

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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



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

*The Official Union Newsletter*

Number 8 – February 22, 2018



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### **FRIDAY IS M.E.B.A.'s 143<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Founded February 23, 1875 on the banks of the Great Lakes, the M.E.B.A. is celebrating its anniversary tomorrow. The Union's ten founding fathers met in Cleveland, Ohio 143 years ago to form a united front to combat the oppressive and dangerous working conditions of the day. The founders were representatives of three Lakes associations, a river association and an ocean port – and over the course of a few days, they hammered out a cohesive Constitution for a national organization that protected and enhanced their members' interests. This was the beginning of the National Marine Engineers' Association. Eight years later the word "Beneficial" was added to the name.

Early on, our forefathers battled for favorable legislation to certify and license waterborne engineers. They secured U.S. officers – both deck and engine – aboard U.S.-flagships, helped repeal controversial seafarer fees, and raised the standard of living for all mariners. Those early struggles and many others paved the way for the worker protections and benefits we often take for granted today. Let there be rejoicing. Happy birthday M.E.B.A.!

### **M.E.B.A. PRESENCE AS LIBERTY PEACE VISITS PORT HUENEME**

A strong turnout of members joined by several other unions voiced their displeasure with Liberty Maritime Corp. in informational picketing this week at Port Hueneme (pronounced "Wy-nee'mee"). Members wielded flags and signs and dispersed literature to passersby at the main gate of the terminal where the LIBERTY PEACE was docking following a recent overseas run. They later were granted access into the terminal and continued the peaceful protest in the shadow of the PEACE. Members began their informational picketing on Tuesday before the ship arrived and continued until earlier today.

The vessel is scheduled to visit several Gulf and East Coast ports in the coming weeks and will be met by members, applicants and retirees who will be broadcasting Liberty's violation at each of the vessel's stateside stops.

Liberty crewed up the recently-acquired U.S.-flag vessel in late August 2017 with labor other than the M.E.B.A. These informational pickets are highlighting Liberty's clear breach of the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement which has provided for M.E.B.A. members onboard Liberty vessels for the last 30 years.

The M.E.B.A. members walking the line at Port Hueneme included M.E.B.A. L.A. Patrolman John McElhone, Louis Brooks, Joe Gorenflo, Jeanne Klaine, Joe Lawrence, A.J. Liss, Jamie McPoland, Molly Paul, Liam Perry, Jim Ramirez, Mike Schindler, Scott Speedy and Demian Trask-Annies. Many thanks to them and the many unions, including the ILWU and Teamsters, joining us in solidarity at Port Hueneme.

### **1<sup>st</sup> A/Es NEEDED FOR CENTRAL GULF/WATERMAN JOBS**

Seabulk Fleet Mgmt. is currently accepting resumes for 1<sup>st</sup> A/Es for future positions on Central Gulf Line and Waterman vessels.

Please include any PC/TC, Heavy Lift or Crane experience. A current Security Clearance is also a bonus. Please forward resumes to [pmcgee@ckor.com](mailto:pmcgee@ckor.com) & [scopeland@ckor.com](mailto:scopeland@ckor.com).

### **WORKING FAMILIES “DAY OF ACTION” ON SATURDAY**

On Saturday, February 24, working people across the country will gather to stand up for the right to form a union and fight for a better quality of life for us and for our families. It will also honor the long history of labor rights and civil rights activists coming together to strengthen our communities.

The Day of Action, organized by AFSCME and Jobs with Justice, comes at a crucial time in the labor movement history. It's part of the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike. Today, workers are still fighting for the same issues. Too many people are killed or injured on the job. The right of workers to come together and have a voice in their workplace is being fought by groups like the National Right to Work Committee – financially backed by the corporate elite who continue to work to weaken unions. However, working people know that *In Our Unity Lies Our Strength*, and together we can stand up to the forces that wish to hurt us.

