

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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MEMBERS RATIFY LIBERTY CONTRACT

Members at the regular November membership meetings ratified an agreement with Liberty Maritime covering M.E.B.A. Deck and Engine officers for the next three years. The new contract was a long time coming after frustrating negotiations that kept Liberty officers without negotiated increases for eight years.

M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac headed up the negotiating team that secured this industry standard agreement. The new contract rewards the dedicated hard work of our Deck and Engine officers with strong wage, benefit, and work rule improvements that finally puts Liberty on par with other deep-sea carriers. The Agreement provides stability for both parties and should lead to further mutual opportunities in the maritime industry.

The new contract currently covers the four Pure Car/Truck Carriers (PC/TCs) LIBERTY PASSION, LIBERTY PEACE, LIBERTY PRIDE and LIBERTY PROMISE. Contract terms and benefits will be paid retroactively to October 1st, 2022.

UNIONS URGE FAILURE OF NJ ANTI-JONES ACT RESOLUTION

The M.E.B.A., along with other maritime unions and the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, are condemning a know-nothing resolution introduced by the New Jersey state senate that urges Congress and the President to permanently exempt Puerto Rico from the Jones Act. Senate Concurrent Resolution 31 passed the state senate in October and has now been introduced in the New Jersey General Assembly's Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee.

The Resolution repeats debunked myths about the Jones Act, accusing the statute of hampering efforts to assist Puerto Ricans following the devastation of 2017's Hurricane Maria. In actuality, there was no shortage of Jones Act deliveries to the island before and after the storm. 10,000 containers of food and relief items were stacked up at the San Juan seaport in the wake of the Hurricane. Destroyed internal infrastructure was actually to blame for the inability to successfully distribute the previously delivered Jones Act cargoes throughout the island.

A letter sent to the General Assembly signed by the leaders of the M.E.B.A., MTD, TTD, SIU, MM&P, AMO, ILA and New Jersey MPC, points out the importance of the Jones Act to the

American maritime workforce and its significance to our economy and national security. “Exempting Puerto Rico, or any other part of the United States, from the Jones Act is the first step towards destroying it,” the letter reads. “That is why maritime labor has fought so hard for the last one hundred and two years to protect the Jones Act.” The unions note, “the passage of SCR31 represent a direct attack on the Jones Act, and a direct attack on our members. ...We urge you to oppose SCR31 and stand in support of organized labor and the domestic maritime industry in our opposition to ending the Jones Act in Puerto Rico or anywhere else in the United States.”

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO said the Jones Act does more than simply guarantee an American maritime presence, “it also includes important standards for the maritime industry in regards to how it treats its workforce, such as workers’ safety standards, the elimination of worker exploitation, worker injury compensation standards, onboard medical requirements, minimal equipment standards including lifeboats, crew training and licensing requirements. Finally, the Jones Act has strong environmental standards, requiring compliance with EPA regulations. Without the Jones Act application, all of these protections could be eliminated at the whim of foreign ship operators and revert back to a “floating sweatshops” model.”

They urged that the Assembly stand with American workers and vote “No” on the resolution.

FIRST FEMALE SUPERINTENDANT AT USMMA

Rear Admiral Joanna M. Nunan (U.S. Coast Guard, Ret.) has been appointed as the next superintendent of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA). Nunan, who spent more than three decades in the U.S. Coast Guard, has commanded units at every level both afloat and ashore. She will begin work at the Academy in a few weeks.

“Rear Admiral Nunan is uniquely prepared to lead and strengthen USMMA on every front,” said Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips. “She understands both the critical role USMMA plays in our economic and national security and the organizational transformations that are essential to ensuring USMMA prepares students in a safe and respectful environment to excel in a maritime industry undergoing rapid change.”

