

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 6 – February 8, 2018

In this issue//Hall Closures Next Week//ALASKAN FRONTIER Out of Deep Lay-Up for Limited Run//New Dispatcher at NY/NJ Hall//Direct Submission of Medical Certificate Applications to NMC//GRUMMAN CivMars Conclude Six-Month Mission//Florida Congressman Praises Industry at Prop Club Chat//OCEAN GIANT Wraps Up South Pole Service//Sweeten Your Valentines the Labor-Friendly Way//Vacation Reminder – Check Your Return-to-Work Date//4MF Raffle Tickets Being Mailed to Halls//

HALL CLOSURES NEXT WEEK – LINCOLN'S B-DAY/MARDI GRAS

West Coast halls will be closed on Monday, Feb. 12th to honor the "Great Emancipator" Abraham Lincoln. Honest Abe was born near Hodgenville, Kentucky on February 12, 1809 and began a dramatic and inspirational Presidency in March 1861.

The New Orleans Union hall will be closed for business on Tuesday, February 13th for Mardi Gras. The hall is strategically located near several of the parade routes of the various Fat Tuesday "krewes." Let the good times roll!

ALASKAN FRONTIER TAPPED FOR ACTION

Alaska Tanker Company (ATC) is bringing its fourth vessel, the ALASKAN FRONTIER, out of deep-layup for a limited run. Throughout its layup in Portland, ATC has ensured the vessel's working systems have remained in top condition by keeping an M.E.B.A. Chief Engineer and 1st A/E onboard.

Jobs for the ship are expected to be called out of the Seattle hall as soon as next week.

THE SEARCH IS OVER – NEW DISPATCHER AT NY/NJ HALL

Former Navy boiler technician Katherine Cestaro is joining the M.E.B.A. in our New York/New Jersey Union hall as the new Dispatcher. Organized and affable, she is well-suited for the position and lives close to the hall. She met members there earlier today during the membership meeting. Katherine has 24 years of advanced energy and logistics business experience on top of 8 years with the U.S. Navy.

She fills the void left in early January after the sudden passing of Sharon Van Geldren. Welcome aboard Katherine!

DIRECT SUBMISSION OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS TO NMC

The Coast Guard has established a new option for the submission of medical certificate applications (CG-719K and CG-719KE forms) that will improve service. Since Feb. 1, 2018, mariners can submit medical certificate only applications directly to the National Maritime Center. Regional Examination Centers will continue to accept medical certificate application submissions as well.

The requirements for submission have not changed with the exception that submissions to the NMC can be made via e-mail at D05-SMB-MEDAIP-TEAM@uscg.mil. Submission requirements can be found on the NMC website.

At this time, direct submission to the NMC is only for the medical certificate application. Applications for a Merchant Mariner Credential (CG-719B/MMC) cannot be submitted directly to the NMC. Any e-mailed application for an MMC, with or without a medical certificate application, made directly to the NMC will be deleted and the applicant will get an e-mail response with directions on how to resubmit their application(s) to a Regional Examination Center.

If you have any questions, please contact the NMC Customer Service Center by e-mailing IASKNMC@USCG.mil, by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662), via online chat system, or by visiting www.uscg.mil/nmc.

GRUMMAN CIVIMARs WRAP UP SIX-MONTH MISSION

Earlier this week, mariners onboard the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS LEROY GRUMMAN completed an almost 6-month mission in support of U.S. Navy and allied forces operating in the U.S. Sixth Fleet's area of responsibility. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC's Civilian Mariner fleet

"The LEROY GRUMMAN left for our deployment to the Mediterranean Sea in September of 2017," said Captain Kevin Tapp, the ship's master. "While we were deployed, the crew conducted over 30 underway replenishments at sea, providing 3.7 million gallons of fuel, 1,019 pallets of materials and provisions to U.S. Navy and NATO units from Canada, Italy, Turkey, Germany and the United Kingdom."

Fleet replenishment oilers provide resupply services to U.S. Navy and allied ships while at sea so the combatant vessels are able remain on station longer. While on deployment, USNS LEROY GRUMMAN visited Rota, Spain, Naples, Italy, Souda Bay, Island of Crete (Greece), Augusta Bay, Sicily, and Malaga, Spain.

