

# 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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*In this issue//Credentials Committee Formalizes Nominees for M.E.B.A. 2024 Election//M.E.B.A. Election Rules in Effect//LNG-Related Training Opportunity in LA-LB//APL PRESIDENT REAGAN Joins Fleet//Union-Made Low-Carb Diet//Unions Power America Contest & Sweepstakes//CMES Openings for August PLC, MSC CONMAR Courses//Members Urged to Keep Current//*

## **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE COMPLETES QUALIFICATION REVIEW OF NOMINEES FOR M.E.B.A. OFFICES & JOBS – VOKAC UNOPPOSED**

A rank-and-file Credentials Committee completed a busy day of work on Tuesday at M.E.B.A. Headquarters as they qualified candidates for M.E.B.A.'s 2024 District election taking place later this year. The Committee was comprised of four rank-and-file members elected at the July membership meetings. They included Chairman Tony Dell'Aquila (Tampa), Chris Ferraro (NY/NJ), Alison Williams (Oakland/L.A.) and Bryan Higgins (Norfolk). Many thanks for their diligent work.

Congratulations to M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac who is running unopposed for re-election. Vokac has ably served the M.E.B.A. as President since January 2021 and has been with the Union since 2000 when he graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

In addition, current Secretary-Treasurer Roland "Rex" Rexha is the sole candidate qualified by the Credentials Committee to run for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Nominees for the Position of Branch Agent of New York (Atlantic Coast V.P.) are Jason Callahan and Michael Donlon. Running unopposed for Houston Branch Agent (Gulf Coast V.P.) is Adam Smith.

Found qualified to stand for election as Executive Vice President/Branch Agent of San Francisco (Oakland) are Max Alper and James Donaghue.

Certified to run for the Los Angeles Branch Agent position are Mitch Boyd, Eric Brandt, Julianne Cona and Salvatore "Torey" Zingales. The race for Norfolk Branch Agent is between Darin L. Huggins and Craig Moran. Found qualified for the office of Seattle Branch Agent for the four-year term beginning in January 2025 are Kevin M. Cross and Eric Winge. Nicole Greenway is the sole candidate for the Tampa Branch Agent position. Kenny Smith is the lone candidate for the position of Patrolman in the Port of NY/NJ. The only candidate for Patrolman in the Port of San Francisco (Oakland) is Chris Coombs. For Patrolman in the Port of Los Angeles, the candidates are Conor Golden and Jacob LeBeouf. The position of Seattle Patrolman will be vacant and will be subject to a DEC appointment early next year. The candidates prevailing in the M.E.B.A. District election will assume their positions on January 1, 2025.

The winning candidates for each of the five District Executive Committee positions (President, Secretary-Treasurer, Atlantic Coast V.P., Gulf Coast V.P. and Executive V.P.) along with the Branch Agents in L.A., Norfolk, Seattle and Tampa in the 2024 election, by virtue of their office, will comprise 9 of the 20 Delegates to the National M.E.B.A. Convention that will take place on March 18, 2025. 16 members submitted nominations to fill the 11 additional Delegate positions in the New Year. The candidates for the final 11 National Delegate positions are Doug Berdel, Raymond Collector, Mark Stewart Collins, Chris Coombs, Terence Cooper, April Fleischer, Mark S. Gallagher, Conor Golden, William Hardinge, Jacob LaBeouf, Joseph LaMonica, Jack S. Menendez, Christopher Nardone, Isaac Seidman, Kenny Smith and Rob Sundius III.

Overall, two members who submitted nomination paperwork did not meet eligibility requirements at the time of nomination and were disqualified, as required by M.E.B.A. governing documents. Both of those candidates failed to demonstrate they possessed the sufficient employment time required by the M.E.B.A. Constitution, and additionally, one of the candidates was found to be in dues arrears. Those candidates can only appeal at the August membership meetings limited to the assertion that the Credentials Committee got the facts wrong about their nominations or misunderstood the qualifications for office as outlined in the National Constitution or By-Laws.

The Credentials Committee report, in its entirety, was sent to all M.E.B.A. halls and offices earlier today. During the regular August membership meetings it will be read and incorporated into the minutes and posted on the bulletin board in each hall.

The report will also be included in a special election edition of the *Marine Officer*, which will be mailed out to members, applicants and retirees in late August. That issue will also contain statements of the candidates as well as other key information relevant to the election. Ballots will be mailed to the membership on September 3 and they should be returned to the depository by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Ballots not received in the depository when they are collected on December 2, 2024, according to the By-Laws, will be disqualified and not counted. The Impartial Administrator and an elected tallying committee will collect the ballots and tabulate them on that day.

