

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL! M.E.B.A. REUNION ANNOUNCED

All hands on deck! The entire M.E.B.A. membership, active and retired, and especially Calhoon graduates, are invited to the recently formalized Calhoon Alumni Association (CAA) Reunion scheduled for June 27-29 at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School.

For those of you who have not yet attended a reunion, here is some of what you can expect: pit beef, steamed crabs, burgers and dogs, pizza and subs, live music, swimming pool, beer, wine, soft drinks, ice cream, light breakfast, a Friday morning golf outing, a sundown ceremony and other surprises, sea stories and a great time with old classmates, shipmates and maritime friends. If that's not reason to celebrate, remember that this is the M.E.B.A.'s 150th Anniversary year and there will be additional bells and whistles for this great get-together.

Information, event fees, and forms will soon be found on the CMES website located at www.mebaschool.org. Look for the CAA page link. The weekend kicks off with the traditional Golf Tournament on Friday, June 27 at 1000. There will be an evening muster at the Calhoon Saloon later that evening. The party on the Manor House Lawn will take place all day Saturday, June 28. This is a great family event that you should be sure to sign up for. Direct any questions to caa@mebaschool.org and check out the School website to get the complete lowdown.

Take this opportunity to spread the word throughout the M.E.B.A. world as well as to past Calhoon School cadets, instructors, shipmates, friends, and families.

MATSON HAS EVER-INCREASING FLEET OF LNG-POWERED VESSELS

M.E.B.A.-contracted company Matson, Inc. now has three Liquefied Natural Gas-powered vessels in its fleet with more ships on the way.

Last month, the company was pleased to announce that the KAIMANA HILA (KMH) is back in service after undergoing a conversion to LNG, along with the addition of a new bow windshield for improved aerodynamics and fuel conservation.

The KMH joins its sister ship, DANIEL K. INOUYE (DKI), and the MANUKAI. MANUKAI underwent a complete repowering, replacing its engine with a dual-fuel engine like those powering

DKI and KMH. These conversions are part of Matson's long-term strategy to reduce Scope 1 fleet greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Matson has ordered three new Aloha Class containerships from Philly Shipyard – now known as Hanwha Philly Shipyard (see below). The first, MAKUA, is under construction and scheduled for delivery in 2026. The other two will be the MALAMA and MAKENA scheduled for delivery in 2027. All three of the newbuilds will incorporate “green ship technology” features such as environmentally safe double hull fuel tanks and freshwater ballast systems and will be delivered ready to operate on liquified natural gas.

PURCHASE OF PHILLY SHIPYARD COMPLETE

Late last month, the purchase of Philly Shipyard by Hanwha Systems/Hanwha Ocean was completed and the yard is moving forward known as Hanwha Philly Shipyard.

Founded in 1952, Hanwha is South Korea's seventh-largest conglomerate and ranked in the Fortune Global 500. Hanwha is a multinational company with a robust network of affiliates in the energy, ocean, aerospace, finance and retail & services industries. David Kim, the Executive V.P. for Hanwha Defense USA, took over the yard as Chief Executive Officer.

Hanwha noted they would build on the success of Philly Shipyard, which was established in 1997, that delivered around 50% of all large ocean-going U.S. Jones Act commercial ships since 2000, including tankers and container ships. The yard continues to construct a series of National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV) for the Maritime Administration as well as new vessels for Matson and other projects.

A spokesperson noted that Hanwha Philly Shipyard plans to create a significant number of local jobs, expand the yard's capabilities and scale into new markets.

M.E.B.A. DISCUSSES WSF ISSUES WITH NEW GOVERNOR

Washington State's new Governor Bob Ferguson, who was just sworn in this week, visited with mariners at the Washington State Ferries last week, a fleet he has vowed to fix during his four-year term.

Gov. Ferguson visited with mariners on the M/V SUQUAMISH and spoke to engineers as well as our WSF Representative Eric Winge. Rep. Winge talked about the 20% wage disparity between deck and engine mariners that has helped whittle away the once-hefty pool of experienced and qualified mariners. Chief Engineer Greg Pihlman and Assistant Engineer Alex Stamati explained the working conditions and difficulties of working so much overtime to keep the vessels in service.

On the campaign trail, Ferguson called for the revitalization of this important ferry system. He told constituents he would implement strategies to address labor shortages such as easing credentialing costs for mariners and undergoing “a wage and benefit survey that includes comparisons of all relevant employers, such as commercial shipping operations, that are in competition for the same maritime workers, to keep wages and benefits competitive” - a proposal supported by the M.E.B.A.

Gov. Ferguson also met with Whidbey Island residents who are reliant on the ferry service, as well as mariners on the WSF ferry TOKITAE along with terminal staff in Mukilteo and Clinton.

