

# 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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### **SHULER/REDMOND ERA AT AFL-CIO REAFFIRMED; M.E.B.A. IS NOW PART OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Liz Shuler will continue to lead the AFL-CIO for the next four years after Delegates at the 29<sup>th</sup> AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia enthusiastically supported her election bid. Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond will continue as the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer. President Shuler had been serving out the unexpired term of Richard Trumka who died last year.

The convention, which normally takes place every four years, had been postponed from October 2021 because of COVID concerns. Top M.E.B.A. officials were in Philadelphia earlier this week to attend the Maritime Trades Department meetings and the Delegation the Union sent to the subsequent AFL-CIO Convention also included senior officials from several of our affiliates: President David Spero and Secretary-Treasurer Carlos Aguirre from PASS, President James Wheeler and V.P. Richard Pippin from ALADS, as well as NFOPAPE President Dan Reynolds.

They were a boisterous crowd when it was announced from the dais that M.E.B.A. was elected to AFL-CIO's Executive Council, for what is believed to be the first time ever. M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha will serve as one of the 55 Vice Presidents that, along with Shuler and Redmond, make up the Executive Council that sets the Federation's policies and goals. This is fantastic news for U.S.-flag shipping and American mariners as they now have a second voice on the Council, joining the Seafarers International Union which is represented on the Council by its President Mike Sacco. Together, the maritime labor Vice Presidents will present a strong voice for our industry within the House of Labor on this important board as we move forward on various initiatives involving offshore wind, the Tanker Security Program and other emerging opportunities requiring a unified push.

The convention at large focused on the future of the labor movement with a priority on stepping up organizing efforts and expanding union membership, reforming outdated labor law, facing the future of work in a new technological era, and the workforce's rebound from the COVID pandemic.

### **UNION LOCKS UP 6-YEAR PACT WITH MATSON FOR ALASKA VESSELS**

Late last week, the M.E.B.A. reached a six-year agreement with Matson Navigation covering deep-sea and port engineers for the company's three D-7 Class vessels serving Alaska. Those ships include the MATSON ANCHORAGE, MATSON KODIAK and MATSON TACOMA. Members serving under the new agreement will enjoy wage and benefit increases including noteworthy pension,

training and work rule improvements. Following its ratification by members at the June membership meetings, the new agreements went into effect on June 16<sup>th</sup> and will continue until June 15, 2028.

Executive Vice President Claudia Cimini headed up negotiations along with Seattle Branch Agent Jeff Duncan, Patrolmen Max Alper and Kevin Cross, as well as rank-and-file members Gartz Gould, Kevin Wray and Alan Arnesen.

### **NEW ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM CONTRACT FINALIZED**

Members sailing in the Alaska Marine Highway System have ratified a new agreement recently secured by M.E.B.A. negotiators with the State of Alaska. M.E.B.A. represents licensed engineers in the fleet. The agreement goes into effect on July 1 and runs until June 30, 2025. The agreement holds the line on jurisdictional issues, simplifies travel, and improves wages and the penalty rate among other things. It also ties the third-year wage increase to the Anchorage CPI-U which will provide an above average increase for our members.

Seattle Branch Agent Jeff Duncan brought the new agreement to fruition with contributions from Juneau Rep. Ben Goldrich, administrative help from WSF Rep. Eric Winge and a hardworking rank-and-file team including Patrick McManus, Eric Downer, Josh Chevalier, Chris Brooks and Phil Brand, among others.

### **SEACOR TALKS UNDERWAY**

M.E.B.A. negotiators are making good progress in talks with Seacor/Waterman for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement covering licensed engineers for the Pure Car/Truck Carriers (PC/TCs) GREEN COVE, GREEN LAKE, GREEN POINT, GREEN RIDGE, as well as the heavylift vessels OCEAN GIANT and OCEAN GLADIATOR.

Discussions took place in Fort Lauderdale, FL on Thursday and Friday of last week. The M.E.B.A. negotiating team is led by Gulf Coast Vice President Adam Smith, along with Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway, HQ Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher and rank-and-file members Eric White, Doug Berdel and Pat Lowe. Talks will continue later this month.

