

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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



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

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In this issue//Federal Judge Halts Anti-Union Election Rule Implementation//Jones Act Centennial//Fire at AFL-CIO, Mission Continues//CG Extends Expiring Mariner Documents through Rest of Year//Don't Forget about the 4MF Raffle//Pandemic Naughty & Nice List//M.E.B.A. Diagnostic Centers & Alternate Sites//

### **FEDERAL JUDGE HALTS IMPLEMENTATION OF NLRB ELECTION RULE DESIGNED TO STYMIE UNIONS**

A Federal judge has stopped the implementation of egregious National Labor Relations Board anti-worker Government rules designed to further impede union organizing efforts.

NLRB issued the final rule late last year to allow employers to help stave off union representation elections. The new rule was issued without prior notice or public comment and was set to take effect this week after an earlier 45-day delay. Among other things, the rule would significantly elongate the timetable for unions to hold representation elections and gives additional avenues for employers to challenge the process. It also allows for the suspension of voting until the resolution of disputes brought by an employer. After it issued its final rule, the NLRB announced a suspension of all representation elections.

On Saturday, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, struck down significant portions of the regulations ruling that a public comment period should have been offered before the rules were unilaterally implemented.

The matter was put before the court after an AFL-CIO challenge to the regulations. The Federation's President Richard Trumka noted that the Board "is effectively sealing off any viable path to unionization at a time when workers need a voice on the job more than ever. Donald Trump's caustic hostility to collective bargaining has manifested itself in the most anti-worker NLRB in America's history."

The NLRB can appeal the decision and can also move forward with portions of their regulations that were not blocked by the Federal Judge.

### **JONES ACT CENTENNIAL**

Tomorrow (June 5<sup>th</sup>) marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, better known as the Jones Act. The tried and true Jones Act is a vital security statute that ensures that only U.S.-built, U.S.-owned, and U.S.-flagged vessels with American mariners can operate in domestic commerce. The statute strengthens and supports U.S. sovereignty and security while driving economic benefits to local communities.

The Jones Act has proved crucial for America in times of peace and war. The American Maritime Partnership pointed out that American maritime workers deliver nearly one billion tons of goods each year with a fleet of 40,000 vessels. They said, “the U.S. Merchant Marine Act protects the nation’s 95,000 miles of coastline and inland waterways, limiting inland access to foreign vessels and crews while mariners serve as the eyes and ears to strengthen border and homeland security.”

AMP released a commemorative 1-minute video hailing the Jones Act on its centennial that the M.E.B.A. reposted on our Facebook page and tweeted out as well. It is available directly at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSkwje0c8EU&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSkwje0c8EU&feature=youtu.be)

The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) said the Jones Act’s “continued endurance is a testimony to its unparalleled importance to the domestic sectors it supports. Today, it has never been clearer why the Jones Act is necessary and why policymakers’ long-held support for it must not waver.”

TTD, which represents 32 transportation-related unions including the M.E.B.A. said that without the Act, “unscrupulous companies will race to replace U.S. workers with foreign and unqualified mariners, forced to work in dangerous conditions with negligible pay.”

“One hundred years later, the Jones Act remains the single most powerful tool to protect mariners and ensure the continued existence of a domestic maritime workforce.”

### **AFL-CIO LOBBY BURNS; MISSION CONTINUES UNABATED**

Following a day of peaceful protesting near the White House in Washington D.C. to highlight racial injustice in police procedures, some individuals with a different agenda began wreaking havoc on area buildings and monuments. The Veterans Affairs building, a local church and the AFL-CIO building were among the D.C. fixtures to take damage. At AFL-CIO, windows were smashed, a fire charred part of the lobby and the sign outside was defaced with profane graffiti. There were no injuries.

The attack on the building was antithetical to the purpose of the protest. AFL-CIO is an ally of the oppressed that continues its mission to correct injustice and overcome inequality.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser said, “I don't have to tell you what the men and women of labor have meant to our country, and making our country a more fair place...”

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka noted that, “We categorically reject those on the fringes who are engaging in violence and destroying property. Attacks like the one on the AFL-CIO headquarters are senseless, disgraceful and only play into the hands of those who have oppressed workers of color for generations and detract from the peaceful, passionate protesters who are rightly bringing issues of racism to the forefront.”