### **ELECTION “BLACK-OUT” RULES NOW IN EFFECT**

With the onset of the election, the *Telex Times* will adhere to M.E.B.A. election season rules. From this point on, until the tabulation of ballots from the officers’ election on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the newsletter will refer to candidates for M.E.B.A. office only by position, if applicable, and not by name. This policy exceeds regulations stipulated by Section 401(g) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (“Landrum-Griffin”), 29 U.S.C. 481(g). The election season rule is unnecessary to apply to candidates who are running unopposed.

### **LNG-RELATED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN LA/LB AUGUST 19-23**

Matson is contracting with IECEx to conduct USCG/IMO IECEx training for LNG Vessel Maintenance and Performance training at the Courtyard Downtown Marriott in Long Beach.

The initial scope of the IMO/USCG IECEx requirement is that “any personnel [on LNG vessels] that should carry out inspections and maintenance of electrical installations in explosion hazardous spaces should be qualified pursuant to IEC 60079-17, item 4.2., as described in the CG-ENG Policy Letter No.01-12, CH-1.” For M.E.B.A., this would include Chief Engineers and 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Engineers. A total of 15 seats are available on a first-come first-served basis to interested M.E.B.A.

1AEs and CEs who already have the Advanced IGF (LNG) code operations endorsement in their MMC.

Eligible interested candidates should email LA Branch Agent Rich Doherty [rdoherty@mebaunion.org](mailto:rdoherty@mebaunion.org) by 1600 PDT August 6, 2024. Include the following information in the email: phone number, copy of MMC showing CE or 1AE license and advanced IGF (LNG) code operations endorsement, copy of passport or driver's license (front and back).

The class will meet 0800-1700 daily. Class tuition, box lunches, and refreshments will be provided. Travel and housing expenses will not be covered.

We'll continue to update the membership when further LNG training becomes available.

### **APL PRESIDENT REAGAN JOINS FLEET**

M.E.B.A.-contracted company American President Lines recently welcomed the newbuild PRESIDENT REAGAN, part of the ongoing rejuvenation of the company's U.S.-flag fleet. This is the third of up to seven new ships (following the PRESIDENT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS and PRESIDENT GRANT) that APL is bringing into its fleet to replace older vessels. The ships are part of a massive 22 ship order APL parent CMA CGM placed with China Shipbuilding Corporation with most of the vessels bound for the company's international fleet.

The REAGAN was flagged into the Stars and Stripes two weeks ago in Los Angeles. M.E.B.A.'s L.A. Branch Agent Rich Doherty was in attendance and visited the ship. M.E.B.A. Engine Officers on the REAGAN include C/E Joe Lacey, 1st A/E Elliott James, 2nd A/E Lawrence Holbert and 3rd A/E Ryan Carden.

Over the approaching months, the APL fleet will welcome the PRESIDENT GEORGE HW BUSH, PRESIDENT MONROE and PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

The newbuild sisterships are 837-foot 5,598 TEU, 59,052 gross tonnage vessels that can carry 72,963 deadweight tons. The GRANT is propelled by a powerful Winterthur Gas & Diesel (WinGD) 7X82-2.0-HPSCR, LLT, Tier III main engine, delivering 23,500 kW x 70.5 rpm, and achieves a service speed of 21 knots. It features a 5-blade right-handed, fixed-pitch propeller with a diameter of 8900 mm.

M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFOW mariners will continue to crew the replacement ships under the existing agreement with APL.

### **UNION-MADE LOW-CARB DIET**

One of the most popular and effective ways to lose weight and get healthier is the low carb diet. Because it reduces consumption of high calorie carb-heavy foods like sweets, breads, and sugary drinks, the pounds are often shed quickly. Labor411 put together a list of union-made low carb foods so that you can diet while supporting good union jobs:

**Union Meats** - Always Tender Pork (UFCW, IBT); Appleton (UFCW); Berks Brand (UFCW); Black Forest (UFCW); Boar's Head (UFCW, IBT); Butterball (UFCW, IBT); Cook's (UFCW); Empire Kosher (UFCW); Farmland Bacon and Ham (UFCW); Foster Farms (UFCW); Hillshire

