

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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FRIDAY, MONDAY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Honolulu Union hall will be closed on Friday, March 30th (tomorrow) for Harry Bridges Memorial Day. Bridges' involvement in the crisis on the San Francisco waterfront during the events of Bloody Thursday in 1934 led to vastly improved labor conditions. He helped establish the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) in 1937.

In addition, the rest of the M.E.B.A. Union halls are also closed tomorrow for Good Friday. Officials and some staffers can still be reached by cellphone and email. Most halls will reopen on Monday after the long Easter weekend.

However, West Coast Union halls will be closed on Monday, April 2nd to observe Cesar Chavez's birthday. As a result, the Seattle Union hall will shift its membership meeting to Tuesday, April 3 (still at the regular time).

Cesar Chavez was an American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist who co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers. He was known for his use of non-violent tactics and made the farm workers struggle a moral cause with nationwide support.

MEMBERS WILL ELECT FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK

A six-person rank and file Financial Review Committee will be elected at the regular membership meetings next week at certain Union halls. The FRC, elected annually, will assemble at M.E.B.A. Headquarters on April 9 to spend three days reviewing Union finances from the 2017 calendar year. Committee members will be elected at next week's meetings in New York/New Jersey, Houston, Oakland, Norfolk, Tampa, and Seattle. The FRC will be comprised of five members as well as one member who will serve as an alternate. Rank and file members elected to the Committee must be in good standing to serve and cannot be an official or employee of the Union currently - or for the year being reviewed (2017).

The elected Union members will travel to M.E.B.A. Headquarters in Washington D.C. on Sunday, April 8, 2018. The actual meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 9, 2018 in the Conference Room at M.E.B.A. Headquarters. It is anticipated that the business of the FRC will be completed by

Wednesday, April 11 with travel home scheduled for Thursday, April 12. Newly elected FRC members must contact Ann Holmes at M.E.B.A. Headquarters (202-638-5355) immediately after their Union meeting in order to nail down travel arrangements.

NEW DISPATCHER IN OAKLAND AFTER KATHY M. RETIREMENT

Oakland Dispatcher Kathy McCurdy is steaming off toward a well-deserved retirement after almost 32 years with the Union. She has had a stellar and productive run with the M.E.B.A. which will officially end next week. Kathy has been a fountain of knowledge on how to run a union hall and get things done. Although a Vacation Plan employee, she shares services with the M.E.B.A. and therefore handles the hall's wide-ranging dispatching duties.

She joined the Union as a Dispatcher in the old Portland Union hall where she perfected her craft for over a decade. The next eight years were spent in Seattle where she continued to do great work. She then moved over to the San Francisco hall on Fremont Street and helped transition to the current hall in Oakland. She will be moving soon to Richfield, WA to be closer to her family. Kathy has been training her replacement for the past two weeks and teaching her the tricks of the trade.

New Dispatcher Michelle McGlaspon has learned from the best and is already putting her considerable skills to work. She previously worked with the non-profit group Girls, Inc. which helps advance girls through direct service and advocacy. She also spent many years with Wells Fargo as an account manager.

Many thanks go to Kathy and we wish her smooth sailing in retirement. We're also very pleased to have Michelle and we'd like to say, "Welcome aboard!"

M.E.B.A. PART OF EVENTS HONORING WOMEN

M.E.B.A. Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram was a featured guest at two industry events this week focused on Women. March is Women's History Month. Erin has been a panelist at many such events in the past and she brought valuable perspective to both functions.

The "Women of Labor" luncheon, sponsored by the Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation (AFL-CIO), celebrated the women who make the labor movement strong. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) delivered well-received opening remarks and a full slate of distinguished labor representatives (all women) joined Erin for the featured panel conversation that commenced with the theme of "Nevertheless, she persisted."

Erin talked about women and the maritime industry and answered a slew of questions. She also touched on topics including the #MeToo movement, safety in the workplace and other issues.

Our Gulf Coast V.P. was also featured at the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) meeting that took place at Texas Maritime Academy. The all-woman panelists were quizzed about how they got their starts in the shipping industry/business, what skill sets are essential for successful leadership, role models/mentors along the way, and other related questions. The panel discussion was designed to help bring awareness that shipping is multi-faceted and intertwined – reliant on many levels of services and knowledge. Attending the event were cadets pursuing marine engineering or marine transportation degrees, students enrolled in maritime administration, faculty, staff, other WISTA members and invitees from industry.

NMSAC SPRING MEETING; ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPENINGS

The National Maritime Security Advisory Committee (NMSAC) held its spring public meeting in Oakland, California on March 20-21. NMSAC members met and discussed items such as the Coast Guard's regulatory reform tasking, the Extremely Hazardous Cargo Strategy, and cyber security. Additionally, members provided updates about items or events ongoing in their representative sectors and took a tour of a Matson facility and vessel.

During the meeting, NMSAC received final reports from the subcommittees on Transportation Worker Identification Credentials; Drills/Exercises/Training; and all other subcommittees. Each subcommittee chair briefed the results of its review and the NMSAC voted on a final set of recommendations for the Coast Guard. Of note, retired M.E.B.A. member Capt. Angel Montanez was newly named to the NMSAC as a maritime industry representative.

