

# 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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### **CMES ADDS NEW SHORE POWER COURSE TO 2018 SCHEDULE**

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School is introducing a newly developed Shore Power course and has added two one-week installments of the class set for March and April. Shore-Power Metering Management & Power Quality is a one-week course for individuals at the technical-management level who have responsibilities for one or more aspects of purchasing or receiving electric power from a shore-side facility. These include: contracting, installation, repair, operation, maintenance, technical supervision, training, or financial oversight. 12-person classes have been scheduled for March 26-30, 2018 and for April 9-13, 2018.

The course is strongly technical in nature and covers: 3-phase power systems at the LV and MV levels; US Navy and commercial standard connector arrangements; protective relaying concepts; instrument transformers; grounding; traditional & modern revenue-grade metering; and modern industry billing and revenue practices. Low and high-side injection, phasors, DLRO, insulation resistance, IR surveys, and other specialized equipment and tools are demonstrated. The SPM course also includes marine-related topics of accelerated corrosion from hull currents caused by power system interactions; and the basics of Power Quality (PQ) to include the measurement and effects of harmonics and other abnormalities in power system voltages and load currents. A field exercise utilizing the School's 1 MVA transformer is part of the syllabus. A pre-course student guide, evaluation exercise, and answer key can be found on the School's website ([mebaschool.org](http://mebaschool.org)). It is HIGHLY recommended that anyone considering attending this course review the study guide and take the evaluation exercise prior to applying for this class.

Applications may be sent via the CMES website, fax (410) 822-7220, or emailed to [applications@mebaschool.org](mailto:applications@mebaschool.org)

### **DISPATCHER SOUGHT FOR NY/NJ OFFICE**

Resumes are being sought for the Dispatcher position at M.E.B.A.'s New York/New Jersey Union hall located on Edward Hart Drive in Jersey City, NJ. The job entails an 8-hour workday, five days a week in a great work environment and includes excellent benefits. Job applicants should be very organized, quick learners and have strong clerical and interactive skills. The primary duties are dispatching shipping jobs and coordinating necessary paperwork within the parameters of the Union shipping rules and contracts, etc. for members of the Union.

Other duties include answering phones and providing clerical support, communicating with shipping companies by phone and email, registering and interacting with members, ensuring integrity of shipping documents, job calls, collecting dues, running reports, inventory equipment & supplies, and generally assisting job needs of members.

Interested candidates should submit resumes to Jason Callahan at [jcallahan@mebaunion.org](mailto:jcallahan@mebaunion.org). Additional information can be sought by calling the M.E.B.A. NY/NJ Union hall at (201) 433-7700.

## **BI-PARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM SOLVERS ISSUE INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Problem Solvers Caucus, a bi-partisan 48-person coalition of Congressional Members, has issued a report outlining concepts that could serve as the foundation for a new infrastructure plan. The report identifies policy options to improve the nation's highways, roads and bridges, transit and railways, ports and airports, water and sewer systems, energy systems and the power grid, and broadband and communications networks.

Regarding seaports, among other things, the paper notes that insufficient dredging in this country has forced the diversion of many ships to Canadian and Mexican ports. The Coalition's plan would remedy this by applying 100% of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to support port and harbor dredging activities.

It was announced that the President will soon present a \$1.7 trillion infrastructure package which will be previewed during next week's State of the Union address. It is unclear if elements of the Coalition's plan will be incorporated into that package. The Problem Solvers report can be viewed at [https://reed.house.gov/uploadedfiles/psc\\_infrastructure\\_report.pdf](https://reed.house.gov/uploadedfiles/psc_infrastructure_report.pdf)

## **MARAD UPDATES AT-SEA CRIME ADVISORIES**

The Maritime Administration has issued a series of advisories updating the threat of hostile action at sea in specific shipping lanes around the globe. Notices were issued concerning the possibility of piracy, armed robbery and terrorism in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and Gulf of Oman. Another advisory was issued for the Sulu and Celebes Seas and another addressed the Gulf of Guinea. The conflict in Yemen, which continues to pose a risk to vessels in the southern Red Sea, Bab al Mandeb and Gulf of Aden, prompted another advisory. Combat operations continue between the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition. Since 2016, Houthi forces have attacked coalition navy and logistics vessels and attempted to attack U.S. Navy ships operating in the southern Red Sea. As combat operations continue, the potential exists that attacks by Houthi forces may pose a direct or collateral risk to U.S. flagged commercial vessels operating in the region. It was recommended that U.S. flagged commercial vessels avoid entering or loitering near Yemen's Red Sea ports. Vessels at anchor, operating in restricted maneuvering environments, or proceeding at slow speeds should be especially vigilant. U.S. flagged commercial vessels transiting the region were advised to conduct a pre-voyage risk assessment and incorporate appropriate protective measures into their vessel security plans.

In 2017, there were at least 15 reported boardings, attacks, or kidnappings in the Sulu and Celebes Seas. All five kidnapping incidents were reportedly linked to the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), a violent Islamic separatist group operating in the southern Philippines.

Almost 100 reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea occurred in the Gulf of Guinea region in 2017, especially around the Niger Delta. Kidnappings for ransom, attacks, and boardings to steal valuables from the ships and crews are the most common types of incidents.

Specific case details are available at the Office of Naval Intelligence's "Worldwide Threat to Shipping" and "Piracy Analysis and Warnings" website at [www.oni.navy.mil/intelligence-community/piracy](http://www.oni.navy.mil/intelligence-community/piracy). For any questions about the advisories, contact [MARADSecurity@dot.gov](mailto:MARADSecurity@dot.gov).

