

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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LONGSHORE WORKERS STILL ON THE JOB AS CONTRACT EXPIRES

Nervous retailers and supply chain stakeholders are looking to the White House to help shepherd West Coast waterfront labor talks to fruition and keep harmony on the docks as they ready to stock up for the holiday season. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and employer Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) continue to face off at the bargaining table days after the expiration of their contract.

Labor Secretary Marty Walsh has been monitoring negotiations closely and told the Reuters news outlet that talks are still progressing without major roadblocks. But observers see the union’s resistance to the employers’ demands for more automation as a major obstacle that could potentially stall a timely agreement.

ILWU represents 22,000 dockworkers serving at 29 West Coast ports. The PMA represents shipping lines and terminal operators at those 29 ports.

A joint ILWU/PMA statement insisted that cargo operations would continue and that neither side was girding for a strike or lockout.

More than 150 trade groups penned a letter to the White House last week calling for an immediate extension of the contract that they say would allow stakeholders the assurance of continued stability. “The only way to resolve these issues,” they wrote, “is for the parties to remain at the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith. Extending the current contract would provide additional certainty to all of the supply chain stakeholders that rely on the U.S. West Coast ports. This is even more important as we continue to experience supply chain disruptions and congestion for a variety of reasons.”

But the ILWU and PMA say they are still plugging away at the bargaining table. They jointly stated that “...there will be no contract extension” but “cargo will keep moving, and normal operations will continue at the ports until an agreement can be reached...”

For now, the parties are maintaining radio silence about specific bargaining details but continue to air confidence about eventually reaching agreement. They jointly noted that they “understand the strategic importance of the ports to the local, regional and U.S. economies, and are mindful of the

need to finalize a new coast-wide contract as soon as possible to ensure continuing confidence in the West Coast.”

UNIONS POWER AMERICA – CONTEST & SWEEPSTAKES

Union Plus is launching their second annual “Unions Power America” contest and sweepstakes on July 18, in celebration of Labor Day. They will be awarding over \$100,00 in prizes to union members in the contest that runs through August 29th. The grand prize winner will receive as much as \$25,000.

To enter, share a story about how you, or a fellow M.E.B.A. member, powers America. Winners will be announced on Facebook Live on September 5.

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 <https://unionplus.click/labor22> to access the entry form and for more details.

LIQUEFACTION CONCERNS STRESSED IN LATEST INTERCARGO REPORT

Industry partners could still do more to ensure the safety of crews, says INTERCARGO, after it submitted its latest Bulk Carrier Casualty Report to the International Maritime Organization. The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO), represents dry bulk shipowners covering 2,400 vessels around the world.

Despite high levels of awareness of the dangers of improperly loaded cargo, the report identified that liquefaction continues to be the greatest contributor to loss of life in the bulk sector. In the last ten years, the lives of 70 seafarers were lost as a result of five bulk carrier casualties, four carrying nickel ore and one carrying bauxite.

During this period the report identified a total of 27 bulk carriers over 10,000 dwt as total losses, and 92 crew members lost their lives. Liquefaction accounted for 18.5% of the total vessel casualties in the past ten years yet was the cause of 76.1% of the total loss of life. The report highlighted that not only were International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code requirements not being followed, especially in relation to testing and certification of cargo condition, but that there was also lack of adequate assessment and monitoring of the condition of cargoes being loaded in the cargo holds by representatives of all interests. The report highlighted grounding as the most common reported cause of bulk carrier losses from 2012 to 2021, with 13 casualties, representing 48.1% of total losses. The investigation reports available state that human error both operationally and in navigation contributed to the majority of the 13 casualties.

DEPARTED AFL-CIO’S TRUMKA HONORED WITH MEDAL OF FREEDOM

The White House bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom on 17 honorees including former AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka who died last August. The medal is the Nation’s highest civilian honor and is presented to those who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the U.S., world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavors.

The White House said, “For Rich, his work was synonymous with the word that defined his life: dignity....His work was fierce, always trying to do the right thing for working people....Rich Trumka was the American worker.”