AMP ENDORSES DUFFY AS DOT HEAD; APPLAUDS JONES ACT SUPPORT

The American Maritime Partnership, a coalition representing the domestic maritime industry that counts the M.E.B.A. and AMC as members, issued a statement endorsing Sean Duffy, who is incoming President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Transportation. Duffy sailed through an uneventful Senate Commerce Committee nomination hearing this week.

The 53-year old Duffy represented Wisconsin's 7th District in Congress from 2011 to 2019. He is a former prosecutor and television personality who had been co-hosting a business segment on Fox News. He served on financial and oversight committees during his Congressional career but was relatively inactive on maritime issues.

AMP dispatched a letter to Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) saying that Duffy is well qualified and urging the nominee's swift confirmation.

They noted, "AMP particularly appreciates Congressman Duffy's unequivocal support for the Jones Act as expressed during his Commerce Committee confirmation hearing...President Trump is the Build American, Hire American, Made in the USA president, and it is hard to imagine a law more consistent with that philosophy than the Jones Act. During his first term, the Trump Administration described the Jones Act as "one of five critical dimensions of President Trump's Made in the USA strategy" and we are pleased that Mr. Duffy publicly conveyed his support for the law..."

MARAD'S PHILLIPS STEPS DOWN, REFLECTS ON SERVICE

M.E.B.A. took part in a reception last week for Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips who wrapped up almost three years of service guiding the agency.

In addition to prioritizing safety at sea for mariner cadets and addressing quality of life and recruitment/retention challenges for mariners, Rear Admiral Phillips worked to expand facilities and capital improvement funding and capacity at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, helped grow the U.S.-flag fleet, upheld the Jones Act, acquired vessels to modernize the Ready Reserve Force (RRF) in support of National Security and oversaw historic grants to ports and small shipyards. The Union was represented at the retirement ceremony by Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha and Government Affairs Director Erick Siahann.

"It has been the honor of my life to represent and advocate for the vital work MarAd performs to strengthen our national defense and our economic competitiveness," she said. "MarAd's work to foster, promote, and develop the maritime sector is essential to our Nation's success — and I know the extraordinary professionals who work on behalf of MarAd and with U.S.-flag carriers, operators, maritime labor, and the entire maritime industry will continue to meet the sector's evolving challenges with their unmatched expertise and professionalism, as they always have."

One of the highlights of Administrator Phillips' tenure includes creation and implementation of Every Mariner Builds A Respectful Culture (EMBARC) Program, codified into law in 2023. The program sets standards to help prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment on U.S.-flag vessels that are required by law to carry USMMA cadets. Since the program's introduction, 22 U.S.-flag commercial carriers have adopted these standards — including 16 carriers and operators required to do so by law as well as six additional carriers that have voluntarily enrolled.

Administrator Phillips was also responsible for MarAd's new ship construction program building the National Security Multi-mission Vessels (NSMVs). Accommodating up to 600 cadets plus crew, these are the first-ever purpose-built mariner training vessels in the nation's history and will also provide a substantial maritime platform to support federal humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

She added that during her tenure, "MarAd's work across the full range of its statutory missions has helped fuel extraordinary momentum in the maritime industry. I know this industry will continue to deliver for our nation, whenever and wherever they are needed," she said.

Deputy Maritime Administrator Charles Makings takes over as Acting Maritime Administrator until a new Administrator is nominated and confirmed.

APPLY FOR UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIPS

M.E.B.A. families have until January 31, 2025 to apply for college education assistance money through Union Plus. Union Plus is doling out one-time cash awards of \$500 to \$4,000 for study beginning in the Fall of 2025.

Visit www.unionplus.org/scholarship for details. Families of M.E.B.A. members or affiliated members are among past scholarship money recipients. Union Plus Scholarship are granted to students attending a two-year college, four-year college, graduate school or a recognized technical or trade school. Recipients are selected based on academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor.

Applications can be submitted up until Friday, January 31, 2025, at noon (EST). Applications arriving after the deadline will not be considered. The award date is May 31, 2025. During the first week of June 2025, award recipients will be notified.

Current and retired members of unions participating in any Union Plus program, their spouses and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations) are eligible. Grandchildren are not eligible unless a legal dependent (as defined by IRS regulations).

At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant's spouse or parent (if applicant is a dependent). The one-year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31, 2026. Members of participating unions from the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada are eligible. The applicant must be accepted into a U.S. accredited college, university, community college, technical or trade school at the time awards are issued. Awards must be used for the 2025 - 2026 school year. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply.

Get the official application and all the details including eligibility criteria by visiting unionplus.org/scholarship

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

Monday, February 3 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, February 4 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.**

Wednesday, February 5 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, February 6 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

Friday, February 7 – **Honolulu@1100**

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***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