

# 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 30 – July 27, 2023



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## **MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR VISITS CMES; ADDRESSES CADET INTERNS**

Maritime Administrator Rear Admiral Ann Phillips spent her day at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School yesterday in a visit that coincided with the Union's Licensed Cadet Internship program.

CMES Director Bryan Jennings, along with M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac, Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha and Norfolk Branch Agent/Government Fleet Rep. Jack Menendez conducted a thorough walk-through of our training facility for the MarAd boss and her team. Along with staffers, the Admiral was accompanied by the agency's Executive Director Jack Kammerer, Maritime Labor and Training officer Matthew Mueller and Dr. Shashi Kumar, MarAd's Deputy Associate Administrator and National Coordinator for Maritime Education and Training.

The contingent was rightfully impressed with the expert instruction and hands-on training available to the membership which has helped solidify the School's reputation as a world-class continuing education organization for maritime officers.

Among other tour stops around campus, the Maritime Administrator visited the Bridge Simulator and ERS labs, Welding & Machine Shops, the Diesel, Refrigeration and Electrical training labs as well as the areas used for STCW Basic Training, Emergency Response and Firefighting.

One of the highlights came toward the end of the MarAd visit when Admiral Phillips addressed the Cadet Interns gathered in the Newberry Auditorium. The young men and women representing maritime academies across the country are winding down the annual three-week Internship program at the School that concludes tomorrow. Among other activities, cadets have taken advantage of a series of CMES training courses including Welding, Diesel, High Voltage Safety, Electrical Systems, and MSC CONMAR that has helped prepare them for prospective shipping jobs. Admiral Phillips strongly urged the cadets to pursue careers at sea noting that great opportunities abound especially given the global need for qualified mariners. While the Administrator was present, cadets enthusiastically detailed how well the instruction they have received at the CMES during the three-week internship has prepared them to apply their skills in a real-world shipping environment.

Following the departure of the MarAd contingent, Brothers Vokac, Rexha and Menendez discussed the Union with cadets and answered their many questions about the excellent career opportunities that the M.E.B.A. can offer these budding young mariners.

### **WINGE WILL CONTINUE AS WSF REP.**

Eric Winge, M.E.B.A.'s Washington State Ferry Representative, will continue in that capacity after the early conclusion of a scheduled nomination and election period. As he was the only candidate nominated for the position, an election became unnecessary. Eric has been a hands-on Representative who has made good progress for the unit while keeping members well-informed. His new four-year term officially begins on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Eric began sailing on the ferries in 2011 and served a two-year stint as Project Manager for the WSF training department before being elected to his first term as M.E.B.A.'s WSF Rep. He formerly sailed for NOAA and is a National Maritime Center (NMC)-approved instructor. Congratulations Eric!

### **MARAD OFFICIALLY KICKSTARTS THE TANKER SECURITY PROGRAM**

The Maritime Administration (MarAd) has officially announced the nine-ship roster for the new Tanker Security Program (TSP). The TSP establishes a fleet of active, commercially viable, militarily useful, privately owned product U.S.-flag tankers that meet national defense and other security requirements. The program is also intended to strengthen the U.S. supply chain and improve the movement of liquid fuel products while creating good-paying jobs. A tenth tanker is expected to be named later.

“Today we are announcing the first ships to join the Tanker Security Program, which will help strengthen both our supply chains and our national security by delivering fuel to our armed forces around the world while creating hundreds of good jobs for American mariners,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

“The TSP accomplishes two key maritime sealift objectives: it grows our U.S.-flagged fleet and it significantly expands our ability to deliver vital fuel supplies to support military missions across the globe,” said Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips. “Implementation of the TSP is a significant milestone for MarAd and the U.S. maritime industry.”

The companies selected for enrollment are Overseas Shipholding Group, Inc. (three tank vessels); Crowley-Stena Marine Solutions, LLC. (three tank vessels); and Seabulk Tankers, Inc. (three tank vessels). OSG's three M.E.B.A.-crewed TSP slots are held by the medium range tankers OVERSEAS SANTORINI, OVERSEAS MYKONOS and OVERSEAS SUN COAST.

All of the companies have signed operating agreements. Of the enrolled vessels, four are under U.S. flag and are now operating in the program, and five are working with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard to expedite reflagging to U.S. registry to begin operating under TSP agreements. Each tank vessel enrolled will receive a maximum \$6 million per year payment, prorated on a monthly basis for qualified service as participants in the program. The vessels will operate in U.S. foreign commerce and be available for use by the United States during times of war or national emergency.

## **TENTATIVE AGREEMENT FOR UPS WORKERS SEEN AS WIN FOR TRANSPORT UNIONS**

In an eleventh-hour deal, UPS has accepted the demands of 340,000 rank-and-file Teamsters' union members on pay and conditions, narrowly avoiding a strike that would have paralyzed their operations across the U.S. with global impact. The tentative agreement raises wages for all workers, creates more full-time jobs, and includes dozens of workplace protections and improvements. The UPS Teamsters National Negotiating Committee unanimously endorsed the five-year tentative agreement. Teamsters' General President Sean M O'Brien told media that the UPS pay deal victory means an additional USD \$30 billion that will land in the pockets of their members.