### **BILL TO TACKLE SHIPPING BACKLOGS, BEEF UP FMC IS NOW LAW**

A bi-partisan bill to fix supply chains and ease shipping backlogs was signed by the President soon after the House approved it this week, following the bill's Senate passage. The Ocean Shipping Reform Act will also give new powers to the Federal Maritime Commission to make it a more effective regulating agency able to crack down on adverse carrier practices. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and John Thune (R-SD) introduced the bill in the Senate and Reps. John Garamendi (D-CA) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD) led the charge in the House.

Sen. Thune noted, "The common-sense improvements made by this bill will provide the FMC with the tools necessary to address unreasonable practices by ocean carriers and hold them accountable for any bad-faith efforts that disenfranchise American producers...Especially as Americans continue to grapple with record-high inflation, this legislation would also benefit consumers by promoting the efficiency of the supply chain."

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act would:

- Require ocean carriers to certify that late fees — known as “detention and demurrage” charges — comply with federal regulations or face penalties;
- Shift burden of proof regarding the reasonableness of detention or demurrage charges from the invoiced party to the ocean carrier;
- Prohibit ocean carriers from unreasonably declining shipping opportunities for U.S. exports, as determined by the FMC in new required rulemaking;
- Require ocean common carriers to report to the FMC each calendar quarter on total import/export tonnage and 20-foot equivalent units (loaded/empty) per vessel that makes port in the U.S.;
- Authorize the FMC to self-initiate investigations of ocean common carrier’s business practices and apply enforcement measures, as appropriate; and
- Establish new authority for the FMC to register shipping exchanges.

### **SCA HONORS SEN. MURKOWSKI**

The Shipbuilders Council of America (SCA), representing the U.S. shipbuilding, maintenance and repair industry, has honored U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) with its Maritime Leadership Award.

The award is given each year to national leaders or elected officials who demonstrate exemplary dedication and support for the nearly 400,000 men and women who serve in America’s shipyards and throughout the domestic industrial base. Sen. Murkowski sits on the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, where she has advanced policies to strengthen investments in Navy force structure and Coast Guard shipbuilding programs as well as building a new full fleet of arctic security vessels like the polar icebreakers.

### **CMES ADDS MORE LNG COURSES TO SCHEDULE**

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) has added more “LNG as a Fuel (Combined Basic & Advanced IGF Code Operations)” courses to its 2022 schedule and extended them into four-day classes. The required assessments necessitated extending the class so that it now runs from Monday to Thursday. The newly added courses will take place from: September 12 – 15; October 17 – 20; October 24 – 27; and November 28 – December 1.

The course meets new mandatory minimum requirements in the STCW Convention and Code for the training and qualifications of relevant personnel on ships. Successful completion helps prepare licensed mariners to apply for the IGF Code Operations Endorsement issued by the NMC. Interactive classroom lectures and computer-based simulations include a review of the properties of LNG and basic laws of thermodynamics. Additionally, students will focus on LNG bunkering operational considerations, LNG system design, safety requirements, pollution prevention and hazard controls. Classroom learning objectives are supplemented by simulation demonstrations and assessments. Applications may be sent via the CMES website ([mebaschool.org](http://mebaschool.org)), faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to [applications@mebaschool.org](mailto:applications@mebaschool.org)

## HALLS CLOSED MONDAY FOR JUNETEENTH

The M.E.B.A. halls and offices are closed on Monday, June 20 to observe Juneteenth/Emancipation Day. Juneteenth, which symbolically commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, has been celebrated in Texas for years. It was made a national holiday last year.

The observance harkens back to 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger and his Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas bringing very late word about the Emancipation Proclamation, which took place 2 ½ years earlier. Granger announced that “all persons held as slaves” in the rebellious States were “thenceforward, and forever free.” Though it was cause for immediate celebration, the wheels turned slowly and many of the 250,000 slaves in the Lone Star State wouldn’t enjoy their freedom until many months later.

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

**Monday, July 4** – Independence Day - Halls Closed

**Tuesday, July 5** – Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

**Wednesday, July 6** – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; **Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

**Thursday, July 7** – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

**Friday, July 8** – 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.*