

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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



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

*The Official Union Newsletter*



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### **SUDDEN PASSING OF NY/NJ DISPATCHER**

It is with deep sadness that we announce last night's sudden passing of M.E.B.A.'s New York/New Jersey Dispatcher Sharon Van Geldren. Sharon has done a great job at the hall since 2011 after working as a POID member in Kearney, NJ for 24 years. She was extremely competent, kind and very generous. Her passing was shocking and unexpected. She was 68. Arrangements will be handled by the O'Brien Funeral Home, 984 Avenue C in Bayonne, NJ. There will be a viewing on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 6pm. Cremation will be private.

### **M.E.B.A. HALLS AND OFFICES TO HONOR MLK DAY**

M.E.B.A. Union halls and offices will be closed on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Along with his exceptional leadership in advancing civil rights, MLK was a champion of workers and of those seeking union recognition. He believed that unionization is one of our most vital civil rights. At the Illinois AFL-CIO Convention in 1965, King noted, "The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, government relief for the destitute and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life. The captains of industry did not lead this transformation; they resisted it until they were overcome. When in the thirties the wave of union organization crested over the nation, it carried to secure shores not only itself but the whole society."

### **CMES ADDS TWO ONE-WEEK ONLINE QUALIFIED ASSESSOR COURSES**

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School has scheduled two one-week Online Qualified Assessor courses to take place from February 23–March 2, 2018 and from May 18–25, 2018.

The courses include a live practical assessment. Proper hardware and software on the student's computer is required. Additional information pertaining to the course and system requirements, along with an application form, may be found online at: <http://support.cutwater.org/curriculum/qualified-assessor>. The ONLY way to apply for an online course is by using this form. Faxed and/or mailed application forms will not be accepted. All inquiries should be directed to [support@cutwater.org](mailto:support@cutwater.org).

These courses are being made available to both the M.E.B.A. membership as well as commercial customers. As such, everyone will be required to pay for the class(es) prior to admission. Upon successful completion of the class(es), eligible M.E.B.A. members will be reimbursed just as if they

had taken a course at an approved alternate location. The same reimbursement procedures apply and the Application for Reimbursement form should be completed and submitted as usual. Applications for online courses do not count against the yearly maximum number of classes you are eligible to take physically at CMES.

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

With Democrat Doug Jones' victory for Alabama's U.S. Senate seat, the balance of power shifts ever so slightly in the upper chamber - and for the coming year, all committees will have a one-vote margin. That means Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD.) will be joining the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) will serve on the Commerce Committee. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) will serve on Finance, and newly sworn-in Sen. Doug Jones (D-AL.) will serve on the Banking Committee. Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) is moving from Commerce to Judiciary, which will open up the top Democratic spot on the subcommittee in charge of surface transportation. On the GOP side, Jerry Moran of Kansas is joining the Banking Committee.

### **PORTS CALLS FOR 10-YEAR \$66 BILLION INVESTMENT**

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), which represents 140 seaports, this week recommended that Congress infuse U.S. ports with at least \$66 billion over the next ten years, both land and shore-side, as part of an infrastructure package.

Testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) Port of Cleveland President William Friedman, on behalf of AAPA, said that constructing and maintaining the nation's 21st century maritime infrastructure is essential to the Nation's economic future. In a hearing entitled "America's Water Infrastructure Needs and Challenges," Friedman said that, "AAPA believes a significant federal investment would grow the U.S. economy, increase family-wage supporting jobs, enhance America's international competitiveness and generate additional tax revenues." AAPA detailed the seaports' \$66 billion recommendation and highlighted the types of port related projects that can benefit from infrastructure investment legislation.

### **SIZE LIMIT ON E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS TO NMC**

The National Maritime Center wants mariners to know NMC has an e-mail size restriction that will result in "send failures" if exceeded. Their system won't accept email attachments larger than 10 MB. If the limit is exceeded, *neither the sender nor intended recipient will be notified of the delivery failure.*

NMC recommends that attachments larger than 8 MB be split into multiple e-mails. When splitting up e-mails, you should make sure the subject of each e-mail indicates the order of the attachments. In addition, their system won't accept compressed (ZIP) files, regardless of size.

Questions should be addressed to the NMC call center via e-mail to [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil), via Chat, or by phone at 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

### **OCEAN GIANT HEADED FOR THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD**

The Waterman Steamship-managed heavy lift vessel OCEAN GIANT, which visited both ends of the earth last year in two separate missions, is once again heading to the South Pole as part of Operation Deep Freeze.

