

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



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NEW MATSONIA IS CHRISTENED, COMPANY'S FOURTH NEWBUILD SINCE 2018

Matson Navigation is set to welcome the second of two combination container/roll-on, roll-off (Con-Ro) vessels after a christening ceremony was held for the new MATSONIA at NASSCO shipyard in San Diego, CA last week. This is the second of two Kanaloa-class vessels built by NASSCO for Matson. The company took delivery of the LURLINE late last year.

The christening signals the culmination of Matson's fleet renewal program, infusing four next-generation ships into the fleet since 2018, while phasing out older hulls.

Earlier in 2019, Matson took delivery of the last of two Aloha-class newbuilds constructed at Pennsylvania's Philly Shipyard. Those two ships, the 850-foot long, 3,600 TEU capacity KAIMANA HILA and DANIEL K. INOUYE are Matson's fastest vessels with a top speed of nearly 24 knots and include dual fuel engines that can be adapted to use liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The MATSONIA is an iconic name in Matson's long history, named in honor of the ocean deity revered in the native Hawaiian culture. It dates to the construction of Matson's first ship of that name in 1912.

At 870-feet long, 114-feet wide (beam), with a deep draft of 38 feet and weighing in at over 50,000 metric tons, MATSONIA will join LURLINE as Matson's largest ships, with a top speed of 23 knots. Both new Kanaloa-class vessels have an enclosed garage with room for approximately 500 vehicles, plus ample space for rolling stock and breakbulk cargo. They also feature state-of-the-art green technology, including a fuel-efficient hull design, environmentally safe double hull fuel tanks, fresh water ballast systems and the first Tier 3 dual fuel engines to be deployed in containerships regularly serving West Coast ports.

"Matson is already benefitting from the speed, capacity and improved environmental profile of the three new ships we've put into service since 2018," said Matt Cox, Matson's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, after the shipyard ceremony. "MATSONIA will be our fourth new ship, completing a three-year fleet renewal program that positions us well to serve the needs of our communities in Hawaii for many years to come."

Peggy Forest, wife of Matson's President Ron Forest, officially christened MATSONIA by breaking a ceremonial bottle of champagne against the ship's hull. Delivery of the newbuild is expected in the fourth quarter of 2020.

CMA CGM "SIMPLIFIES" NETWORK; APL NAME TIED SOLELY TO U.S.-FLAG BUSINESS

The CMA CGM Group, parent of NOL/American President Lines, has realigned its operating setup and network as part of a "simplification of its container trade." Among other things, the restructuring assigns the APL brand solely to U.S.-flag operations as its TransPacific operations will be conducted under the CMA CGM banner as of Oct. 1.

Ed Aldridge, President of CMA CGM and APL in the United States, said, "We are leveraging the very best of CMA CGM and APL, two major carriers in the U.S., to bring our customers an even more focused and streamlined customer experience. This simplification fortifies the Group's number-one position in the country while enabling us to build upon APL's rich heritage of U.S. flag-ship operations and service to the United States Government."

In addition, the current CMA CGM regional office and NOL Limited will be redesigned as a major regional hub that will help drive development in the Asia-Pacific region.

UPDATE ON APL GULF EXPRESS CREW CHANGE

APL Maritime announced that the long-pursued crew change onboard the APL GULF EXPRESS has been completed. International restrictions put in place because of the pandemic had kept mariners onboard the ship long past the expiration of their assignments. Following multiple testing and quarantines for both departing crew and on-signers in Bahrain, APL noted that all relieved crew "are already home or en route" and the new crew is aboard. APL said, "The 17 crew members that were relieved did a first class job, displaying a high level of professionalism and patience under unique circumstances as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic."

NMC WORKING ON PLAN TO REOPEN RECs

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Regional Examination Centers (RECs) and Monitoring Units (MUs) were closed to the public on March 19, 2020. The National Maritime Center (NMC) plans to issue a re-opening schedule once ongoing work to ensure a safe testing environment is complete. They note that during the initial phase of re-opening, services will be limited to mariner examinations only.

Mariner Examinations - Examinations will be conducted by appointment only. Once a re-opening date for an REC/MU is announced, appointments will be scheduled directly with that office, or by contacting the NMC Customer Call Center at 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662). Scheduling priority will be given to mariners who had appointments canceled by the temporary closures.

