

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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M.E.B.A. HAS A NEW HALL IN TAMPA

The Union has finalized arrangements for a new Tampa Union hall after a pair of recent hurricanes laid waste to the old space. The destruction caused by the storms and potential issues of future storms left our Tampa hall facility on South 50th Street in a state not viable for day-to-day operations. After careful consideration of the location's long-term value, and assessment of the damage and rebuild costs, the Union made the difficult decision to close the Tampa Union hall and to seek a new location to better serve member needs and support our mission. Gulf Coast VP Adam Smith and Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway worked with HQ to find a suitable replacement and are pleased to announce that we will begin operations at the new facility sometime in December. The new Tampa hall is located at 2018 E 7th, close to the downtown area in Ybor City. The new hall will provide a safe and welcoming environment for members. Call Branch Agent Nicole Greenway at (813) 247-7223 for updates or to conduct Tampa-area related business until the new hall is up and running.

M.E.B.A. ELECTION: MEMBERS NEED TO BE CURRENT BY NEXT WEEK OR THEIR BALLOT WILL NOT COUNT

Members who are not in good standing by November 15, 2024, with dues paid in accordance with the M.E.B.A. By-Laws (through the end of the Fourth Quarter, as applicable) are not eligible to vote in the ongoing M.E.B.A. election. Members need to ensure that their dues status is secured through the end of the year to guarantee their participation in this year's officers' election.

NOV. 25 SPECIAL MEETINGS TO ELECT TALLYING COMMITTEE

On Monday, November 25th, six M.E.B.A. Union halls will hold Special Membership Meetings to elect five members and one alternate to form a six-person Rank-and-File Election Tallying Committee. Union halls hosting Nov. 25 Special Meetings will be New York/New Jersey, Tampa, Houston, Norfolk, Seattle and San Francisco (Oakland). The Oakland member will serve as the Alternate on the Committee if all six member attend. The Committee will help oversee the tabulation of District election ballots on December 2nd.

The Houston hall will have their meeting at their new location - 6604 South Loop East. The Tampa Union hall was recently ruined by a pair of hurricanes, and at this time, it is anticipated that Tampa's

Special Membership Meeting will be held at Coppertail Brewing Company (2601 E 2nd Ave in Tampa). The new Tampa hall is located at 2018 E 7th but it is uncertain whether it'll be ready in time for the Special Meeting. Call Branch Agent Nicole Greenway at (813) 247-7223 to verify the location before the meeting. Notice will also be made in the *Telex Times*.

Each of the six halls will hold their Special Meetings following job call, but make sure you contact that particular hall to confirm in advance because times could vary. A quorum for a special membership meeting is five or more members. The election of a Tallying Committee member will be the only item on the agenda at these Special Meetings.

On the morning of December 2nd, the elected Tallying Committee, along with the Impartial Administrator, will collect the ballots from the depository, oversee the ballot count, and issue a report detailing the results of the election, along with any other pertinent information. Members elected must be in good standing; i.e., dues paid through the fourth quarter of 2024 or current on DCO with no lapses. No officer or candidate for office or job is eligible for election to the Tallying Committee. Please urge members to attend and participate in the Nov. 25th Special Meetings.

HORIZON ENTERPRISE HEADED FOR THE SCRAPYARD

M.E.B.A. officers who sailed aboard the HORIZON ENTERPRISE may shed a tear upon hearing the news that the much-traveled containership built in 1980 has been sold for recycling. Pasha/Sunrise had operated the vessel since 2015 when they took over Horizon Lines' Hawaii operations. The ENTERPRISE was removed from the fleet and went into lay-up in 2022 when Pasha brought in newbuild LNG-fueled containership GEORGE III. The vessel had formerly been known as the CSX ENTERPRISE, SEA-LAND ENTERPRISE and the AMERICAN PURITAN. It was built at the Bethlehem Key Highway shipyard in Baltimore, MD as the AUSTRAL PURITAN a refrigerated cargo ship for Farrell Lines but was converted to a container ship in 1983 and taken over by US Lines and crewed by M.E.B.A. officers.

According to sources, Pasha sold the vessel to Best Oasis, a company that purchases vessels for recycling. The 2,303-TEU vessel was sold "as-is" for \$4.3 million.

M.E.B.A. AFFILIATES CELEBRATE NEW D.A.

Three of M.E.B.A.'s West Coast affiliates got good news this week when voters validated the candidacy of Nathan Hochman as the new District Attorney for Los Angeles County. Hochman, who will take office on December 2nd, is a former federal prosecutor who ran his winning campaign as an independent.

He was endorsed by three M.E.B.A. affiliates: the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS), the Association of Deputy District Attorneys (ADDA) and the L.A. County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA). ALADS is the certified bargaining unit for deputy sheriffs and district attorney investigators working in California's L.A. County. ADDA represents Deputy District Attorneys in L.A. County. PPOA represents L.A. County employees of the Sheriff's Department, Department of the Coroner and the District Attorney's Office.

