

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*



## M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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### **MSP GETS YOUNGER AS APL WINDS DOWN SWAP-IN FOR AGING C-11s**

American President Lines is in the final stages of swapping out five C-11s with newer vessels that will bring down the overall age of the Maritime Security Program fleet. M.E.B.A. members are prowling the deckplates of the five newer replacement vessels APL brought in from the international CMA CGM fleet. The five C-11s were hitting dry cargo age restrictions (25 years) under MSP requirements. The newer ships range between 3 and 12 ½ years old and assume each of the MSP operating agreements held by the C-11s.

The five vessels were brought in on a staggered schedule with the 7500 TEU-PRESIDENT KENNEDY (ex-CMA CGM NARMADA) the first of the five to flag-in as it entered the fleet replacing the APL PHILIPPINES. The PRESIDENT EISENHOWER (ex-CMA CGM INDUS), the KENNEDY's sister ship, took over for the APL CHINA. The EISENHOWER and the KENNEDY were each built in 2005. The 6600-TEU PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (ex-APL HAWAII), built in 2005, entered the U.S.-flag fleet in place of the APL SINGAPORE. Earlier today, the PRESIDENT CLEVELAND (ex-HS PARIS) flagged-in to the U.S. registry as the APL KOREA gets ready to operate under a foreign-flag. The CLEVELAND (6552 TEUs) was constructed in 2012. The fifth replacement vessel is due to enter the U.S.-flag fleet in a matter of days. An M.E.B.A. crew is already onboard the PRESIDENT TRUMAN (ex-HS ROME). The 6552 TEU vessel is the newest of the five ships and was built in 2014.

The replacement vessels are covered by all terms and conditions of our contract with APL and continue to be crewed by five unions - M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFU - with no loss of billets. Jobs on the new vessels began with 90 day rotaries (excluding permanents). Senior engineers rode the foreign ships prior to turnover.

### **LABOR RALLIES IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL WORKERS IN DETROIT & D.C.**

At coordinated rallies in Detroit and Washington D.C. yesterday, Government workers, unions and outraged citizens voiced their indignation with recent attacks on working men and women. The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) hosted both rallies to bring attention – and voice displeasure – in this administration's anti-worker posture manifested by a series of Executive Orders designed to weaken labor unions. In addition, they protested against the recent "Janus" Supreme Court ruling effectively implementing a right-to-work regime for state and local government workers.

The late May Executive Orders compromise workplace rights of federal employees in several areas. One Order waters down grievance procedures and eases the way for agencies to fire workers instead of disciplinary measures. Another Order targets collective bargaining agreements to better assist the Government against unions negotiating contracts. A Third Order curtails “official time” which allows labor unions to represent union and non-union bargaining unit members in disciplinary actions and other matters. AFGE said these Orders are "removing checks and balances in the federal civil service and opening employees up to retaliation, discrimination and unjust termination."

A later Order politicizes the hiring of Administrative Law Judges blurring the lines of impartiality for decision-makers adjudicating claims or disputes in federal agency hearings. Regarding the ALJ E.O., Congressman Richard Neal said, “allowing the appointment of judges who are big campaign donors, beholden to industry, or otherwise unqualified will result in unfair, biased rulings that harm ordinary Americans.”

In Detroit, rally attendees gathered outside the McNamara Federal Building clad in red to show support for Government workers. M.E.B.A. was represented at the AFGE rally in Washington D.C. that took place at John Marshall Park next to Judiciary Square, the heart of the court system downtown. The rallies were timed with the start of a court action challenging the constitutionality of the anti-union executive orders. Oral arguments were heard yesterday at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Federal workers attending both rallies were encouraged to participate only if they were on their lunch breaks or on approved leave.

At the D.C. rally, labor leaders including top AFL-CIO officials fired up the crowd and a handful of House and Senate lawmakers stopped by to voice their support for federal workers and protest the administration’s executive orders. AFGE characterized the E.O.s as “thinly veiled attempts at busting unions and rolling back workplace rights across the country.”

### **PLAN TO FREEZE GOVT. WORKER PAY WOULD AFFECT CIVMARS**

A Trump-backed plan to freeze Government worker salaries has been embraced by House lawmakers in a Fiscal Year 2019 spending bill, but is being challenged in the Senate. President Trump’s FY 2019 budget proposal called for a pay freeze for federal civilian employees next year. House appropriators pushed a spending bill through mirroring that proposal. As currently crafted, the freeze would also affect Government fleet civilian mariners.

But Senators have different ideas and their version calls for a 1.9% federal civilian employee pay increase for 2019. The spending bill is still winding its way through the Senate. National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association President Richard Thissen noted that, "A pay freeze demonstrates disdain for public service and diminishes the value of the dedicated work that federal employees perform on behalf of the American people."