The Federation pointed out that the George Floyd murder and all incidents of racial injustice sicken the labor movement and the fight to right these wrongs continue now stronger than ever. “...In the end,” Trumka noted, “the labor movement is not a building. We are a living collection of working people who will never stop fighting for economic, social and racial justice. We are united unequivocally against the forces of hate who seek to divide this nation for their own personal and political gain at our expense. We will clean up the glass, sweep away the ashes and keep doing our part to bring a better day out of this hour of darkness and despair.”

Larry Willis, president of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), said, “In the labor movement, we believe an injustice to one is an injustice to all...As Americans, we must all see racism for the deadly disease that it is and stand against the systematic oppression and murder of people of color that has been allowed to go on for so long in this country...No amount of violence or vandalism will stop us from doing what we have always done: fighting for racial, social, and economic justice.”

### **COAST GUARD EXTENDS EXPIRING MARINER DOCUMENTS THROUGH REST OF YEAR**

The Coast Guard updated an earlier Marine Safety Information Bulletin to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on seafarers by announcing a further extension for expiring mariner documents. MSIB 08-20 (Change 2) was issued earlier today.

The announcement states that documents expiring between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 will now be extended until December 31, 2020, an additional two months from the earlier extension. Affected documents include Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) and Medical Certificates (National Endorsements only), MMCs with STCW endorsements and STCW Medical Certificates. Those mariners working on an expired credential or certificates must possess the expired document along with a copy of the Coast Guard notice which has been made available on the M.E.B.A. website in the “Documents & Member Notices” section. Go there to check out the new announcement which also has important information about Regional Examination Centers and course approvals, among other things.

### **MONDAY: NOMINATION PERIOD BEGINS**

M.E.B.A.’s month-long nomination period for the upcoming officers’ election begins on Monday (June 8). Timed by the By-Laws to begin on the first day of the June meetings, the nomination period will continue until July 10, the last day of the July membership meetings. Nominations received before or after the nomination period will be discarded, in accordance with the By-Laws. Nominations must be received at District Headquarters addressed to the Credentials Committee (c/o District President) no later than the close of business on July 10, 2020. Nomination forms and additional election information are available at M.E.B.A. Union halls, from HQ or on the M.E.B.A. website in the “Documents & Member Notices” section. It is not a requirement to use the nomination form - you may use your own form provided you meet all applicable requirements of the National Constitution and District No. 1-PCD, M.E.B.A. By-Laws. To further expedite the qualification process, it is recommended that nominees include a copy of their last Dues Receipt in their nomination packet instead of just the Dues Receipt number. The list of offices open for nomination has been forwarded to all the Union halls and offices and is also available on the website.

A special election edition of the *Marine Officer* will be published in August 2020. Each candidate for office may submit a passport-style photograph along with a campaign statement of up to 400 words. The statement should be designed to promote, educate and inform M.E.B.A. members about a candidate's qualifications and background. Statements and/or photographs are not a requirement for nomination. At the July 2020 membership meetings, Credentials Committee members will be elected. No officer or candidate for office is eligible for election to this Committee. The Committee will meet on July 13, 2020 to review and decide on the qualifications of each nomination received and will also review all statements submitted for the special election edition of the *Marine Officer*.

All members interested in running for a position are urged to review the National Constitution and District By-Laws. M.E.B.A. Halls & Offices have a copy of these documents, and both are available on the “Documents & Member Notices” page of M.E.B.A.’s website. Additional questions relating to the election can be forwarded to [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)

### **DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE 4MF RAFFLE!**

The 50/50 raffle to raise money for the M.E.B.A.’s Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) marches on, pandemic be damned. Ticket purchases have slowed down considerably since the COVID-19 rampage, but that means that your chances to take home the jackpot have considerably increased!

The winning raffle ticket (\$2 apiece) will be drawn on October 6, 2020 at the CMES during the monthly membership meeting. You do not need to be present to win. The grand winner will receive 50% of the proceeds from raffle sales. The popular swag giveaway promotion is in effect for this raffle for those who buy at least \$50 worth of tickets.

