

# 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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### **M.E.B.A. CONGRATULATES UNION-ENDORSED CANDIDATES, LOOKS TOWARD MARITIME AGENDA NEXT YEAR**

M.E.B.A is pleased to announce that many candidates endorsed by the Union or supported by the M.E.B.A. PAF will be returning to Congress. Key maritime allies will be returning to serve in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress including: Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Ed Markey (D-MA), Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Bob Gibbs (R-OH), Joe Courtney (D-CT), Rob Wittman (R-VA), David Price (D-NC), Mario Diaz Balart (R-FL), and Elaine Luria (D-VA), among many others. Maritime is a bipartisan industry and ensuring our nation has the port and waterway infrastructure, U.S.-flag ships, and the U.S. crews they require is in the national interest.

But even though most Members on both sides of the aisle who understand the issues agree we need a robust American Merchant Marine, many Members still need to be educated about the vital role we play. With the ongoing pandemic, M.E.B.A. will focus much of its energy in the next Congress fostering new relationships and (virtually) educating newly elected officials on the importance of the Maritime Security Program, Cargo Preference, and the Jones Act. Furthermore, M.E.B.A. is working in the lame-duck session weigh-in with the presidential transition team as President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris fill top vacancies in key agencies ranging from the Department of Transportation, Department of Labor, and the Maritime Administration among others.

The M.E.B.A. would also like to congratulate Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-LA) who will be vacating his seat in Congress to serve as a Senior Adviser to President-Elect Biden as the White House Director of Public Engagement. In 2019, Congressman Richmond, a staunch Jones Act ally, was awarded the 'Salute to Congress Award' in recognition of his critical support for the U.S. Merchant Marine that includes his work as the founding member and Chair of the Congressional Maritime Caucus.

### **AOTOS GOES VIRTUAL: MARITIME LABOR, INDUSTRY TO BE HONORED**

The United Seamen's Service has found a way to continue hosting its annual awards ceremony that pays tribute to the industry even as the ongoing pandemic shows no signs of abatement. USS will conduct its 51st annual Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) awards ceremony in a live virtual presentation set for 1430 hrs. on December 9, 2020.

Each year, USS presents AOTOS statuettes to U.S. maritime advocates to commemorate lifetime contributions to our industry. This year, they will highlight the service of the entire American maritime

industry to the nation, with special recognition of four pillars of that community: the U.S. Maritime Administration, merchant mariners, U.S.-flag shipping companies and longshoremen.

Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, who was an AOTOS recipient herself in 2019, will accept the AOTOS statuette on behalf of the honorees. The actual award will be housed in the future at the Maritime Administration in Washington D.C. in a display case.

A link for the roughly 40-minute ceremony will be made available a week before the event. It will be a mixture of live footage and taped material. It will later be archived and made available for your viewing pleasure after the event.

Due to the circumstances and abbreviated program, the special awards singling out specific mariner acts of bravery won't be presented this year. However, the tremendous contributions of maritime labor will be highlighted as part of the program. Speakers will include Maritime Administrator Rear Admiral Mark Buzby, SIU President Mike Sacco, ILWU President Willie Adams, Maersk Line President Bill Woodhour, Crowley Chairman Thomas Crowley, USTRANSCOM & MSC representatives, as well as Secretary Chao. Once available, the link will be published in a future edition of the *Telex Times*.

#### **IMO DRAFT PLAN TO REDUCE SHIP EMISSIONS SET FOR 2021 ADOPTION**

The International Maritime Organization has approved new draft mandatory regulations to further reduce the carbon footprint of global shipping. The new round of energy efficiency measures is another step in IMO's efforts to reduce shipping sector emissions by at least 50% (from 2008 levels) by the year 2050. The draft regs include clearer targets and measures for the industry to meet its long-term greenhouse gas emission goals. The plan is expected to be formalized when the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) meets in June 2021. It would require vessel engine power reductions beginning in 2023 then level a series of carbon intensity targets that could be met through speed reduction and use of alternative fuels.

But green groups believe the measures don't go far enough, help place the 2050 goals in jeopardy, and give the industry a free pass over the next decade. Criticizing the plan's "weak" enforcement measures and emissions targets that are "out of step" with global climate goals, Clean Shipping Coalition President John Maggs noted that, "As scientists are telling us we have less than 10 years to stop our headlong rush to climate catastrophe, the IMO has decided that emissions can keep on growing for 10 years at least. Their complacency is breathtaking."

CESA and Sea Europe, representing European shipbuilding and its supply chain said the loosely-defined enforcement measures of the new plan would cause uneven compliance that would distort competition and unfairly hurt progressive shipowners. "And this will also undermine the incentive to innovate, which is indispensable for implementing the maritime energy transition and zero-emission maritime transport," they said.