The unions criticized current D.A. George Gascon's term in office in which he oversaw a rise in violent crime. Michele Hanisee, President of the ADDA, said "...Nathan Hochman is the best candidate to support a pro-labor workplace agenda and to foster a constructive, open and

collaborative relationship with the ADDA and its members. We appreciate his commitment to the work done by our prosecutors and look forward to building a positive working relationship that benefits our members and the public.”

ALADS President Richard Pippin celebrated the resounding election victory noting, “I’d like to congratulate Nathan Hochman on his critical triumph and to let him know that our members are eager to begin working with him to reduce crime and improve public safety.”

ALADS Executive Director Derek Hsieh said, “Thank you to each and every one of our coalition partners in law enforcement, public safety, labor unions, victims’ rights groups, business allies, grassroots supporters, and our elected leaders who stepped up to demand change in the D.A. office. This win – is for all of us – and for all of the people of L.A. County.”

VACATION BENEFITS – 2024 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 2024 in the Outports and the Plan Office is Tuesday, December 17, 2024.
- **DIRECT DEPOSIT:** The final Direct Deposit Transfer for 2024 will be made on 12/18/2024 and the funds will be deposited into bank accounts on 12/20/2024.
- Any requests for Port Relief and Vacation checks received after 12/17/24 at 12:00 PM EST will be paid in the order received beginning 1/2/2025.

Any member who requires that his/her check be dated in 2024 must file before this deadline. Remember, Wednesday, December 25, 2024 and Wednesday, January 1, 2025 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 2024 and 2025

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 2024 and a second in 2025. The 12/17/2024 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.

RISING SPIRITS OF GLOBAL MARINERS

The third-quarter report from The Seafarers Happiness Index reports a modest increase in global seafarer happiness, yet issues like limited shore leave, pay concerns, isolation, and persistent internet access disparities continue to pose challenges. Conducted by The Mission to Seafarers, the quarterly survey reveals that overall satisfaction among seafarers rose to 7.16 out of 10 in the Third Quarter of 2024, up slightly from 6.99 in the Second Quarter. This improvement is partly credited to increased rest time resulting from extended Red Sea detours, which help ships avoid areas affected by the Middle East conflict.

Seafarers express overall contentment with life at sea, but there is a clear desire for better support systems to enhance their well-being. Frustration with internet connectivity remains a significant concern, especially on vessels which have Starlink but are trading in waters which do not allow its use. Improved communication is seen as vital for boosting morale among crew members. Limited shore leave opportunities continue to be a pressing issue, with many seafarers feeling overworked and isolated – highlighting the need for a better work-life balance. The latest report can be viewed [here](#).

M.E.B.A. ELECTION: HOW TO OBTAIN 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. There’s not much time. Act quickly. Our By-Laws state that 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.”

Any written requests for duplicate ballots made to the M.E.B.A. will be referred to the Impartial Administrator: The quickest way to request a duplicate is by emailing TrueBallot at 0212401@trueballot.com *Please make sure you include your address to send the duplicate ballot. A reply email is not generated when the request is made. Duplicate ballots are typically delivered by mail within a week of request (dependent on the Post Office.* You can contact Marco C. at M.E.B.A. Headquarters - marco@mebaunion.org - for any follow-up questions.

MARINERS TO BE HONORED AT DC VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

For the second time, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) invited members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor U.S. Merchant Marine veterans from World War II on Veterans Day. In addition to WWII veterans, AMMV honors the service of all Merchant Marine veterans who served our nation during military sealift operations. The ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery provide one of our nation’s most enduring displays of respect for all U.S. veterans. AMMV representatives are proud to honor the men and women of the U.S. Merchant Marine, and their families, who served our nation.

At the wreath laying ceremony, WWII Merchant Marine veterans William Balabanow and James Dipelesi will take part in the event. Prior to the wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery, the USMM WWII veterans and their chaperones will have breakfast with President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. The M.E.B.A. was one of the three maritime unions that helped fund the veterans’ expenses to attend the event along with the AMO and the SIU. The American Maritime Congress also contributed.

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

Veterans Day will be observed on Monday, November 11 and all M.E.B.A. halls and offices will be closed. Veterans 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. It is observed as Remembrance Day in the Commonwealth nations, and as Armistice Day in France and Belgium. Birmingham, AL hosted the very first Veterans Day parade in 1947 and it continues today as an annual tradition. Each year on November 11th, right at 11 a.m. (11/11 at 11), a wreath-laying ceremony is held in the Memorial

Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This will be the 71st annual National Veterans Day Observance.

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

Friday, November 8 – Honolulu@1100

Monday, December 2 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, December 3 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, December 4 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org

Thursday, December 5 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300 (Tampa meeting to be held at Coppertail Brewing Company - 2601 E 2nd Ave, Tampa, FL)

Friday, December 6 – 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. 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