Farm (UFCW, IBT); Hoffman's (UFCW); Honest John (UFCW); Hormel (UFCW, IBT); Kunzler (UFCW); Nature Raised Farms (UFCW); Palisades Ranch (UFCW); Pepe's Pork rinds (IBT); Rogers Poultry (UFCW); Smithfield (UFCW, IBT); Star Ranch Angus (UFCW); Thumann's (UFCW); Tyson (UFCW); Valley Fresh Chicken (UFCW, IBT); Valleydale Bacon (UFCW, IBT); Zwiegle's Meats (UFCW). **Union Vegetables** - Andy Boy (UFW); Birds Eye Vegetables (UFCW, IBT); Fresh Express Salads (IBT); Healthy Choices (UFCW); Monterey Mushrooms (UFW, IBT); Overhill Farms (UFCW); Sunripe Brands Tomatoes (UFW, IBT). **Union Grocery Stores (vary by location)** - Albertsons (UFCW); Giant Eagle (UFCW); Kroger's (UFCW); Ralph's (UFCW); Shoprite (UFCW); Trader Joe's (UFCW); Tops (UFCW).

To view more union-made products, visit the online directory at <https://labor411.org/listing-region/consumer-products>

### **UNIONS POWER AMERICA – CONTEST & SWEEPSTAKES**

Union Plus recently launched its fourth annual “Unions Power America” contest in which they will be awarding over \$140,000 in cash prizes to union members in which the grand prize is \$50,000 and a trip to Spain. \$20,000 will be awarded as “First Prize,” \$10,000 for Second and thirty Third Place winners will receive \$2,000 apiece. The Contest runs until July 30. Union members enter the contest by sharing a story about how they, or a member they admire, are powering America in their community, at work or at home. You can enter at [unionplus.org/laborday](http://unionplus.org/laborday)

Union members can also enter the “Unions Power America” Sweepstakes for a chance to win various prizes and can earn bonus entries by completing additional activities. The Sweepstakes takes place from July 31-August 21. The Grand Prize is \$50,000 and a four-night stay at Casa de Campo Resort & Villas in the Dominican Republic. Two First Prize winners will receive \$5,000 each and 30 people will receive \$1,000 each. Winners will be announced on Labor Day, September 2<sup>nd</sup> in which there will be additional live event prizes handed out.

Union Plus programs, which are available to M.E.B.A. members, applicants, retirees and our affiliates, provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services. The M.E.B.A. is enrolled in dozens of moneysaving U.P. programs ranging from life insurance to auto services discounts.

### **SPACE AVAILABLE FOR TWO CMES COURSES IN AUGUST**

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School announced that it has additional roster space available in the August 5-9 installment of its Programmable Logic Controllers course.

In addition, the School has opening in its MSC CONMAR course scheduled from August 5-16.

Applications can be sent via the CMES website ([www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org)), by fax (410) 822-7220, or by email to [applications@mebaschool.org](mailto:applications@mebaschool.org)

### **MEMBERS URGED TO KEEP CURRENT**

Members are strongly urged to ensure their dues status is secured through the end of the year to guarantee their participation in important Union business, including this year's officers' election. Only members in good standing are permitted a voice at the monthly membership meetings. The By-Laws state that no member shall be entitled to any benefits of the Union or be considered in good standing unless his or her dues are paid in full for the current calendar quarter or paid in

accordance with the dues check-off (DCO) system. In addition, when members who pay by DCO take vacation or (in the case of the Government fleet) Leave without Pay (LWOP), there are lapses in payroll where dues aren't automatically submitted.

M.E.B.A.'s online Member Payment and Update Portal (PUP) allows the membership the ease of making online monetary transactions and gives them the opportunity to verify their credentials and contact information on file, as well as submitted sea time. Members and applicants can use the Member PUP to pay their dues or service charges by credit card, debit card or through their checking account. They can also set up a recurring payment schedule to automatically keep them current. The site also allows users to view their transaction history online in a secure manner.

Visit [www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org) where you can click on the Member PUP banner to get started. In addition, the PUP allows members, applicants and retirees to make contributions to the M.E.B.A.'s Good & Welfare and Political Action Funds that support so many members. Contributions to the Good & Welfare Fund are tax deductible. This fund has provided essential assistance to members and retirees in their time of need. The PAF keeps M.E.B.A. jobs afloat by affording us a crucial lifeline to policymakers who help determine the fate of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

You'll find the online Portal to be the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing and extend a needed monetary infusion to vital Union programs.

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

Monday, August 5 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, August 6 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, August 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)

Thursday, August 8 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, August 9 – 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. The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School can be contacted at (410) 822-9600 or [www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org). M.E.B.A. Plans is at (410) 547-9111 or [www.mebaplans.org](http://www.mebaplans.org)*