The ship was contracted by the Military Sealift Command and is a key part of their annual Joint Task Force Antarctica mission for the resupply of the South Pole's McMurdo Station – a remote scientific

outpost. MSC has supported Operation Deep Freeze since the Station was established in 1955, providing supplies and fuel to scientists.

The ship loaded up in Port Hueneme, Cain late December. As part of the resupply mission, 498 containers filled will food, mechanical parts, vehicles, construction materials, office supplies and electronics equipment, and much more are being shipped south. This represents 80 percent of the supplies needed for survival at McMurdo Station, Antarctica for the year. Following a stop in Christchurch, New Zealand to load additional cargo, the OCEAN GIANT will travel to the ice-pier at McMurdo, where members of Navy Cargo Handling Battalion ONE will conduct the offload. Before departing McMurdo station, OCEAN GIANT will be loaded with ice core samples that will be stored on the ship in sub-zero freezer containers. The ice core samples will be delivered to the U.S. for scientific study. In addition, retrograde cargo will be loaded onto the ship for transportation off the continent. These include trash and recyclable materials for disposal and equipment no longer required on the station.

The OCEAN GIANT participated in Deep Freeze last year and also traveled to the North Pole as part of Operation Pacer Goose 2017 to resupply Thule Air Base.

### **FUNDRAISING FOR BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC MEMORIAL**

A fundraising campaign launched this month aims to honor World War II's Battle of the Atlantic, a tremendous 6-year Allied effort for Atlantic sea routes involving thousands of ships. The dangerous, U-boat infested waters of the Atlantic was the domain of many a 1940s-era M.E.B.A. officer keeping the supply lines open as part of the Fourth Arm of Defense. The goal was to bring sufficient people and material across the Atlantic to sustain Britain and to enable the opening of the Western Front through Operation Overlord (D-Day).

Despite its significance, the Battle of the Atlantic does not have an overall memorial in the UK, so the purpose of the project is to fill that gap – to commemorate those who perished, but also those that survived but often carry the scars. As the veterans of that generation leave us, it is important to create a reminder of the suffering and the lessons of that Battle and the war. The memorial will be a remembrance that recognizes those sacrifices, and a reminder of the high cost and incalculable value of peace.



*An artist's impression of the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial*

The Battle of the Atlantic Memorial (BOAM) would be built in Liverpool, the command headquarters of the WWII campaign, as long as the memorial charity can raise approximately \$3.4 million. The projected memorial would be a 92-foot monument of a merchant ship split in two and would be built on Liverpool's Pier Head incorporating the existing statue of U-Boat hunter Johnnie Walker. If

fundraising is successful, the memorial would be unveiled in 2019, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War II. You can find out more and donate online at [www.battleoftheatlantic.org](http://www.battleoftheatlantic.org)

### **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.

### **LABOR 411 SUGGEST BREWS & BITES FOR NFL PLAYOFFS**

No matter who you're backing for Super Bowl LII, you'll need the fridge to be stocked for all the games leading up to the big day. This list of brews and munchies will both satisfy your cravings and help boost our country's middle class. With more than 250 ethically-made beers and a ton of game-day snacks to choose from, you'll be set to host a killer ultimate playoff-watching party that also supports good employers who treat their workers fairly. Here's a list of just some of the choices you can feel good about: **Beers** – Bass; Beck's; Blue Moon; Budweiser; Coors; Dundee; Goose Island; Hamm's; Henry Weinhard's; Keystone; Kirin Ichiban; Land Shark Lager; Leinenkugel's; Mad River; Mendocino Brewing; Michelob; Miller; Natural Ice; O'Doul's; Pabst; Rolling Rock; Sam Adams; Schlitz; Shock Top; **Snacks** - Act II Popcorn; Andy Boy Fruits and Vegetables; Bagel Bites; Chex Mix; Doritos; Fig Newtons; Keebler Cookies; Lay's Potato Chips; Orville Redenbacher Popcorn; Ritz Crackers; Rold Gold Pretzels; Ruffles; Tostitos; Triscuit; and Wheat Thins.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Monday, February 5 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;  
Tuesday, February 6 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;  
Wednesday, February 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;  
Thursday, February 8 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;  
Friday, February 9 – 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](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)*