Next week, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case called Janus vs. AFSCME, which could limit the ability of unions to negotiate on our behalf and improve our communities. This weekend we'll make our voices heard to show our strength when we come together.

On Feb. 24, workers will gather together to call for an end to this unfair system. Right now, events are planned in the following cities: San Diego, CA; Washington, DC; Detroit, MI; Cedar Rapids, IA; Buffalo, NY; New York City, NY; Louisville, KY; St. Paul, MN; Columbus, OH; Philadelphia, PA; Albuquerque, NM; Memphis, TN; St. Louis, MO; Erie, PA; Houston, TX; Atlanta, GA; Miami, FL; Sioux Falls, SD; Madison, WI and Chicago, IL. Visit [www.itsaboutfreedom.org](http://www.itsaboutfreedom.org) to sign up to attend a rally or to see what other events are planned near you.

### **UNION PLUS COLLEGE BENEFITS FOR M.E.B.A. FAMILIES**

M.E.B.A. families can take advantage of a great new Union Plus program that offers the chance to earn an online degree from an accredited school with no out-of-pocket expense. The Union Plus Free College program provides a no-cost option for union members and their family members to earn an Associate's Degree in select disciplines.

Union Plus partnered with Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC), an accredited, non-profit public institution that is part of the University System of Ohio. Students can enroll in the distance learning program from anywhere in the country.

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 Union is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts.

Features of the Union Plus Free College Benefit include:

- Members and their families can earn an associate degree – completely online, for FREE.
- Students who apply to EGCC must have completed high school or a GED program, and apply for and use any available federal grants.
- Students receive a “last dollar” scholarship for any amount not covered by grants for tuition, fees or e-books at EGCC.
- Credits can transfer to other schools.
- Advising and tutoring is available to support students.
- Classes begin every 8 weeks.
- Available to union members and retirees, as well as their spouses, children (or stepchildren) and grandchildren (or step grandchildren), domestic partners and financial dependents.
- Students utilizing the Free College Benefit are not required to attend full time and can take 1 class per term.

The Free College Benefit program offers seven associate degree and two certificate programs. Credits can be transferred to a four-year college. The enrollment process is simple. Students should visit [unionplus.org/freecollege](http://unionplus.org/freecollege) and complete a request for information form asking for their name, contact information, (union member’s name and contact information, if different) national and local union information, and their online degree interest. More info is available by emailing [online@EGCCFreeCollege.org](mailto:online@EGCCFreeCollege.org) or by calling (888) 590-9009 (Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm EST) or at [www.unionplusfreecollege.org/contact-us/](http://www.unionplusfreecollege.org/contact-us/)

### **MLL FLEX TRAINING**

Maersk Line Ltd. will be offering one week Wartsila Flex Engine training courses. In order to qualify to be on the MLL preferred list, you must have completed this Wartsila Flex Engine training course. The course dates are as follows:

- April 9–13 - Calhoon M.E.B.A. School
- September 24–28 - Calhoon M.E.B.A. School
- October 15–19 - Calhoon M.E.B.A. School

Each class can hold fifteen to eighteen students. MLL’s goal is to ensure every permanent K-class, Flex Engine G-class, S-Class, and Kuramo-class Chief Engineer, First Assistant Engineer, and select list relief First Assistant Engineer attend this training. All C/E’s and 1<sup>st</sup> A/Es that have attended Flex Engine training previously are also welcome and encouraged to attend again to share their best practices and experiences.

To be considered for this course, please contact Dennis Houghton at MLL (757) 852-3240 or email at [DHoughton@mllnet.com](mailto:DHoughton@mllnet.com) Please feel free to contact ACVP Jason Callahan at (201) 433-7700 in the New Jersey office with questions.

## **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](http://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](mailto:vacation@mebaplans.org) for more info.

## **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Monday, March 5 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, March 6 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, March 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, March 8 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, March 9 – Honolulu@1100.

**-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----**



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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](mailto: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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org)*