### **HANDFUL OF GOP CONGRESSMEN SIGNAL OPPOSITION TO JANUS DECISION WITH PRO-LABOR BILL**

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s Janus decision and the introduction of a Democrat-only response bill, a handful of Republican Congressmen have introduced their own legislation calling for the protection of public employee rights to join unions and engage in collective bargaining. The Supreme Court’s ruling in *Janus v. the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)* overturns its 1977 decision in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* which allowed public-sector unions to

collect fair-share fees from workers who have not joined the union yet benefit from the union's contract and other services.

On the day of the Court's ruling, Rep. Matt Cartwright introduced a Democrat-only response bill (H.R. 6328), along with 25 of his colleagues. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate by Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley (S. 3151) with over 30 Democrat co-sponsors. The bills, termed "The Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act" would ensure public sector employees across the country have the legal right to form and join a union and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing over wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. Public employers would also be required to recognize their employees' union and to commit to any agreements in a written contract.

However, there are some Republicans in Congress willing to speak out in opposition to the continued incursions against working families. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced a Republican-only version of the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act (H.R. 6445) joined by Reps. Dan Donovan (R-NY), Dave Joyce (R-OH), David McKinley (R-WV) and Chris Smith (R-NJ). The bills continue to be shopped around to other lawmakers in a bid to pick up additional co-sponsors. Realistically, it is unlikely that any of the three bills will move forward in this session of Congress.

#### **SPEARHEAD DEPLOYED AGAIN**

Members on the versatile Military Sealift Command high-speed ferry USNS SPEARHEAD have deployed on yet-another high-profile mission, the norm for the expeditionary fast transport (EPF) vessel. The EPF is taking part in the ongoing "Southern Partnership Station (SPS) 2018" mission that continues to October 2018. SPS is an annual series of U.S. Navy deployments focused on exchanges with regional partner nation militaries and security forces. This year's deployment will visit Panama, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, and Trinidad and Tobago to work alongside those nations' military forces, security forces, civilian health professionals, and other governmental agencies.

The deployment will focus on enhancing cooperative partnerships with regional maritime services and improving operational readiness for all participants. Crews of the Military Sealift Command EPF fleet are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

#### **ISSUANCE OF MORE SECURE TWICs**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has already begun issuing new, more secure Transportation Worker Identification Credentials (TWIC). A series of overt design features on the face of the card will assist card security and authentication. Current TWIC holders can continue using their cards until expiration, at which point they will be presented with the new card design upon renewal. Regulated entities that require TWIC for access will accept and recognize both the current and new TWIC designs until the card's expiration.

The new card design is compatible with qualified TWIC readers. To deter alteration of the card's expiration date, the new card includes a color-coded expiration date box that will update on an annual basis. The fee for the newly re-designed TWIC card remains unchanged (\$125.25) and the credential is valid for five years.

#### **NEARLY 1,000 SHIPS WORLDWIDE EQUIPPED WITH SCRUBBERS**

A new survey has revealed that the number of ships worldwide with exhaust gas cleaning systems installed or on order stands at 983 as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems

Association recently announced their survey results and noted that 63% of all ships have either been or will be retrofitted with scrubbers, while 37% are new building installations. 988 of the 1561 individual scrubber towers installed or on order are for open loop scrubbing; confirming it as the most popular exhaust gas cleaning system.

Beginning in 2015, ferries and RO/ROs primarily led the way for the switch to 0.10% sulphur fuel, followed by cruise ships. But according to the survey, bulk carriers are the ship type that are now most frequently adopting exhaust gas cleaning, with container ships and tankers second and third on the list.

### **SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans' website – [www.mebaplans.org](http://www.mebaplans.org) (Forms & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or [vacation@mebaplans.org](mailto:vacation@mebaplans.org) for more info.

### **WEST COAST HALLS CLOSED ON MONDAY FOR HARRY BRIDGES BIRTHDAY**

M.E.B.A. halls and offices on the West Coast will be closed on Monday to honor labor giant Harry Bridges. The 117<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth is on Saturday. Bridges' involvement in the crisis on the San Francisco waterfront during the events of Bloody Thursday in 1934 led to vastly improved labor conditions. He helped establish the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) in 1937 and led the union for over 40 years. Harry Bridges was born in Australia and the Government spent almost twenty years trying to send him back there following his battles on behalf of working men and women. He died in 1990.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS**

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

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

Wednesday, August 8 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

Thursday, August 9 – **L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

Friday, August 10 – **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)*