

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*  
**M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES**  
*The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"*  
Number 3 – January 19, 2023



*In this issue//New CMES CONMAR Course is One-Stop Shop for Patriot-Managed LMSRs//Stand-Alone CONMAR Classes, New Electrical Course, etc.//Global Piracy Trending Down//M.E.B.A. School Needs Engineering Instructor//Union Membership Grows//NDRF Says Pandemic Shipping Surge has Slowed//Reduced Rate for AMMC Convention//*

## **NEW CMES CONMAR COURSE IS ONE-STOP TRAINING SHOP FOR WATSON-CLASS LMSR OFFICERS**

In a boon for M.E.B.A. officers who plan to sail on the Patriot-managed Watson-class LMSRs, the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) has implemented an all-encompassing two-week training course that satisfies Military Sealift Command requirements and standards to work on those vessels.

After MSC implemented new training requirements for engineers working aboard the contracted Watson-class LMSRs, the M.E.B.A. Trustees directed the CMES to establish a catch-all course for our officers to get that training in-house. CMES Interim Director Bryan Jennings took charge and headed up an exhaustive and methodical process to design, implement and win Military Sealift Command approval for the new MSC CONMAR course that incorporates seven individual classes required by deck and engine officers for those jobs.

The classes included in the overall CONMAR course are also available as stand-alone CMES courses for those mariners who are already certified in some of the required modules and aren't pushing up against their renewal dates. The seven classes combined into the CONMAR course are Security Watchstander Basic (required once in a lifetime), Security Watchstander Advanced (annual renewal), Small Arms Certification (annual renewal), Ships Reaction Forces (3-year renewal), CBRN (5-year renewal), Damage Control (5-year renewal) and Marine Environmental Programs (5-year renewal). The CMES continues to work with the Military Sealift Command to implement as many MSC-required courses as needed for our officers.

The CMES is pleased to announce that the first three CONMAR courses are set and students can begin submitting applications.

Course dates are:

- April 24–May 5
- August 7–18
- October 30–November 10

Course Capacity: 12 students; Prerequisites: None; Special Requirements: Long pants, closed-toed shoes, and a hat with a brim (ex. baseball cap). NOTE: Students are expected to attend class on Saturday. Sunday is the only day off. Members holding a “Not Fit for Duty” slip are not eligible to take this course. MSC approval information for each of the individual courses may be found on the school’s website under Curriculum - <https://www.mebaschool.org/curriculum> Applications should be submitted via the CMES website (mebaschool.org), faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to applications@mebaschool.org

## **CMES ADDS STAND-ALONE CONMAR COURSES, NEW ELECTRICAL TROUBLESHOOTING COURSE & CLARIFIES FAST RESCUE BOAT DATES**

### ***Security Watchstander Modules***

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School announced that it has added Security Watchstander Advanced to existing Small Arms classes for those who need the certification separate from the CONMAR course. Security Watchstander Advanced will be optional. It will be taught on the Friday of the course date and students taking it should expect to be in class all day.

The current class dates are:

- March 6–10
- May 8–12
- September 11–15

Security Watchstander Basic will be offered in the evenings of the Small Arms class for those members that require it. A sign-up sheet will be available on the first day of class.

### ***3-Day Ships Reaction Force Classes***

In addition, the School added Ships Reaction Force as a standalone 3-day class immediately following the Small Arms classes. Prerequisite: Students are required to have a current Small Arms certificate to be eligible to attend this course. Any student who arrives to this course without a current Small Arms certificate will be dropped from the class.

Students will be required to submit applications for this course if they are interested in attending. Ships Reaction Force will run on a Monday to Wednesday schedule (full day on the Wednesday).

The scheduled dates for the 3-day Ships Reaction Force class are:

- March 13–15
- May 15–17
- September 18–20

### ***Fast Rescue Boat***

The Fast Rescue Boat course is scheduled so it can be taken back-to-back with one of the scheduled MSC CONMAR class, if needed.

The scheduled dates for the 4-day Fast Rescue Boat 6-student class are:

- May 8–11
- July 31–August 3
- October 23–26

### ***Practical Electrical Troubleshooting***

The CMES has added a two-week Practical Electrical Troubleshooting course to its 2023 schedule and has announced three dates this year. The course will help engineers improve their ability to troubleshoot electrical systems found on board. It will provide a review of electrical fundamentals and laws, before covering how to read prints with emphasis on expected readings in any part of a circuit, proper use of basic test equipment, components, circuit protective devices, sensors, motor controllers, basics of PLCs and VFDs. Safety topics include available energy levels and PPE. The course is presented as formal lectures and some student labs. Course capacity is 10 students who, as a prerequisite, need to have knowledge of basic electricity.

Course dates will take place from:

- April 17–28
- August 7–18
- November 27–December 8

Applications should be submitted as normal and can be sent via the CMES website ([mebaschool.org](http://mebaschool.org)), faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to [applications@mebaschool.org](mailto:applications@mebaschool.org)

### **GLOBAL PIRACY STILL TRENDING DOWN**

The ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) celebrated the lowest recorded level of maritime piracy and armed robbery in almost three decades but called for continued efforts to sustain the downswing. The ICC IMB's annual report recorded 115 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in 2022 – compared to 132 in 2021 – with half of them occurring in Southeast Asian waters, particularly in the Singapore Straits, where incidents continue to rise.