Other honorees included military leader Wilma Vaught, civil rights activist Raúl Yzaguirre, gymnast Simone Biles, actor Denzel Washington and former Congresswoman and gun rights advocate Gabby Giffords. Besides Trumka, other posthumous honorees were Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and Senator John McCain. The list is rounded out by college president Julieta García, Catholic social justice advocate Sister Simone Campbell, Alabama politician and attorney Fred Gray, Greek Orthodox vicar general Father Alexander Karloutsos, soccer hero and gender rights advocate Megan Rapinoe, Gold Star father Khizr Khan, critical care nurse Sandra Lindsay, founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Diane Nash and former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson.

VATICAN PLEADS FOR SEAFARERS’ WELLBEING

Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect for the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, stressed the importance of the physical and psychological needs of mariners, in an address delivered in advance of “Sea Sunday,” a Christian celebration of seafarers taking place this weekend.

In his message, Cardinal Czerny highlighted that seafarers are “seen as invisible, but they are there,” not only “keeping the world economy moving but also directly impacting the daily life of every one of us.”

Cardinal Czerny pointed out that the global pandemic has stranded hundreds of thousands of seafarers onboard their ships long past the end of their assignments. He noted that “some shipping companies appear to be the only ones who have profited financially from the series of crises which have disrupted the global supply chain.”

“It is regrettable, to say the least,” the Cardinal continued, “that companies have only shared a tiny fraction of the exorbitant revenue they have enjoyed with seafarers or spent on improving welfare facilities in ports for the short period of time they are alongside.”

Concerning shore leave, he said, “the ability to leave the vessel and go ashore, if only for a short time, is crucial for seafarers’ wellbeing. Most of us take for granted the freedom we have to go outside, enjoy open spaces, place our feet on firm ground or soft grass and see different people. But seafarers have no such freedom. They cannot leave the ship, and every day they walk on metal floors and see the same faces. The only way they can share in the freedom we enjoy is to have access to shore leave. They may only have a couple of hours but that can make all the difference.”

The Cardinal noted that “the pandemic must no longer be used as an excuse for banning the crew from going ashore. As long as they take the necessary precautions, seafarers have the right to put their feet on dry ground and meet people other than their colleagues on board.”

FITNESS CHALLENGE FOR SEAFARERS

Marine Catering Training Consultancy (MCTC) issued a regimen for international seafarers to keep fit and healthy with a daily exercise program. They launched a fitness challenge to encourage seafarers to take part in daily exercise and challenges crews to follow the regime which will keep them active, boost morale and promote a positive mindset. MCTC dietician Nichole Stylianou said, “Through exercise, heart and lung health improve and the body has more energy to deal with tough

daily schedules. Seafarers work very long hours in sometimes extreme conditions, so they may not feel like doing workouts on top of their long working days, but we are hoping this fitness challenge will motivate crew members to take part, and they will then see the difference to both their physical and mental health.” Here’s the general rundown:

30 seconds each exercise and 10 seconds’ rest - 4 Rounds - Jumping Jacks; Knee Trucks; Sitting Leg Scissors; Lateral Squats/Jump Squats; Waling Plank/Hover; Squat with Heel Lift; Shuttle Shoulder Taps. **Final Challenge!** - 100 High Knees; 90 Mountain Climbers (45 and 45); 80 Opposite Ankle Taps (40 and 40); 70 Lunges (35 and 35); 60 Standing Bicycles; 50 Stairs; 40 Spiders (20 and 20); 30 Dips; 20 Push Ups; 10 Burpees;

You can visit www.mctconsultancy.com/fitness-challenge-instructions to see a video and description of the exercises to help you along.

OPEN POSITIONS FOR MERCHANT MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing is seeking applications for 2 membership positions on the National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (NMERPAC). The vacancies are for a deck officer who currently holds a Merchant Mariner Credential with an endorsement as Master of Towing Vessels and an individual who represents the general public. NMERPAC advises the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security through the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States Merchant Marine including the training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness of mariners. Interested applicants should contact Ms. Megan Johns Henry at (202) 372-1255 or megan.c.johns@uscg.mil with any questions or feedback, including requests for the Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450). Complete applications must be received on or before July 29, 2022.

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

Monday, August 8 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, August 9 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, August 10 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org

Thursday, August 11 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, August 12 – 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. 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. Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.