However, industry coalitions such as the International Chamber of Shipping said that the draft rules put the global shipping industry "firmly on track to meet the ambitious IMO CO2 reduction targets and ultimately being a zero emissions sector."

## **UNION PLUS: PROMOTIONS & NEWS OF NOTE**

Union Plus programs provide a vast range of money-saving benefits and services and are available to M.E.B.A. members, applicants, retirees and our affiliates.

### ***New Website***

Union Plus has a great new website with a much-improved look and feel, easier navigation, and many backend and technical advancements that will help improve the member experience. If you haven't already visited the site located at [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org), now is a great time.

### ***Pandemic Hardship Assistance Program***

Through the Union Plus Job Loss Grant, Disability Grant, and the Mortgage Assistance Program, Union Plus is putting money in the pockets of union members in need of assistance during this health crisis. Since the pandemic hit, over 1,700 union members have applied for direct assistance from the Union Plus Hardship Assistance programs. To date, they have paid out over \$1,200,000 to members and continue to work the remaining pipeline of applicants. Disaster Relief grants are also providing extra relief to eligible members impacted by storms, wildfires and other natural disasters this year.

### ***“Most Extraordinary Union Member” Contest***

Union Plus is giving away \$1,000 cash to 100 of “the most extraordinary union members nationwide.” You should submit a written or video nomination (60 seconds or less) describing what makes your nominee extraordinary using #UnionPlusGiveAGrand and #Contest on Instagram OR visit this site: <https://www.unionplus.org/holidaygiveback> You are allowed to nominate yourself. There is no purchase necessary. The contest goes until December 4, 2020.

### ***AT&T Promotion***

Union Plus has launched a promotion with AT&T through November 30, 2020, that extends additional benefits for union members who switch over to AT&T and purchase a new smartphone. Resources to share this promotion with your members and on your networks can be found at this link: <https://unionplus.deals/digitaltoolkit>

### ***Mortgage Program Honors Veterans***

Union Plus Mortgage Veteran's Grant Program has granted more than \$100,000 to veterans of the U.S. Armed Services since its relaunch in 2018. Vets who purchase a primary residence through the Union Plus Mortgage Program are eligible for a \$1,000 one-time grant.

## **M.E.B.A. ELECTION: ONLINE SPECIAL MEETINGS TO ELECT TALLYING COMMITTEE**

On Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, six Union halls will hold Online Special Meetings to each elect a member to form a six-person rank and file Election Tallying Committee. The Committee will help oversee the tabulation of District election ballots on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Each of the Special Meetings will take place online by Zoom and attendees must sign up during the Nov. 19-26 registration period. Elected Committee members will travel to Washington D.C. on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, perform their duties on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and travel home later Monday evening or early on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Union halls hosting Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Special Meetings online will be New York/New Jersey, Tampa, Houston, Norfolk, Seattle and San Francisco (Oakland). A communication was sent to members, with email addresses on file, earlier today. The notice is also available on the M.E.B.A. website in the Documents & Member Notices section.

## **M.E.B.A. ELECTION: OBTAINING A DUPLICATE BALLOT**

If you are an M.E.B.A. member and did not receive a ballot – or yours has been lost or destroyed - you can request a duplicate ballot in writing. Ballots should be returned to the depository by November 30. Ballots not received in the depository when the ballots are collected, in accordance with the By-Laws, shall be disqualified and not counted.

The M.E.B.A. By-Laws states, "A member shall be entitled to make a written request of the Impartial Administrator for a duplicate ballot and receive the same provided he states in his letter that he has not received his ballot or that his ballot has been lost or mutilated so that it cannot be used. Duplicate ballots shall be counted unless the original and duplicate ballot mailed to a member are both cast, in which event neither ballot shall be counted."

Please use the following Impartial Administrator contact information to request a duplicate ballot. Any written requests for duplicate ballots made to the M.E.B.A. will be referred to the Impartial Administrator.

### **TrueBallot, Inc.**

3 Bethesda Metro Center  
Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Email: [0212001@trueballot.com](mailto:0212001@trueballot.com)

Please make sure you include the address where the duplicate ballot should be sent.

## **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).

**Whole Turkey** - Butterball (UFCW, IBT); Foster Farms (UFCW, IBT). **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). For more union-made products visit <http://labor411.org/listing-region/consumer-products/>

## **NOTE ON THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS**

All Union halls and offices will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 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.

**ONLINE DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – (All times are local)**

**Monday, December 7** – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

**Tuesday, December 8** – CMES@1430 (*CMES Meeting will be conducted In-Person*);  
Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

**Wednesday, December 9** – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

**Thursday, December 10** – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

**Friday, December 11** – 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; [mehq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mehq@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.*