You can purchase raffle tickets at any M.E.B.A. Union hall as well as Headquarters. If you prefer the impersonal touch, you can make your purchase through the U.S. mail. Just include a check or money order made out to “4MF” and request the number of tickets you desire. An official will fill the tickets out and mail them to you after collecting the stubs for the raffle pile.

Supporting the 4MF is easy and it’s a great cause. Members, applicants, retirees and everyone else are strongly encouraged to support the 4MF which provides upkeep and improvements to the Memorial Park located at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES). The Memorial honors fallen mariners who helped blaze the proud tradition our members continue today. A ship's foremast, that was saved from the C-7 Lancer-class HORIZON DISCOVERY before it went to scrap was recently installed at the Memorial Park. The Park is shaped like a 600-foot merchant vessel complete with 5-ton anchors, a ship's bell, a bow section with plaques memorializing mariners and friends of the M.E.B.A., and a six-bladed, 22-foot diameter bronze propeller that represents the stern section. The foremast, installed near the bow section, further adds to the effect.

### **PANDEMIC NAUGHTY & NICE LIST**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought out the best and worst in some employers. Labor 411 wants you to know which ones are which so you can better vote with your consumer dollars. Labor 411 is a research organization that raises awareness of worker-friendly goods and services. Below are four companies that have treated their employees well during the last few months and four companies that definitely did not.

**Kroger** - Why it's naughty: The grocery chain revoked its \$2 an hour hazard pay to employees, even as the pandemic continues. **Amazon** - Why it's naughty: The online retail giant faced, and faces, tremendous backlash from employees for unsafe working conditions amid confirmed cases of COVID-19 in its warehouses. In addition, it announced the end of hazard pay starting in June, despite the continued threat of COVID-19 to its workers. **Caterpillar** - Why it's naughty: The construction equipment company confirmed \$500 million in dividends to investors as it announced plant closures and layoffs. **Tesla** - Why it's naughty: The electric car manufacturer’s erratic CEO, Elon Musk, announced that the company would reopen its factories in California and require employees to return to work, despite stay-at-home orders throughout the state.

**Verizon** - Why it's nice: The wireless giant implemented one of the most far-reaching sick leave policies. And it did not lay off any of its employees. **PepsiCo** - Why it's nice: The drink company allowed employees to work remotely for up to 12 weeks of full pay. It also provided workers with full pay for 14 days if they were caring for someone with COVID-19 symptoms. **Target** - Why it's nice: The retail company raised wages to \$15 an hour and provided bonuses to workers. **Netflix** - Why it's nice: Shortly after the pandemic started, Netflix set up a relief fund, pledging \$100 million to employees in the entertainment industry who were left without work.

### **M.E.B.A. DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS, ALTERNATE SITES**

Members, applicants and retirees should be aware, and make use of the M.E.B.A. Diagnostic Centers or alternate clinic sites available on the Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf coasts. These sites can be relied upon for important wellness and ship certifications including annual physicals, completion of required Coast Guard and MSC forms, Benzene and other certifications and required school forms for dependent children. Be aware that transportation reimbursements vary depending on whether an M.E.B.A. Center or alternate site is used. M.E.B.A.'s Travel Coordinator Carly Marafioti can be contacted at (877) 324-6322 or [ectravel@mebaplans.org](mailto:ectravel@mebaplans.org) for further information about your travel plans to an M.E.B.A. clinic or alternate site.

#### ***M.E.B.A. Clinics – Pacific & Atlantic***

M.E.B.A. Diagnostic Center  
1005 Eastern Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
410-547-9111

M.E.B.A. Diagnostic Center  
548 Thomas L. Berkley Way  
Oakland, CA 94611  
510-663-6810

#### ***Alternate Gulf Coast Clinic Sites***

American Family Care Urgent Care-Houston  
5568 Wesleyan Street  
Houston, TX 77005  
713-666-7050

American Family Care Urgent Care-Tampa  
6182 Gunn Hwy  
Tampa, FL 33625  
813-960-1100

West Jefferson Industrial Medicine, LLC  
107 Wall Blvd, Suite A  
Gretna, LA 70058  
504-433-5070

## **JUNE ONLINE MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

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

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

Wednesday, June 10 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

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

Monday, June 12 – 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](mailto: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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org) Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*