Advisory committees like NMSAC are important and members and retirees are urged to get involved if possible to make sure the mariner perspective is represented. The Coast Guard is seeking members for its Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee. The CTAC provides advice and makes recommendations on matters relating to the safe and secure marine transportation of hazardous materials within Coast Guard jurisdiction. Applications should be forwarded to Coast Guard before May 29, 2018. Email jake.r.lobb2@uscg.mil for more info.

In addition, Coast Guard is seeking members for its Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee. The GLPAC provides advice and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security through the U.S. Coast Guard Commandant on matters relating to Great Lakes pilotage, including review of proposed Great Lakes pilotage regulations and policies. Applications should reach Coast Guard before April 27, 2018. You can email Rajiv.Khandpur@uscg.mil for more info.

NEW REPORT: ZERO-CARBON SHIPPING POSSIBLE BY 2035

Deployment of all currently known technologies could make it possible to almost completely decarbonize maritime transport by 2035, according to a new report published by the International Transport Forum at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Four different decarbonization pathways examined for the study would reduce international shipping's CO2 emissions between 82% and 95% below the level currently projected for 2035. This reduction equals the annual emissions of 185 coal-fired power plants.

They say technological measures to improve the energy efficiency of ships could yield a substantial part of the needed emission reductions. Market-mature options include, among others, hull design improvements, air lubrication and bulbous bows. Operational improvements such as slower ship speeds, smoother ship-port co-ordination and use of larger, more efficient ships could bring further, important emission reductions. You can download the report [at www.itf-oecd.org/decarbonising-maritime-transport](http://www.itf-oecd.org/decarbonising-maritime-transport)

SUPPORT THE 4MF – PURCHASE A RAFFLE TICKET!

Tickets for the raffle in support of the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) are available at each of the Union halls as well as Headquarters, M.E.B.A. Plans and at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (see Trish). POID members can contact April who has a block of tickets.

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. The winning raffle ticket (\$2 apiece) will be drawn on October 9, 2018 at the CMES during the monthly membership meeting. You do not need to be present to win. The grand winner will receive a princely sum - 50% of the proceeds from raffle sales – so plan to purchase a thick stack of tickets. Members are urged to keep M.E.B.A.'s Memorial in mind all year long and support it when they can.

SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans' website – www.mebaplans.org (Forms & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org for more info.

TRAINING FOR SAILORS TRANSITIONING TO MERCHANT MARINE

The Military Sealift Command, in partnership with Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL), have announced "best sources" training opportunities available to Sailors starting this month. These courses can be used for gap/delta training to help prepare Sailors, officers and enlisted, for U.S. Coast Guard credentials. Navy COOL provides active duty and reserve Sailors, whether forward deployed, underway or ashore, a way to map their Navy education, training, experience and competencies to civilian credentials and occupations. It also allows Sailors to pursue credentials throughout their military life cycle, from completion of technical training until they become eligible for transition opportunities.

As part of the Military to Mariner Program and credentialing programs supported by Navy COOL, MSC provides the mandatory Coast Guard certification training to Sailors seeking to transition into careers in the Merchant Marine. To be eligible for certification, Sailor applicants must have completed U.S. Navy Recruit Training and have acquired at least one year of sea service every five years since the completion of recruit training.

"MSC benefits greatly from having a pool of qualified, experienced, and trained mariners who can help us, as well as our commercial partners, meet Navy fleet support and military sealift needs," said Michael Morris, MSC's Total Force Management department head. "They enable us to support the joint warfighter across the full spectrum of military operations."

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

M.E.B.A.-CREWED MSC SHIPS TAKING PART IN MASSIVE NAVY MISSION

Military Sealift Command (MSC) Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessel USNS BRUNSWICK has joined Pacific Partnership 2018 (PP18) after a major cargo swap with the USNS FALL RIVER. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC's Civilian Mariner fleet.

Pacific Partnership 2018 consists of more than 800 U.S. and allied military personnel along with non-government organizations, working side-by-side with host nation counterparts to be better prepared for potential humanitarian aid and disaster response situations.

BRUNSWICK replaced another MSC EPF – the USNS FALL RIVER - as the secondary mission platform for PP18 due to emerging maintenance requirements on the FALL RIVER. The BRUNSWICK is now on mission with MSC hospital ship USNS MERCY; however, the two ships will visit different Asia-Pacific nations during the course of PP18. Increasing the reach and scope of PP18, participants and host nation counterparts will conduct technical expertise exchanges in medical, engineering, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

AFL-CIO: REPEAL THE SO-CALLED CADILLAC TAX

AFL-CIO noted that health care is a fundamental human right. That's why the labor movement continues to fight to expand Medicare, curb the power and influence of prescription drug companies, and lower health care costs for working people. They also continue to call on Congress to fully repeal the unfair and unnecessary 40% tax on high-quality health plans, many of which are union plans.

Erroneously nicknamed the “Cadillac Tax,” they say this provision of the ACA threatens to directly harm the hardworking men and women who had the courage and wherewithal to negotiate top-notch benefits.

“When working people come together, we have the strength in numbers to defend our rights in the workplace, including the right to decent medical care for ourselves and our families. The health care fight is a reminder of the importance of electing labor-friendly candidates up and down the ballot in this year’s midterm elections. The labor movement is up to the task and already has begun strategizing on how we will work together to win for working people in 2018.”

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, April 2 – Boston@1200;

Tuesday, April 3 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Wednesday, April 4 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, April 5 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, April 6 – Honolulu@1100.

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. M.E.B.A.'s expertise and proven 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 contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org