

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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HORIZON RELIANCE CREW RECOGNIZED FOR RESCUE; RELIANCE WILL REPOWER

M.E.B.A. and American Maritime Congress representatives were on hand on Tuesday at a D.C. event honoring officers and crew of the M.E.B.A.-contracted HORIZON RELIANCE for their efforts in an at-sea rescue.

The Association for Rescue at Sea (AFRAS) sponsored the awards ceremony and reception that took place at the Rayburn House Office building on Capitol Hill. The normally annual event skipped a year due to COVID but used the Tuesday ceremony to play catch-up. Aside from the HORIZON RELIANCE, a few foreign flag vessels were honored for rescues as well as several Coastguardsmen who distinguished themselves with at-sea heroics.

Headlining the event were Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24) and Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz.

In November of 2020, the Pasha/Sunrise containership RELIANCE, was called to the scene where two pilots from a single engine Pilatus PC-12 NGX aircraft were haplessly floating in a raft after crash landing into the Pacific due to engine failure about 1,060 miles northeast of Oahu, Hawaii. Another vessel, the crude oil tanker MT ARIEL, attempted rescue operations several times through 30 knot winds and 10-foot waves but were unsuccessful. The RELIANCE proved more maneuverable for such a rescue and the crew worked in tandem to quickly and efficiently scoop them aboard to safety. The RELIANCE crew provided medical care, food, water and dry clothes for the pilots and proceeded to Honolulu.

The crew is comprised of M.E.B.A. engine officers, MM&P deck officers and an SIU unlicensed crew. Chief Engineer Justin Raby headed up the engine room during that voyage along with 1st A/E David Rivera. The vessel's Captain Mark Tuck was at the ceremony on Tuesday and accepted the prestigious "AMVER Plaque" on behalf of the RELIANCE crew.

Late last year, the vessel crew was honored with a public service award from the Coast Guard for their roles in the rescue. The ship has also been nominated for one of the seafarer awards that will be doled out at the next Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) ceremony in December.

M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland “Rex” Rexha, who was on hand at the Capitol Hill ceremony on Tuesday, lauded the M.E.B.A. engineers, as well as the rest of the crew on the RELIANCE, who once-again demonstrated their expertise and shipboard wizardry to effect a successful rescue. “We have the finest and most highly-trained seagoing mariners in the industry.” Rex said. “U.S. seafarers are diligent, productive and deliver the goods without fanfare. It’s gratifying when their excellent ongoing efforts, which many take for granted, are recognized every once in a while.”

In other HORIZON RELIANCE news, Pasha announced that the 42-year old vessel will undergo an LNG retrofit from steam propulsion power to dual fuel. The planned work would involve the installation of a high-pressure fuel gas supply system (FGSS), power management system (PMS), ship performance monitor (SPM) and digital solutions for data collection, as well as the full automation of all the new systems onboard the ship.

MAERSK KANSAS WILL CREW UP IN LAST WEEK OF YEAR

Maersk Line, Ltd. shored up its plans to replace the aging MAERSK IDAHO with a newer vessel. The incoming MAERSK KANSAS is seven years younger than the IDAHO which is coming up against a Maritime Security Program age restriction. The KANSAS will take over the MSP chit and be deployed into the company’s Trans-Atlantic Northern European service.

The IDAHO is transitioning to the company’s international fleet as the newer vessel comes in. M.E.B.A. will crew both ships during the transition. Senior officers will go up the KANSAS gangway in the last week of December with the remaining crew joining after the 1st of the New Year.

The KANSAS is the sister ship to the SAFMARINE MAFADI. It was constructed in 2007 and is a 958-foot, 4,824 TEU container vessel propelled by a Wartsila Sulzer 8RT-Flex96C engine.

SEA YEAR PROGRAM ON HOLD AS USMMA RE-EXAMINES CADET PROTECTIONS

For the second time in five years, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is pushing the pause button on its sea year program to examine ways to improve safeguards for midshipmen sailing aboard commercial vessels as part of the program. The decision was made by the Department of Transportation which oversees the Academy and days after the Chairs of key Congressional committees urged a suspension of the program. The move comes weeks after allegations that a sea year cadet was sexually assaulted onboard a deep sea vessel in 2019.

The Congressional Members pointed out that the Academy had paused sea year in 2016 to implement safeguards to protect participating midshipmen. “But those changes clearly did not work,” lawmakers stated, “and we are concerned that the cadets remain in danger. Following the decision, the school issued a letter to students making them aware of the news. That letter noted that the Academy is examining “a number of recommendations for both immediate and longer-term measures to improve safety on campus and at sea for King’s Point cadets and for all mariners.”

The M.E.B.A. again underscored that sexual assault and sexual harassment are completely unacceptable in any context and won’t be tolerated in M.E.B.A.-represented workplaces. Cadets, and everyone onboard, must be treated with respect.

MATSON COMMITS TO NET ZERO GHG BY 2050; IMO, ITF CONTINUE PUSH

Matson Inc. is onboard with new environmental sustainability goals that would put them on target for zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in their fleet by 2050. Matson Navigation Company is a subsidiary of Matson Inc. which published their long-term environmental goals in a recently issued Sustainability Report.

"We are committed to doing our part in helping the world decarbonize and limit climate change," said Matt Cox, chairman and chief executive officer. "We believe we have a responsibility to significantly reduce our carbon footprint by lowering our greenhouse gas emissions and our aim is to achieve these medium- and long-term goals by improving fleet and operational efficiency. Matson is supporting efforts to create an industry-funded research and development program to accelerate zero-carbon fuels and technologies. While these transformative technologies develop, we will continue to focus on improving the efficiency of our fleet and terminal operations."