A third of all incidents reported globally in 2022 have been in the Singapore Straits with underway vessels boarded in all 38 incidents. Perpetrators were successful in gaining access to vessels in 95% of the reported incidents broken down as 107 vessels boarded, two vessels hijacked, five attempted attacks and one vessel fired upon. In many cases vessels were either anchored or steaming when boarded, with nearly all the incidents occurring during the hours of darkness. There was an overall decrease of piratical activity in in the high-risk waters of the Gulf of Guinea – down from 35 incidents in 2021 to 19 in 2022, but the area still remains a hotspot.

### **M.E.B.A. SCHOOL NEEDS A FULL-TIME ENGINEERING INSTRUCTOR**

The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) is looking for a full-time engineering instructor to serve as part of the Faculty. This position will report to the CMES Academic Manager and be responsible for assisting current faculty as well as teaching courses as needed and determined by the Academic Manager.

The preferred candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Unlimited Chief Engineer license with endorsements for Gas Turbine, Steam, and Motor
- Experience sailing at the management level on gas turbine, steam, and motor vessels
- Experience with instruction and adult learning techniques
- Experience on multiple vessels i.e., bulkers, tankers, container ships, and LNG vessels
- Excellent communication and public speaking skills
- Have a USCG approved Train the Trainer course certificate
- Wartsila and/or Kongsberg Simulator assessment experience
- Proficient with Microsoft Office products I.e., Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.
- Experience with IMO course curriculum format and ability to write course curriculum
- Minimum requirements:
- Unlimited Chief Engineer license with at least one propulsion endorsement
- Experience on multiple vessel types and classes
- Excellent communication and public speaking skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Office products
- Ability to become proficient at engine simulator products

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to: [bjennings@mebaschool.org](mailto:bjennings@mebaschool.org) or ATTN: Bryan Jennings, Calhoun MEBA Engineering School, 27050 St Michaels Rd., Easton, MD 21601

## **UNION MEMBERSHIP GROWS**

Today's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) annual report shows that union membership grew by 273,000 in 2022 even as giant corporations such as Amazon and Starbucks ratcheted up illegal efforts to intimidate, harass and fire workers who are forming unions. While the report indicates a slight drop in union density from 2021 to 2022, the data doesn't capture the surge in worker organizing across every sector, from teaching assistants to baristas to museum workers, construction workers, video game developers and many more. A report released by the National Labor Relations Board in October of last year found that in fiscal year 2022, union election petitions increased by 53% from the previous year. According to a 2022 Gallup poll, union approval is at its highest level in nearly 60 years, with 71% of Americans supporting labor unions, and studies show that 70% of [hourly workers](#) say they would join a union if given the opportunity.

## **IMPORTS DROP AS PANDEMIC-DRIVEN SHIPPING SURGE SLOWS, SAYS NRF**

With a pandemic-driven surge finally over, monthly import cargo volume at the nation's major container ports has fallen below the 2 million TEU mark and should remain there through most of this spring, according to the Global Port Tracker report released by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates. "Ports have been stretched to their limits and beyond but are getting a break as consumer demand moderates amid continued [inflation](#) and high interest rates," NRF Supply Chain V.P. Jonathan Gold said. "Consumers are still spending and volumes remain high, but we're not seeing the congestion at the docks and ships waiting to unload that were widespread this time a year ago. It's good to escape some of the pressure, but it's important to use this time to address supply chain challenges that still need to be resolved like finalizing the West Coast port labor contract."

Imports plummeted to a four-year low of 1.37 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units – one 20-foot container or its equivalent – in March 2020 as COVID-19 prompted the temporary shutdown of much of the nation’s economy. But cargo soared after the shutdowns ended and pent-up consumer demand was unleashed that summer, topping 2 million TEU by that August and staying there all but one month until this winter. “After nearly three years of COVID-19’s impact on global trade and consumer demand, import patterns appear to be returning to what was normal prior to 2020,” Hackett Associates Founder Ben Hackett said. “Nonetheless, as inflation eases and consumer spending returns, we project that growth will slowly return going into the second half of the year.”

### **SIGN UP! REDUCED RATE FOR LATE MARCH AMMV CONVENTION IN VEGAS**

Up until March 5<sup>th</sup>, you can get the “group rate” to stay at the Gold Coast Casino & Hotel in Las Vegas, NV for the upcoming American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) Convention. This will be the 35<sup>th</sup> such gathering and will take place from March 28<sup>th</sup>–31. The AMMV is an organization of active and retired mariners that trumpets the vital role of the men and women of the U.S. Merchant Marine and their service to the country during peace and war. Registration is open and M.E.B.A. members, applicants and retirees are encouraged to attend. You can go to <https://ammv.us/register/> for more details. Convention registration is free for WWII mariners, and only \$50 for everyone else. The costs of the two lunch buffets and one featured dinner are being offered to attendees at slightly less than the actual cost to AMMV. Room pricing at the Gold Coast is the best that AMMV has secured in many years. The hotel/casino is not far from the Las Vegas Harry Reid International Airport and offers many amenities and features. You can book your room online or over the phone. Make your hotel reservations online at: <https://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups> or call 888-402-6278. Enter the group code: MMVC23C. The deadline for making reservations with the group rate is March 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Monday, February 6** – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

**Tuesday, February 7** – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

**Wednesday, February 8** – Jacksonville@1300; **New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

**Thurs. February 9** – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

**Friday, February 10** – 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](mailto:mebahq@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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org). Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*