

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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SENATOR LAUDS OPENING OF MAINE M.E.B.A. HALL

U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) was thrilled by the opening of M.E.B.A.'s new Union hall in Portland, Maine and issued a statement. Senator Collins has been a long-standing advocate for the Jones Act, cargo preference laws, and the policies that sustain the U.S.-flag fleet and the mariners who serve in it.

She said, "Maine has always punched above its weight in defense, and our incredibly skilled workforce that makes this possible. I am so glad this hiring hall will create a dedicated space for M.E.B.A. members to gather and will also connect graduates of the Maine Maritime Academy with good-paying jobs right here in Maine. I was recently at the Academy for the transfer ceremony of the new State of Maine training vessel, and I know the future for the academy and these cadets is brighter than ever. I'll continue working to support M.E.B.A., its members, the Maine Maritime Academy, and all those who seek to serve our state and nation through a career on the sea."

The hall opened earlier this month with retired member Bill Duffy heading up hall operations as Representative. It is located at the Marine Trade Center - 2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 302 in Portland.

M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac noted, "Establishing a hiring hall in Portland is about more than expanding our footprint — it is about making sure that our members in Maine have a union home, and that the next generation of American mariners has a clear, direct path into a career aboard U.S.-flag ships." He said, "Maine Maritime Academy is one of the finest institutions in the country for developing the licensed engineers and deck officers this nation depends on. Having M.E.B.A. present on the ground in Maine means we can be there for those cadets the moment they graduate, connecting them with opportunities to work in the U.S.-flag fleet. The maritime industrial base is a national security asset, and building a stronger workforce pipeline in Maine is exactly the kind of investment that keeps America's fleet sailing and our economy moving."

WISTA: M.E.B.A. CONTINUES INDUSTRY INCLUSIVITY EFFORTS

M.E.B.A. and American Maritime Congress representatives were active participants and sponsors at the recent annual conference of the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association USA (WISTA) in New Orleans earlier this month. The event brought together maritime professionals,

cadets, educators and industry leaders to promote greater inclusivity and opportunity for women across the maritime industry. WISTA USA is the U.S. association of WISTA International, a global network that supports and promotes the role of women in the maritime, trading, and logistics sectors.

The conference served as an important opportunity for female maritime academy cadets beginning their careers, offering direct access to some of the industry's top female professionals through mentoring sessions, workshops, speeches and interview opportunities.

Panel discussions throughout the conference highlighted the interconnected nature of the shipping industry and the wide range of services, careers and expertise required to keep global commerce moving.

Among those attending the conference were M.E.B.A. Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway and AMC Government Affairs Manager Caitlyn Tierney, along with several M.E.B.A. members. M.E.B.A. and AMC continue to support efforts aimed at encouraging female participation in what has traditionally been a male-dominated industry.

SPECIAL MEETING AT CMES ON MONDAY TO ELECT CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

In accordance with the M.E.B.A. By-Laws and authorized by the District Executive Committee (DEC Resolution 2026-11), a Special Meeting will be held at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School on Monday, June 1 at 12:30 pm in the Auditorium to elect a five-person Constitutional Committee. The election of the Committee will be the only order of business.

The newly elected Constitutional Committee will meet from June 1-3 (Monday-Wednesday) from 1800-2100 each evening (or as necessary) to review a resolution passed by members at the regular April 2026 meetings advocating a By-Laws change. Norfolk Resolution No. 26-03-01 proposes the establishment of a voting system for deep-sea bargaining unit members who are at sea while a tentative agreement for their unit is being put to a ratification vote during meeting week at the Union halls. All members in good standing are eligible for election as a Constitutional Committee member, regardless if they are enrolled in a class.

The Committee is required to prepare a report together with proposed changes, substitutions or recommendations and the reasons for such recommendations. Legal and other assistance will be made available to the Committee. According to the By-Laws, the completed report of the Constitutional Committee will be submitted to the M.E.B.A. membership for a vote at the regular meetings.

A special meeting requires five members for a quorum. All members in the area are urged to participate in this special meeting.

AMP LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO END JONES ACT WAIVER

The American Maritime Partnership (AMP) has launched a nationwide campaign urging the President to end the unprecedented 150-day Jones Act waiver and restore protections for American maritime jobs, investment, and national security.

Timed around the lead-up to and aftermath of America's 250th anniversary, the campaign will target major maritime states including Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, South

Carolina, and Tennessee through TV, radio, digital advertising, and outreach featuring voices from the nation's 650,000 maritime workers.

AMP President Jennifer Carpenter noted, "Clearly, President Trump has been led to believe that waiving the Jones Act is an effective way to lower gas prices, when we all see that prices have not gone down with the waiver. What the waiver does is put America last by allowing foreign operators and mariners to take American business and jobs."

Carpenter added that the waiver contradicts the Administration's "Buy American, Hire American" policies and weakens U.S. maritime strength and national security. While it may be a convenient talking point for (Director of the National Economic Council) Kevin Hassett and others pushing this failed attempt to lower prices, it directly undermines the very policies that President Trump campaigned on and has championed – buy American, hire American, and strengthen our national might. The President should trust his instincts, follow his outlined policies and put America and our national security first."