The company committed to reducing fleet greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030, and achieving net zero fleet GHG emissions by 2050.

At the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), in Glasgow, United Kingdom, the International Maritime Organization continues its push to cut the amount of GHG emissions from international shipping. The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is also vocal on behalf of working toward a cleaner industry.

"Seafarers want to be part of the solution," said Dave Heindel, ITF Seafarers' Section chair. "We want to be proud of the action taken by our industry. We want to lead the transition." ITF is also calling for the industry and regulators to commit to a target of zero-carbon by 2050.

"People who work at sea witness the impacts of climate change every day and are extremely concerned that their industry is not acting quickly enough," said Stephen Cotton, the ITF's General Secretary. "Huge changes are needed swiftly to switch the shipping industry away from fossil fuels. Seafarers have the passion, knowledge and ideas to help move the industry to a carbon-free future."

UAW JOHN DEERE WORKERS REMAIN ON STRIKE

10,100 workers at 14 different John Deere locations are still seeking a fair contract after 55% of voting members rejected a tentative agreement that would have ended the three-week strike.

UAW International spokesperson Brian Rothenberg said that negotiators continue with the tractor company to resolve worker concerns. John Deere has enjoyed astronomical profits during the pandemic and workers, who have kept the company going during difficult times, are unenthused by the lukewarm wages and benefits being offered. "The strike against John Deere and company will continue as we discuss next steps with the company," the UAW stated. "Pickets will continue and any updates will be provided through the local union."

There are a plethora of ongoing strikes throughout the U.S. right now. Check this "strike map" to find a labor action near you that you can support: <https://tinyurl.com/y87s477y>

UNION MATCHING G&W CONTRIBUTIONS DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR

M.E.B.A.'s homegrown fund that helps members in times of need is getting an added boost from every donation made this year since the Union announced that it is matching contributions made to the Good & Welfare Fund dollar-for-dollar - up to \$10,000. The top G&W contributor through December 31st will earn the coveted M.E.B.A. "Swag Bag" – a bag stuffed to the gills with fabulous M.E.B.A. prizes worth an estimated \$200.

The Good & Welfare Fund assists active and retired members and their families in times of crisis. It helps remove some of the sting and burden of unexpected tragedy and lends a hand to those within the M.E.B.A. family. This is a wonderful cause, but we must constantly strengthen the fund to allow additional assistance to members and retirees in times of hardship.

All donations are tax deductible as approved by law under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributed funds go directly to supporting M.E.B.A. families in need. Your contributions to the fund are tax deductible so please give liberally in order to help a Union brother or sister.

You can contribute to the G&W Fund anytime. But right now would be the best time now that the Union has pledged to make your generous contribution really pack a punch. The Fund is exempt from Federal Income tax. You can make a contribution at a Union hall or support the Fund through an electronic payment made using the link on the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org).

"FALL OPEN" 4MF DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT LATER THIS MONTH AT CMES

Still embarrassed that *Telex Times* Editor Marco Cannistraro reigned supreme at the last Disc Golf tournament held at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School in September, M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation officials are looking to put it behind them and crown a new champion later this month.

The 4MF will host a "Frisbee Golf" tournament on November 28th at 1 pm - open to everyone - with a \$25 entry fee.

The 2021 Fall Open Disc Golf Tournament will benefit the Memorial which is located on School grounds. As you know, the Memorial was created to honor fallen seafarers who have delivered the goods and answered the call of this country since 1775. The M MMMMF IS A 501(c)(3) entity, so contributions are tax deductible.

You can contact 4MF Chairman Bill Van Loo for additional information. He can be reached at (443) 676-6248 or bvanloo@bvlworks.org

JUNEAU HALL NOW AT NEW LOCATION

M.E.B.A.'s Union hall in Juneau has relocated to a new space. On Monday, the hall moved to 130 Seward St. Suite 304 in the Goldstein Building.

The email addresses will remain unchanged but the new phone number will be (907) 331-3123 and the fax number changes to (907) 202-5322.

M.E.B.A. HALLS AND OFFICES CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day falls on Thursday, November 11th, and all M.E.B.A. halls and offices will be closed. The day marks the anniversary of the agreement that ended World War I in 1918. Originally known as

Armistice Day, it is now celebrated as a day to commemorate all veterans in the U.S. including Merchant Marine veterans. Union halls membership meetings that would have taken place on that day (L.A., NY/NJ, Norfolk, Tampa) will shift to Friday, November 12th at the normal time.

YOU SHOULD SIGN UP FOR THE WEDNESDAY HQ ONLINE MEETING!!!!

The monthly town-hall style M.E.B.A. Headquarters informational meeting will be held online – with no voting and no resolutions introduced - on Wednesday, November 10th at 1300 (Eastern Time). This is not an actual membership meeting but it is an excellent opportunity for Members, Applicants and Retirees to discuss M.E.B.A. business, exchange information and learn more about the latest Union initiatives. Members, applicants and retirees need to register in advance for this meeting to mebahq@mebaunion.org

When registering for the Online Headquarters Informational Meeting you must provide your full name and proof of good standing - such as your last dues receipt/service charge number or statement that you are enrolled in Dues Check-Off (DCO) with a particular bargaining unit. Retirees should provide their full name and indicate their retired status. Upon confirmation of your status, the Zoom access link will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS *(All times are local)*

Monday, November 8 – Boston@1200; Seattle-Fife@1300;

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

Wednesday, November 10 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online Headquarters “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – **Register at mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, November 11 – Veterans’ Day – *All Halls Closed*

Friday, November 12 – Honolulu@1100; L.A.-San Pedro@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

-----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. 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 Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.