall 1200 to 1700.

December 11 – **Tampa** – At Gaspar's Grotto (1805 E. 7th Ave.) from 1500 to 1800 (Wear ugly sweater).

December 12 - **Oakland** – At the hall from 1230 to 1600.

December 12 - **Jacksonville** - At Pat's Lounge (4870 Highway Ave.) from 1400 to 1700.

December 11 - **Honolulu** - At the hall from 1000 to 1400 p.m.

December 12 - **Houston** - At the hall from 1800 to 2200.

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

Monday, December 8 - **Boston**@1200. **Seattle (Fife)**@1300.

Tuesday, December 9 - **CMES**@1430; **Charleston**@1400; **Houston**@1315; **Oakland**@1230.

Wednesday, December 10 - **Jacksonville**@1300; **New Orleans**@1315; **Online HQ "Town Hall" Meeting**@1300 (**No Voting**) - Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org

Thursday, December 11 - **L.A. (San Pedro)**@1230; **NY/NJ**@1300; **Norfolk**@1300; **Tampa**@1300.

Friday, December 12 - **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. Website: www.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