The campaign's first ad, "End the Waiver," features the captain of a Jones Act vessel emphasizing that the American maritime industry is the "quintessential" example of an "America First" sector. The ad concludes with a direct appeal to President Trump to end the waiver and "Put Americans back to work."

According to recent independent analysis cited by AMP, the waiver's impact on fuel prices amounts to just \$0.000157 per gallon, while the total fuel transported under the waiver during its first 60 days equaled roughly 11 hours of total U.S. fuel consumption. AMP pointed out that those "immaterial benefits" are the result of foreign carriers, including some with ties to China, operating "free from compliance with U.S. immigration, minimum wage and taxation laws, among other regulations." The group warns that uncertainty surrounding the waiver has already stalled major maritime investment, including one planned \$1 billion capital raise that supported more than \$2.6 billion in active U.S. shipyard contracts "and billions more in planned expansion."

AMP said the campaign will continue until the waiver is lifted. To speak out against the ongoing waiver of the Jones Act, please click [here](#).

CMES DEBUTS NEW ANTITERRORISM OFFICER COURSE

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School has added another emergency response course to its impressive curriculum. The Military Sealift Command-approved Antiterrorism Officer (ATO) Level 2 class is a one-week course for up to 12 students that has been put on the schedule. This three-year renewal course equips the Anti-Terrorism Officer with the knowledge needed to serve as the Master's primary advisor on anti-terrorism matters and to effectively assess, plan, execute, and manage an anti-terrorism program.

The initial class date is set for September 14–18, 2026 (Monday through Friday). Students should expect to be finished by lunchtime on Friday.

To take the course, students are required to have a current Antiterrorism Level 1 (annual renewal). This can be completed at <https://jko.jten.mil/courses/ATlevel1/launch.html>. Proof of completion is

required at the time of the ATO Level 2 course start. Applications can be sent via the CMES website, faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to applications@mebaschool.org

EXTENSION OF MMCs & MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

The National Maritime Center (NMC) has further expanded its extension policy for merchant mariner credentials (MMCs) and medical certificates impacted by the 2026 lapse in appropriations and continued processing delays.

Effective immediately, MMCs (National endorsements only) and medical certificates (National and Pilot expiration dates only) that expire between January 1, 2026, and July 31, 2026, will remain valid through August 31, 2026. Mariners who are actively working on expired credentials that meet the expiration criteria must carry the expired credential AND a copy of the attached letter while sailing under the authority of those credentials. The NMC will not issue separate or replacement MMCs or medical certificates reflecting the extension.

This extension is intended to support continued maritime operations while the NMC works through increased application volumes and processing backlogs following the lapse.

The full notice has been placed on the M.E.B.A. website in the Documents & Member Notices Section and accessed directly [here](#).

NY/NJ AREA MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND M.E.B.A. FAMILY FUN DAY NEXT WEEK

Members, applicants and retirees in the NY/NJ area are encouraged to take part in “M.E.B.A family fun day” at the Monmouth Race Park in New Jersey on Saturday, June 6. The Union has a trackside picnic area reserved at the horserace - and we are honoring Kevin “Happy” Fahey, a former Staten Island Ferry & Statue of Liberty crewmember who passed away in 2024. There will be burgers, hot dogs, chicken on the grill, fried chicken, sausage and peppers. It’s BYOB (no hard liquor) and feel free to bring additional items for the grill or appetizers/finger foods and side dishes.

M.E.B.A. is sponsoring the first race at the track (at 12:30 pm) in Kevin’s honor and family members will get to go into the winner’s circle for photos with the winning horse and jockey. All are welcome including children. There will be kids’ raffles for prizes. You can get further details from M.E.B.A.’s Patrolman in the NY/NJ hall Capt. Kenny Smith. Call the hall or email him at ksmith@mebaunion.org

AFL-CIO STATEMENT ON POPE’S AI ENCYCLICAL

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler issued an official statement following Pope Leo XIV’s first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, which focuses on the moral and practical danger of unregulated artificial intelligence (AI).

She noted, “Pope Leo’s choice to issue his first encyclical on the threat of unregulated AI is a testament to the urgency of this issue for working people. Workers are being surveilled, fired, hurt, and have even died in workplaces that recklessly use AI without guardrails and worker input. It’s clear that if we don’t harness it properly, AI is the single biggest threat to working people of our lifetime.”

“This is what Pope Leo recognizes, echoing the same things I hear from working people around the U.S. and globally. He names the ‘culture of power’ driving the AI arms race, the corporate greed that

puts profit over people, and the dehumanization that working people feel every time they are told to trust untested AI technology over their own experience and skill—even when lives are on the line. The guardrails he calls for — ‘responsible planning, the assessment of human and social impact, the inclusion of the most vulnerable’ — are the same principles for which the labor movement has advocated.”

“Pope Leo writes that, ‘Solidarity, then, is the concrete recognition that the future of each individual is connected to the future of all.’ The AFL-CIO and our 65 affiliated unions have and will continue to answer his call to defend the dignity of working people.”

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

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

Tuesday, June 9 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Portland, Maine@1200.**

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

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

Friday, June 12 – **Honolulu@1100**

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



***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. Website: www.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. The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School can be contacted at (410) 822-9600 or www.mebaschool.org. M.E.B.A. Plans is at (410) 547-9111 or www.mebaplans.org