Safety Precautions for REC/MU Re-opening - Mariners will need to confirm their health status prior to arrival at an REC/MU. Any mariner showing signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and/or other COVID symptom(s) will not be allowed to enter and will need to reschedule any appointments. Mariners will be subject to a temperature check and need to answer a series of health screening questions upon arrival. Mariners will need to wear a face covering for examination periods.

REC/MU Application Submittal Procedures - The hand delivery of applications remains suspended and mariners should continue to e-mail all applications. Submission guidance and REC/MU e-mail addresses can be found on the NMC website (https://www.dco.uscg.mil/national_maritime_center)

The NMC Customer Service Center remains open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. You may reach the call center at 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662) and IASKNMC@uscg.mil

WSF DRIVE TOWARD GREENER FERRIES CONTINUES

The COVID-19 crisis hasn't delayed plans by the State of Washington to create a more environmentally-friendly ferry fleet. The Washington State Ferry system is on track to gravitate away from diesel and replace 13 existing ferries with hybrid-electric propulsion vessels over the next 20 years. The plan also has the WSF looking toward the conversion of six ferries to plug-in hybrid while installing charging stations at each of its terminals. Initial funding has already been approved by the State Legislature for the construction of the first three Olympic-class hybrid-electrics, currently targeted for delivery in 2023. The new vessels, with a capacity of 144 cars and 1,500 passengers, with the planned addition of charging capability at terminals, would dramatically reduce fuel consumption.

Vigor Shipyards is handling the construction and recently announced they are partnering with the Swiss automation technology company ABB to provide the hybrid-electric propulsion and energy storage systems for the newbuilds.

“This landmark project supports Washington state’s goal for 2050 to reduce emissions by 57.5 percent below the emissions level in 2019,” said Vigor’s Jay Hebert. ABB said the new ferry design will optimize energy use, whether drawing on main engine power, battery power or a combination of the two. The battery power will also extend zero-emissions capability along the supply chain by using renewables and hydroelectric power. “Moving toward a dramatically reduced-emission future relies on technologies that meet the environmental and cost needs of today – and offer flexibility to integrate future energy sources in the years ahead,” said ABB’s Juha Koskela. “ABB is delighted to support this milestone project demonstrating the way that electric, digital and connected solutions can deliver shipping’s zero-emission future.”

IMO GUIDANCE FOR SEAFARERS ACCESS TO ONSHORE MEDICAL CARE

The International Maritime Organization is encouraging member states to implement new recommendations that will ensure onshore medical access for mariners at sea during this pandemic. Receiving medical care ashore can be a matter of life or death for seafarers who fall ill while working on ships. But since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been cases of seafarers being denied permission to go ashore, even when they presented medical issues that were life-threatening but not related to COVID-19, including strokes.

The recommendations for port and coastal States on the prompt disembarkation of seafarers for medical care ashore during the COVID-19 pandemic seek to address this issue. Developed by a broad cross section of global industry associations in consultative status with IMO, they provide guidance to the relevant authorities in port and coastal States so they can ensure seafarers’ access to medical care. This covers any medical situation but also when a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is involved.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said, “Seafarers are at the heart of everything IMO does. In the darkest hours of the pandemic, they have been selflessly delivering the goods we all need. But their

own health and well-being are as important as that of anyone else. Now is time for governments around the world to deliver for seafarers, by ensuring they can access medical care without delay, whenever they need it.”

UPDATE YOUR INFO WITH HQ

Be sure to keep the Union updated with your current contact information including mailing address. This can be done using the address change form available on the M.E.B.A. website found at www.mebaunion.org under the “Members” tab or in the “Documents & Member Notices” section.

Alternatively, you can send your updated information to Renee Bowman at HQ by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail at membership@mebaunion.org Since the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore and Headquarters databases are NOT linked, you must also forward a signed change of address form to the Plans Office if you wish to update your information with them.

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – (*All times are local*) (*Yet to be Determined if Meetings will be Held Online or at Union Halls*)

Monday, August 3 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, August 4 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, August 5 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, August 6 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, August 7 – 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 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. Visit us on Facebook. 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.