

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"
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ASST. GOVT. FLEET REP./DISPATCHER OPPORTUNITY IN NORFOLK HALL

Following the retirement of Joe Muchulsky, M.E.B.A. is now searching for a full time Assistant Government Fleet Representative/Dispatcher position at our Norfolk Union hall - 6325 N. Center Dr., Suite 100 Norfolk, VA 23502.

Working hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Job applicants should be highly organized, quick learners with strong clerical and interactive personal skills. Primary duties include assisting the Norfolk Union Branch Agent/Government Fleet Representative with providing Union representation to the M.E.B.A. Government Fleet consisting of the Military Sealift Command (MSC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). Additional duties include dispatching commercial shipping jobs, port relief officer assignments and coordinating the necessary paperwork, for members/applicants of the Union.

Qualified applicants must be eligible to obtain Norfolk & Little Creek Navy Base Waterfront access passes. Ideal candidates should have good understanding of MSC Civilian Marine Personnel Instructions (CMPis). Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience.

Additional information can be sought by calling the M.E.B.A. Norfolk Branch Agent Tracy Burke at the hall (757) 440-1820; cell (804) 614-8717; or by email tburke@mebaunion.org

MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE!!!

Members and applicants should make sure Headquarters has your e-mail address along with your other contact information. **This can be as simple as emailing the Membership Dept. at membership@mebaunion.org with your personal (*not work*) email address.** If you haven't filled out an M.E.B.A. Database Update Form – or if your information has changed – grab the form off the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) located in the "Documents & Member Notices" section. Email addresses are also collected at membership meetings on the sign-in sheet, but *members must write clearly* as many addresses are unclear or illegible.

Update Forms should be sent to the HQ Membership Dept. by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail at membership@mebaunion.org Since the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore and Headquarters

databases are NOT linked, you should not assume that info forwarded to Plans is updated in the Union database and vice versa.

MEMBERS ARE AT THE END OF THE EARTH FOR POLAR RESUPPLY MISSION

M.E.B.A. members are at the bottom of the world onboard the Waterman-managed heavy lift vessel M/V OCEAN GIANT as part of 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 which MSC has supported since the Station was established in 1955, providing supplies and fuel to scientists.

M.E.B.A. Permanents aboard the vessel include C/E William Morris, 1st A/E John Keohane and 2nd A/E Nick Berner.

The OCEAN GIANT loaded up in Port Hueneme, CA and is part of a small team bringing nearly 7 million pounds of cargo to the station including food, mechanical parts, vehicles, construction materials, office supplies and electronics equipment, and more. After departing the West Coast, the OCEAN GIANT made a stop in Christchurch, New Zealand to load additional cargo. A Coast Guard icebreaker cleared the way to the ice-pier at McMurdo Station, where members of Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One conducted the offload.

Before departing McMurdo, ice core samples will be stored on the OCEAN GIANT in sub-zero freezer containers. The 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.

REMEMBER TO BRING SHOT RECORDS ONBOARD

Mariners are reminded to keep their vaccination records with them when sailing – especially when shipping onboard contracted MSC vessels.

As a note, an annual flu shot is a requirement for mariners sailing aboard certain vessels such as the Patriot-managed LMSRs.

If unsure what is required, it is a good idea to check with an M.E.B.A. clinic.

PARTIAL SHUTDOWN: FURTHER NMC MITIGATION EFFORTS ANNOUNCED

To mitigate the impact caused by the partial lapse in appropriations and shutdown of National Maritime Center (NMC) operations, NMC updated their list of actions being taken:

- Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) (National Endorsements only) and Medical Certificates that expire in December 2018, January 2019, or February 2019 are extended as valid until April 30, 2019. The Coast Guard supplied a letter from the Coast Guard Commanding Officer that applicable mariners should print and carry with their credential. [*Editor's Note: The letter is available on the NMC site and has also been posted on the M.E.B.A. homepage (www.mebaunion.org).*].
- Additional Information (AI) letters, sent to mariners that expire in December 2018, January 2019, or February 2019 are extended to April 30, 2019.

- Approval to Test (ATT) letters and mariner training course certificates that expire in the months of December 2018, January 2019, or February 2019 are extended until April 30, 2019.

- For mariners whose 90-day testing cycles were interrupted by Regional Exam Center (REC) closures (starting on December 26, 2018), the days the RECs were closed will not count against the 90-day period. REC appointment calendars will be re-opened immediately once appropriations are restored.

The NMC understands the partial shutdown may affect our industry customers and stakeholders and we apologize for any potential inconvenience. If you have questions, visit the NMC website, or contact the NMC Customer Service Center by using the NMC online chat system, by e-mailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

CG COMMANDANT CRITICIZES SHUTDOWN, SHORES UP THE ‘TROOPS’

As over 40,000 active Coast Guard members and another 8,000 in the civilian workforce brace for another missed paycheck, Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz criticized the partial Government shutdown while urging his people to stay strong. The Coast Guard is the only currently unfunded military service as the agency falls under the Department of Homeland Security – not the funded Defense Department which houses the other Armed services.

In a video tweeted out to Coast Guard members, the Admiral, alongside Master Chief Petty Officer Jason Vanderhaden, told Coastguardsmen that they “stand in awe of your continued dedication to duty and resilience and that of your families.” He called it “unacceptable” that the partial shutdown has led many Coast Guard members to “rely on food pantries and donations to get through day-to-day life as service members.”