Rear Admiral Nunan retired earlier this year as the Coast Guard’s Deputy for Personnel Readiness. In that role, she oversaw the Coast Guard’s entire personnel enterprise, including the recruitment, training, support, and retention of all active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel. She also supervised the Coast Guard Academy and served on its Board of Trustees. Previously, Rear Admiral Nunan served as the Assistant Commandant for Human Resources. She also served as a member of the Coast Guard’s Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Committee.

Earlier in her career, she served as the Military Advisor to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and as the Military Assistant to Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta. She also served more than nine years at sea - including commanding two buoy tenders - and previously served as the Commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District and as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Honolulu.

A Bridgeport, Connecticut native, Nunan graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1987 and received her Master of Business Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic. She also obtained three Coast Guard merchant mariner licenses, including Master of vessels of not more than 1,600 gross tons and 3rd Mate on vessels of unlimited tonnage.

TTD SETS UPCOMING PRIORITIES

The 37 unions of the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department (TTD), including the M.E.B.A., took part in a meeting this week to set the federation's 2023 agenda. M.E.B.A. was represented at the meeting by Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha as well as Government Affairs Director Erick Siahaan. TTD President Greg Regan, said, "Our federation will continue to work with this Administration and the new Congress to advance policies that improve wages, benefits, and working conditions for the dedicated workers who build, operate, and maintain our critical transportation and infrastructure systems."

The federation's workers-first agenda includes federal policy reforms that would: Prevent recipients of federal passenger rail grants from displacing workers; Fully restore rail workers' sickness and unemployment insurance benefits; Attach "Made in America" requirements to all federal infrastructure grants; Address ongoing air traffic control and technical operations staffing challenges; Reform the joint venture approval process for airlines; and establish a domestic prevailing wage for maritime workers on offshore wind projects.

SHIPPING DECARBONIZATION PLAN FORWARDED AT UN CONFERENCE

An action plan to help the global maritime industry stay on target to meet shipping decarbonization goals was put forward at the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27). The plan, trumpeted by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), sets out recommendations to upskill seafarers to meet shipping's decarbonization goals. The plan is in response to findings from new research that cautions that as many as 800,000 seafarers will require additional training by the mid-2030s. M.E.B.A. is a member organization of the ITF, a global union federation fighting for the rights, equality and justice of almost 20 million working men and women in the transport sector around the world.

Currently accounting for 3% of global [emissions](#), shipping is trying to transition away from conventional fuels towards alternative low- and zero-carbon fuels and technologies to meet the world's target of keeping global warming to 1.5C or less by 2050. The three emission reduction scenarios assessed in the research highlight an immediate need to start putting the training infrastructure in place, to ensure hundreds of thousands of the world's nearly two million seafarers are upskilled and empowered through the transition. Findings also suggest that a lack of certainty on alternative fuel options is having knock-on effects for seafarer training, as the global maritime community works towards a clearer decarbonization pathway in a post-fossil fuel era.

In response to the training challenge that the modelling lays bare, the Action Plan makes recommendations for industry, governments, seafarer unions and academia (including training providers). These recommendations include: Strengthening global training standards; Ensuring a health-and-safety-first approach; and Establishing advisory national maritime skills councils.

86% OF COMPANIES IN 4-DAY WORK WEEK TRIAL MAY MAKE IT PERMANENT

The four-day work week is gaining steam and more and more employers appear to be amenable to it. National Public Radio (NPR) reports, "Companies in the United Kingdom are about to complete the biggest trial of a four-day work week ever undertaken, anywhere in the world. The program's thesis was a provocative one: that for six months, these companies would reduce their workers' hours by 20%, to 32 hours a week, but continue to pay them 100% of their pay."

Charlotte Lockhart, the founder of Four Day Week, the organization behind the pilot program, says company leaders usually have a visceral reaction when they hear the idea of cutting hours without cutting pay. Something like, ‘That’ll never work in my business. That’ll never work in my industry. That’ll never work in my country. That’ll never work in the world.’