"The crew's performance on this deployment was superior," said Capt. Tapp. "The USNS LEROY GRUMMAN's civil service mariners were outstanding ambassadors of goodwill for our country during all of our port visits, and all of our missions were conducted successfully and safely."

FLORIDA REP. PRAISES INDUSTRY IN PROP CLUB CHAT

Congressman John Rutherford (R-FL-4) had words of support for U.S. shipping and the maritime industry in a luncheon address delivered before the D.C. Chapter of the Propeller Club on Wednesday.

Rep. Rutherford is a freshman Member of Congress who sits on the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee among others. He has a law enforcement background and served as Sheriff of Duval County. He is a strong supporter of seaports and shipbuilding and was vocal in support of our industry at the luncheon. He denounced detractors of the Jones Act who reared their heads following Hurricane Maria and called for sufficient spending on dredging and other infrastructure needs for the maritime industry. He looks forward to Congress passing spending bills in regular order without the drama of the last few years, which he said would be a positive for our industry going forward.

In other Propeller Club news, M.E.B.A. Political Director Matt Dwyer was elected as the new President of the D.C. Chapter of the Propeller Club. Congratulations Matt!

OCEAN GIANT WRAPS UP SOUTH POLE SERVICE

The Waterman Steamship-managed heavy lift vessel OCEAN GIANT is winding down its service in this year's Operation Deep Freeze – the resupply mission to the South Pole's McMurdo Station.

The Military Sealift Command contracted the ship for the annual Joint Task Force Antarctica mission. MSC has supported Operation Deep Freeze since the Station was established in 1955, providing supplies and fuel to scientists.

The OCEAN GIANT spent a week at the Station's ice pier discharging cargo before departing in early February. Before leaving McMurdo, the vessel was loaded with ice core samples stored on the ship in sub-zero freezer containers. The samples will be delivered to the U.S. for scientific study. In addition, retrograde cargo was loaded onto the GIANT for transportation off the continent. These include trash and recyclable materials for disposal and equipment no longer required on the station.

Once it moved off the ice pier, the MT MAERSK PEARY took her place and began offloading nearly 6 million gallons of diesel and jet fuel.

SWEETEN YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY – THE LABOR-FRIENDLY WAY

Ok, Valentine's Day is coming up fast, and as usual, you're helpless. Crawling into a fetal position and sobbing your eyes out isn't a real problem solver, so here's what you do. Just go with the basics. Use the following list to get you off the hook and help you navigate through another dreaded February 14th. In addition, you can go to <http://buildbuyusa.org/> and download a union-friendly Valentine's Day card. Anyway, check out this list of employers that treat their workers fairly:

Flowers – Albertsons; Vons; Pavillions; Gelson's; Costco; Ralph's; Safeway.

Chocolate and Candy - See's Candies; Ghirardelli; Hershey's; Russell Stover;

Champagne – Andre; JFJ; Tott's; Wycliff.

Wine – Almaden; C.K. Mondavi; Charles Krug; Chateau Ste. Michelle; Franzia; Gallo of Sonoma; Livingston Cellars; Turning Leaf; Weibel.

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.

VACATION REMINDER: CHECK YOUR RETURN TO WORK DATE

Members on vacation should make certain of their return-to-work date to ensure there is no conflict with your vacation when taking a job at a hall. Members should know that taking work while on vacation or receiving a paid vacation benefit – without express permission/waiver from a Branch

Agent/V.P. – violates both the M.E.B.A. Shipping Rules and Vacation Plan regulations and will trigger penalties including possible loss of vacation time.

Refer to Shipping Rule #5(b) and the M.E.B.A. Vacation Plan Summary Plan Description (Pages 7-10) for reference.

HONORING OUR HERITAGE - 4MF RAFFLE TICKETS BEING MAILED TO HALLS

Tickets for the big raffle in support of the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) will begin mailing out to the Union halls and offices tomorrow. Members, applicants, retirees and everyone else are strongly encouraged to support the 4MF which provides upkeep and improvements to the Memorial Park located at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES). The Memorial honors fallen mariners who helped blaze the proud tradition our members continue today.

The winning raffle ticket (\$2 apiece) will be drawn on October 9, 2018 at the CMES during the monthly membership meeting. You do not need to be present to win. The winner will receive 50% of the proceeds from raffle sales, so plan to purchase a thick stack of tickets. Members are urged to keep M.E.B.A.'s Memorial in mind all year long and support it when they can.

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-----



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