Adm. Thad Allen, who headed up the Coast Guard from 2006 to 2010, also had strong words about the shutdown last week calling it “insulting” and “disgraceful.” He said, “the Coast Guard is the maritime equivalent of FAA. So, vessel inspections, licensing new mariners, things that are basic safety for the transportation system and commerce of this country, are going to slowly be eroded due to lack of resources and personnel. This is going to have far-reaching economic impacts.”

LABOR ACTION YIELDS AGREEMENT FOR L.A. TEACHERS

34,000 union members of United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) are back at work after a six-day strike that brought light to untenable classroom conditions. The L.A. Unified School District reached a new contract with UTLA providing a 6% salary increase for educators while reducing class sizes, and adding a significant number of librarians, counselors and nurses.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said, “Public education is the ultimate labor-management collaborative and we are committed to working together to make sure every student gets a great education...Forty years of underinvestment in public education cannot be solved in just one week or with just one contract.”

American Federation of School Administrators President Ernest Logan said, “The teachers’ strike and the resulting agreement clearly show the power that a united union can have for the people they represent and the students and families they serve...We are proud that a strong and united union played the key role in forging a new day for public education. And we look forward to working with our colleagues in Los Angeles and throughout the country to continue the fight for public education nationwide.”

The Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) will likely be the next to walk the line after 93% of its members authorized a strike following over a year of failed negotiations. 5,700 Denver teachers and special service providers are subject to an inferior compensation system that has resulted in record turnover. At press time, the State of Colorado was pondering whether to intervene in the dispute which could postpone the planned walk-out.

AFL-CIO LAUNCHES #StopTheShutdown DIGITAL CAMPAIGN

With 800,000 federal workers and countless contractors bracing for a second missed paycheck this week, the AFL-CIO has launched a #StopTheShutdown digital ad campaign blanketing 10 targeted states. Running in Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah, the ads are mobilizing thousands of working people to call their senators and demand that they reopen the government. The campaign identifies Sens. Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), Bill Cassidy (La.), Susan Collins (Maine), Cory Gardner (Colo.), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Johnny Isakson (Ga.), Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Rob Portman (Ohio), Mitt Romney (Utah) and Dan Sullivan (Alaska) as figures who could be key to ending this “manufactured” crisis. It also highlights Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who they say has refused to secure an end to the shutdown, “instead deploying political gamesmanship in place of real solutions.”

“Working people across the country are mobilizing in the streets and in the halls of Congress to bring this pointless shutdown to an end,” said AFL-CIO Communications Director Josh Goldstein. “We won’t stand by while 800,000 of our brothers and sisters are left out in the cold. Every day President Trump and Congress refuse to do their jobs, our voices will only grow louder.”

COMMITTEE CHAIRS TAPPED

The November election resulted in a Congress that looks far different than it ever has. As you know, Democrats took over the House, and both political parties changed in significant ways that will likely affect the way business is done in Washington. As the Majority, Democrats will have control over those Committees affecting maritime policy. Chairman Adam Smith (D-WA) and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-TX) will head up the House Armed Services Committee which notably has jurisdiction over the Maritime Security Program, as well as any "new build" and recapitalization issues impacting the maritime schools' training ships. Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-MO) lead the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) which has jurisdiction over the majority of issues important to the U.S.-flag industry, including the Coast Guard, the Jones Act and MarAd. Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) chairs the House Appropriations Committee along with her Republican counterpart Kay Granger (R-TX). The Committee oversees MSP funding. Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MI) and Ranking Member Mike Rogers (R-AL) head up the House Homeland Security Committee which has jurisdiction over ports under the Marine Transportation Security Act and other maritime security issues.

We are still awaiting the announcement of House Subcommittee leadership appointments including Chairs for the Armed Services Committee's Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee (expected to be Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.)) and T&I's Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation Subcommittee.

In the Senate, Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) will oversee the Senate Appropriations Committee. Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MI) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) have the reigns of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Importantly, a new

Subcommittee has been established under the Committee that will have jurisdiction over many of our issues. The Security Subcommittee will provide oversight of the Merchant Marine, Maritime Administration, Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration and other national security issues including cybersecurity. It will be headed up by Chairman Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Ranking Member Ed Markey (D-MA).

LAST WEEK TO APPLY FOR UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIPS

M.E.B.A. families have until January 31, 2019 to apply for college education assistance money through Union Plus. M.E.B.A. members, retirees and their families - as well as members of affiliated M.E.B.A. unions - are eligible courtesy of the Union's enrollment in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to financing children's educations. Visit <http://unionplus.deals/scholar19>

Families of M.E.B.A. members or affiliated members have been scholarship money recipients several times in the last few years. 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 Thursday, January 31, 2019, at noon (EST). Those arriving after the deadline will not be considered. The award date is May 31, 2019. During the first week of June 2019, award recipients will be notified by postal mail, and all applicants will be sent email notification. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. The required essays can account for up to half your total score. Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators. Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2019. Students may re-apply each year. Get the official application and all the details including eligibility criteria by visiting www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships. Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$4.3 million to students of union families. Over 2,900 union families have benefited from our commitment to higher education.

CLEVELAND HALL WILL HOST FEB. 8 INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Members in the Cleveland area should plan on attending the February 8th informational membership meeting at the hall. Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan will be in town and will chair. Previous meetings in Cleveland have drawn good numbers and produced lively and productive discussion. The Friday, Feb. 8 meeting will kick off at 12:30 on that day so plan to attend if possible. The Cleveland, OH hall is at 1322 Old River Rd.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Monday, February 4 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**

Tuesday, February 5 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**

Wednesday, February 6 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

Thursday, February 7 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

Friday, February 8 – **Honolulu@1100.**

Informational Meeting in Cleveland – Friday, February 8@1230.

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