Fortunately, she found 73 companies to give it a shot. They include financial firms, recruiters, consultants, health care companies and even a fish and chip shop (this is Britain, after all). And while the data on the study hasn’t been released yet, the anecdotal feedback from these firms appears to be positive. Fully 86% said they will likely continue the four-day workweek policy. The same pay for less time at work? Sign us up!”

UNION-MADE THANKSGIVING

When you buy union, you're supporting good jobs in American communities, jobs that provide living wages and benefits, safe working conditions, and dignity and respect for work. Look for these quality products, produced by union members, when preparing your Thanksgiving feast!

Unions listed below include United Farm Workers (UFW); United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); Bakery Confectionery Tobacco and Grain Millers (BCTGM); International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT); International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU).

Whole Turkey - [Butterball](#) (UFCW, IBT); Foster Farms (UFW). **Ham** - Appleton Farms ham (UFCW); Butterball ham (UFCW); Cook’s ham (UFCW); Farmland original pit ham (UFCW); Tyson ham (UFCW). **Potatoes/Sweet Potatoes** - Betty Crocker (BCTGM); Dole (IBT); Ore-Ida (UFCW, IBT). **Salad/Vegetables** - Andy Boy Broccoli, Cauliflower, Lettuce (UFW); Birds Eye Vegetables (UFCW, IBT); Del Fresh Mushrooms (UFW); Dole Salads (IBT); Fresh Express Salad (IBT). **Stuffing** - Stroehmann Bakery Products (BCTGM); Manischewitz (BCTGM). **Cranberries/Cranberry Sauce** - Dole (IBT); Ocean Spray (IAM). **Bread** - Aunt Millie’s breads (UFCW); Pillsbury Crescent Rolls (BCTGM); Stroehmann Bakeries’ products (BCTGM); Bunny Bread (Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union [RWDSU]). **Pie** - Banquet fruit pies (UFCW); Entenmann’s (BCTGM); Marie Callender’s (UFCW); Pillsbury pie crust (BCTGM); Sara Lee (BCTGM). **Pie Filling** - Del Monte fresh apples (IBT); Food Club 100% Pure Pumpkin (UFCW); Kroger Bakery Fresh Goodness Pumpkin Pie (UFCW); Mott’s Applesauce (RWDSU). **Dessert** - Betty Crocker readymade frosting (RWDSU).

For more union-made products visit <http://labor411.org/listing-region/consumer-products/>

VACATION BENEFITS – 2022 YEAR-END CLOSING

Apply for Vacation and Port Relief Benefits early to avoid the year-end rush.

- **FILING DEADLINE:** The deadline for issuing checks dated in 2022 in the Outports *and* the Plan Office is Friday, December 16, 2022.
- **DIRECT DEPOSIT:** The final Direct Deposit Transfer for 2022 will be made on 12/19/2022 and the funds will be deposited into bank accounts on 12/21/2022.

- Any requests for Port Relief and Vacation checks received after 12/16/22 at 12:00 PM EST will be paid in the order received beginning 1/3/2023.

Any member who requires that his/her check be dated in 2022 must file before this deadline. Remember, Monday December 26, 2022 and Monday January 2, 2023 are holidays and the Outports and the Plan Office will be closed. It is always wise to plan ahead, so you should verify the specific holiday schedule with the Plan Office Representative.

Split Your Vacation Payments between 2022 and 2023

You can submit an Application for Vacation Pay prior to the end of the year and request that the payment of your vacation benefits be split. Two checks will be issued to you, one in 2022 and a second in 2023. The 12/16/2022 deadline applies to split claims also. The vacation benefits paid in this manner **MUST** be a **continuous vacation period**.

Please contact the Vacation Plan staff in Baltimore at 800-811-6322 or 410-547-9111 if you have any questions.

NOTE ON NEXT WEEK'S THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS

All Union halls and offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 next week for Thanksgiving. In addition there may be early closures on Wednesday – check your local hall if needed. The *Telex Times* will still publish on Thursday.

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

Monday, December 5 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, December 6 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, December 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; **Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thurs. December 8 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, December 9 – 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. 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.