"This deal is incredibly important for transport workers the world over," said Paddy Crumlin, President of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). "UPS is a huge employer and its acceptance of workers' demands sets the tone for many other pay talks. It's a major victory for the Teamsters in the US, showing what can be achieved when workers stand together and stand firm."

The tentative agreement will be voted on by Teamsters members during August and is expected to be approved. It will create a level playing field for part-time workers, giving them the same pay and conditions as their full-time colleagues. The contract runs until 2028 and will see existing part-time workers receiving a 48 percent average total wage increase over the next five years.

"This is a huge win for UPS Teamsters, but also for transport workers the world over," said Stephen Cotton, General Secretary of the ITF. "Transport workers globally deserve and are demanding respect and recognition, and this win was about much more than pay, it was about respect for transport workers, and for workers who keep our world moving, who keep our supply chains moving, and who work day in, day out despite pandemics and other crises. Massive congratulations to Sean and his leadership team, their victory sets an expectation for transport companies globally."

## **UNIONS POWER AMERICA – SWEEPSTAKES – ENTER NOW!!!!**

Union Plus recently concluded its "Unions Power America" contest but members can still take advantage of the sweepstakes that is awarding over \$236,000 in prizes to union members through August 17<sup>th</sup>. Grand prize winners will receive as much as \$40,000. You can enter at [unionplus.org/laborday](http://unionplus.org/laborday) The Sweepstakes runs from July 27 to August 17. It only takes a moment to enter, but if you complete quick online activities, you'll earn additional entries. They're awarding \$80,000 total in cash prizes. Winners will be announced on Labor Day - September 4.

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. Visit [unionplus.org/laborday](http://unionplus.org/laborday) to access the entry form and for more details.

## **WEST COAST HALLS CLOSED TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF HARRY BRIDGES**

M.E.B.A. halls and offices on the West Coast will be closed tomorrow to honor labor giant Harry Bridges on the 122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of his birthday. Alfred ("Harry") Bridges was born on July 28, 1901 in Kensington, Australia and died March 30, 1990 in San Francisco. He went to sea as a teenager, eventually settling in San Francisco in the early 1920s. By 1930 he was working on the San Francisco waterfront and soon became a leader and voice for Bay area longshoremen. In addition to the

hazard of moving heavy loads and scant Depression-era safety standards, shifts could last in excess of 24 hours, compounding the danger. Hiring took place on the docks each morning where a Hiring Boss chose workers at a “shape-up.” It was an opaque system vulnerable to corruption and abuse.

In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act passed, strengthening American workers’ right to organize, bargain collectively, and protecting them from discrimination of union membership. Empowered by this important New Deal act, Americans were organizing and joining unions – including members of minority groups previously excluded. In May 1934, West Coast longshoremen launched a strike in protest of the shape-up and other issues involving safety, working conditions, and a minimum wage. Adopting the motto “an injury to one is an injury to all” and taking it to heart, Bridges understood that the only way his union brothers and sisters could make progress was through combining efforts with maritime and related unions in the same way that companies often combined efforts to oppose unions. He also realized that when union membership became more inclusive, it would be harder for employers to recruit minorities as strikebreakers as they had in the past. The culmination of the strike would take place in Bridges’ home port.

Along the West Coast, strikers (and bystanders) were arrested, beaten, gassed, and killed. On July 5, 1934 (Bloody Thursday), two picketers were shot and killed in San Francisco. Four days later, 40,000 people filled Market Street for the two men’s funeral procession. San Franciscans, angered by the violence against their working-class neighbors, joined longshore and maritime unions in a “General Strike.” On July 16, bustling San Francisco became eerily silent as over 100,000 Bay Area workers walked out. Business and government leaders took notice.

The San Francisco General Strike ended on July 19, 1934 and the West Coast waterfront strike finished on July 31, when both sides agreed to go to arbitration. The longshoremen’s victory featured a contract establishing shorter hours, better wages – and hiring halls. Hiring would be through halls maintained jointly by the union and companies, with a dispatcher selected by the union. A surge in union organizing and membership soon followed the unionization of all the West Coast ports.

### **CMES ADDS MORE LNG AS A FUEL COURSES**

Due to membership needs, the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School announced that it is adding additional Combined Basic & Advanced IGF Code Operations (LNG as a Fuel) Classes to this year’s schedule.

The additional courses will take place on:

- October 2-5
- October 16-19

Remember these are 4-day courses that run Monday through Thursday. Applications can be sent via the CMES website ([www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org)), faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to [applications@mebaschool.org](mailto:applications@mebaschool.org)

## **ADM. LISA FRANCHETTI TAPPED AS NEXT NAVAL OPS CHIEF**

Four-star Admiral Lisa Franchetti has been nominated as the next Chief of Naval Operations, it was announced this week. If confirmed, she would be the first woman to serve in that position and on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

President Joe Biden noted, “Admiral Lisa Franchetti will bring 38 years of dedicated service to our nation as a commissioned officer, including in her current role of Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Throughout her career, Admiral Franchetti has demonstrated extensive expertise in both the operational and policy arenas.”

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

Monday, August 7 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, August 8 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**

Wednesday, August 9 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, August 10 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

Friday, August 11 – **Honolulu@1100.**

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***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.*