### **NMC POSITIONS PERFECT FOR M.E.B.A. RETIREES WITH ENGINE/DECK BACKGROUNDS**

The National Maritime Center has a permanent position available in Martinsburg, WV, for someone with a shipboard engineer officer background. They are seeking someone to serve as a subject matter expert for the development and revision of engine officer and rating examinations. Additional information including specific qualifications and application instructions can be found on the USA Jobs website ([www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)), under announcement numbers 18-1010-SE-BK-D and 18-1010-SE-BK-M.

In addition, the NMC has a permanent position available in Martinsburg, WV, for someone with a shipboard deck officer background. They will assist with the evaluation and approval of training courses and programs, qualified assessors, designated examiners, and instructors. Additional information, including specific qualifications and application instructions, can be found on the USA Jobs website under announcement numbers 17-2094-SE-WS-D and 17-2094-SE-WS-M.

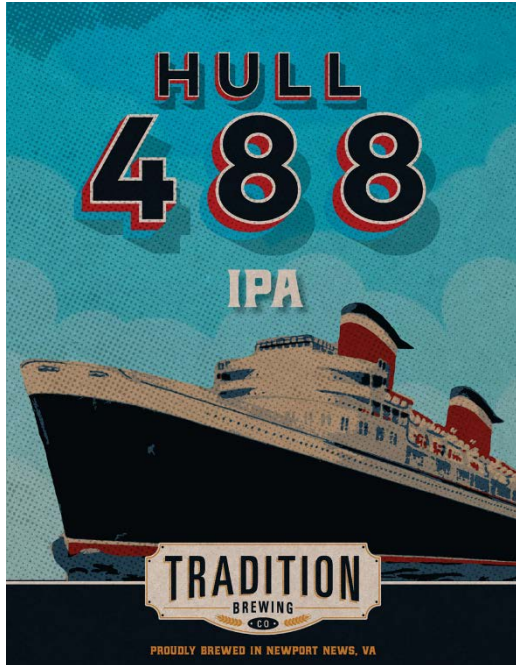
### **NMC APPROVAL TO TEST & GRANDFATHERING**

The National Maritime Center (NMC) has received questions from mariners regarding how to determine, from their Approved to Test letter, whether they will be testing under the previous or current regulations. In January 2014, the Coast Guard issued Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 02-14 to provide guidance regarding the transition from previous to current mariner credentialing regulations, which went into effect on March 24, 2014. Enclosure (1) of the NVIC provides information regarding whether an applicant will examine under the previous or current regulation.

If the examination code on the Approved to Test Letter is preceded by a Q, the examination module is based on the current regulation. If the examination code is not preceded by a Q, the examination module is based on the previous regulation. All Rules of the Road examination modules will be preceded by a Q, regardless of which regulation the applicant was evaluated under. The module codes are found in the Deck and Engineering Guide for the Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations on the NMC website at [www.uscg.mil/nmc](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc)

### **NEW BREW HONORS "BIG U"**

A Newport News, Virginia-based brewery has launched an Indian Pale Ale honoring one of the nation's most famous ocean liners. Tradition Brewing Company now offers "Hull 488," (6.5% alcohol content), a beer honoring the SS UNITED STATES, the luxury liner constructed in Newport News in 1950-51. M.E.B.A. officers filled both engine rooms of the great ship during the Big U's heyday in the 1950s and '60s.



On her maiden voyage she broke the transatlantic speed record by sailing from New York Harbor to Bishop Rock off Cornwall, UK in 3 days, 10 hours and 40 minutes. On the return voyage she broke the westbound crossing earning the Blue Riband. In 1990, the vessel lost the speed record but still holds the Blue Riband since no passenger ship has beaten her crossing time. The liner transported four U.S. presidents (Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Clinton), numerous foreign heads of state, multiple business, military, and diplomatic leaders, Hollywood celebrities, and everyday American citizens. It also carried thousands of immigrants to the United States.

Tradition called the new beer, “A brew known to withstand long journeys at sea,” and said that it was made “with generous infusions of Nugget, Citra, and Mosaic hops and offering notes of citrus fruits with a smooth, velvet finish.”

10% of proceeds from canned sales are donated to the SS United States Conservancy which is committed to ongoing efforts to preserve and restore the great ship. You can check out the Tradition website (<http://traditionbrewing.com>) to find out where to sample their wares or email them at [info@traditionbrewing.com](mailto:info@traditionbrewing.com).

### **HONORING OUR HERITAGE - 4MF RAFFLE COMING UP**

Last year, a District-wide raffle and fundraiser brought much needed support to the Good & Welfare Fund, a terrific cause that aids members, applicants and retirees in their time of need. This year, the plan is to give a boost to the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) which supports the Memorial located at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES). The Memorial honors fallen mariners who helped blaze the proud tradition our members continue today.

Plans are being shored up for a raffle, beginning as early as next month, that will benefit the 4MF. The winning ticket 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. Raffle money will fuel the Foundation and aid continued upkeep and improvements of the Memorial Park.

### **LAST CHANCE FOR UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIPS THIS YEAR**

M.E.B.A. members, retirees and their families only have until the end of January to apply for college education assistance money through Union Plus. In 2017, 106 union members and union family members were awarded \$150,000 in Union Plus Scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the fall of 2017. Applications, including essays and a reference letter, must be submitted by January 31 at 12 noon EST. Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded over \$4.2 million to students of union families. M.E.B.A.'s connection with Union Plus nets our members a range of benefits and discounts. Union Plus programs, which are available to M.E.B.A. members, retirees and our affiliates, provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services.

The Union is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to financing children's educations. Our members have been scholarship recipients quite a few times since the program began. 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. 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.

A complete application must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on January 31, 2018. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2018. Students may re-apply each year. Visit [www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships](http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships) to get all the details including eligibility criteria and to secure the official application.

### **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)*