

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"
M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
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HELP REPLENISH G&W FUND TO ASSIST HURRICANE-HIT MEMBERSHIP

Hurricanes Helene and Milton serve as powerful reminders that, at times, modern progress is still no match for the overwhelming force of nature. Many of our members, applicants, and retirees were still assessing the damage left by Hurricane Helene when, just two weeks later, Hurricane Milton struck - unleashing another round of devastation in its wake. M.E.B.A.'s Union hall in Tampa succumbed to Hurricane Helene and remains closed while officials search for a replacement.

Fortunately, mass evacuations may have saved countless lives for this week's storm, but as Floridians return to their hometowns, they are being greeted by catastrophic chaos. In the past, our Good & Welfare Fund has been there for M.E.B.A. families following devastating storms and disasters, illness and death.

The G&W is a wonderful cause, but we need to continually replenish the fund to allow additional assistance to members and retirees in times of hardship. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the Fund is exempt from Federal Income tax. Contact a Union hall to see how you can help. In addition, you can support the Fund on the M.E.B.A.'s Member Payment and Update Portal (PUP) that is also used to pay dues and service charges as well as contribute to the Political Action Fund. Visit www.mebaunion.org to access the portal where you can also view and update your M.E.B.A. records, including contact information, credentials, and sea time. When paying dues or service charges, the site enables online payers to choose their preferred Union hall, ensuring that payments are correctly indexed and correlated for record-keeping purposes. You'll find the online Portal to be the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing and extend a needed monetary infusion to vital Union programs.

Please consider making a contribution today to allow the Good & Welfare Fund to lend a hand to M.E.B.A. families now and into the future. With the tumult unleashed by the latest hurricanes, M.E.B.A. is ready to assist those in need. If you or one of our brothers or sisters need a helping hand from the fund during hard times, you should contact your local M.E.B.A. hall.

DOCKWORKERS STILL EYING SATISFACTORY AUTOMATION LANGUAGE

After receiving an encouraging agreement on wages from employers, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) agreed to suspend their strike while details of the master contract are worked out.

ILA and the U.S. Maritime Alliance (USMX) reached a tentative deal for a 61.5% wage increase over six years and extended the existing contract until January 15, 2025. The union assured its members that once the contract is resolved, each member will get a retroactive payment dating back to October 1. The ILA is now focused on getting satisfactory terms on jurisdictional issues, healthcare benefits and port automation.

Automation remains a contentious issue, with companies arguing it enhances safety by reducing human involvement in hazardous operations. However, labor advocates, including the AFL-CIO, argue that automation is often used to reduce headcount rather than to improve safety or operational efficiency. Given the unresolved issue of automation, labor experts believe the ILA's stance could set a precedent for other industries facing similar technological disruptions. As advancements in AI and robotics continue to accelerate, automation is likely to remain a central point of contention in labor negotiations across various sectors.

PASS RATIFIES AGREEMENT WITH FAA; WRAPS UP ELECTIONS

M.E.B.A. affiliate PASS – Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS) - finalized an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), after nearly two years of negotiations. PASS represents more than 11,000 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Defense Department workers throughout the air traffic control system. “I’m proud of the work our team did at the bargaining table,” PASS National President Dave Spero said. “It was challenging at times but in the end, we achieved a strong collective bargaining agreement that stressed recruitment and retention, as well as fair work rules, for employees who are critical to carrying out the FAA’s mission. I want to thank our members for their support and patience during the process.”

“This agreement underscores our joint commitment to maintaining the highest safety standards and recognizes the hard work and dedication of our PASS workforce,” said FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker in a Sept. 26 statement.

PASS also recently completed its 2024 officers’ elections. National President David Spero ran unopposed and begins his second term. National Secretary-Treasurer Carlos Aguirre was reelected for his third term on the PASS Executive Board.

GEN. REED TAKES OVER TRANSCOM

In a recent change-of-command ceremony, Air Force Gen. Randall Reed assumed leadership of the U.S. Transportation Command from Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, who had helmed the operation since October 2021. USTRANSCOM is responsible for the global, joint movement of combat units and sustainment cargo.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III presided over the ceremony and praised the command for all it has done and continues to do to bolster freedom and security globally. “When crisis strikes,” Austin said, “the ability to move comes first [and] when America calls, TRANSCOM moves out...Day in and day out, TRANSCOM sustains our forces worldwide. This department cannot keep America safe without you.”

On any day, USTRANSCOM has more than 100 railcars, 30 ships, and 1,500 trucks delivering cargo.

Gen. Reed is the 15th commander of USTRANSCOM, one of 11 combatant commands in the Department of Defense. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1989. During his career, the general held a variety of joint, headquarters, and base-level positions, including assignments in strategic airlift, special operations air refueling, and joint logistics spanning Operation Desert Storm to Operation Allies Refuge. He also served as the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché in Ankara, Türkiye.

At his confirmation hearing, Gen. Reed noted, “It is critically important that we maintain a viable U.S.-flagged sealift capability to support Department needs.” He said that “there is no way that I can do my mission without the commercial industry” and committed to growing the U.S.-flag fleet and swelling the number of American merchant mariners. “Most importantly, a long-term, stable and resourced strategy to increase fleet readiness, recapitalize the sealift fleet through purchasing used commercial ships for immediate readiness relief, and procurement of new ships will ensure we maintain sufficient capacity and industrial base to meet the needs of the National Defense Strategy.”

TASTY TREATS FOR A SPOOKY EVENING

If you want your Halloween to be all treats and no tricks, make sure all your candy is union-made in America. Throw away all those non-union treats and stuff your face with the following, featuring highlights of sweets made by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM), the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT).

100 Grand (IBT 200); Abba-Zabba (BCTGM); Almond Roca (BCTGM); Baby Ruth (BCTGM, IBT 200); Big Hunk (BCTGM); Butterfinger (BCTGM, IBT 200); Cadbury (UFCW); Dum Dums (IBT 20); Ghirardelli Chocolate (BCTGM); Hershey Original Chocolate Bar (BCTGM, UFCW); Hershey’s Kisses (BCTGM); Hot Tamales (BCTGM); Jelly Belly Jelly Beans (BCTGM); Jolly Ranchers (BCTGM); Just Born (BCTGM); Laffy Taffy (IBT 26); Look! (BCTGM); Mike and Ike (BCTGM); Payday (BCTGM); Peeps (BCTGM); PEZ (IBT 443); Raisinets (IBT 200); Red Vines (BCTGM); Ring Pops (IBT 229); Rolo (BCTGM); See’s Candies (BCTGM); Sugar Babies (BCTGM); Sugar Daddy (BCTGM); Tootsie Rolls (BCTGM); Zours (BCTGM).

LABOR RIGHTS CHAMPION BILL LUCY REMEMBERED

The labor movement paid tribute to the extraordinary life and career of longtime labor, civil and human rights leader William “Bill” Lucy. NAACP President Derrick Johnson said, “For over four decades, Bill dedicated himself to uplifting workers’ rights, leaving an indelible mark on American labor and civil rights.” He noted: As the International Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for nearly 40 years, Bill played a pivotal role in transforming the union, growing its membership from 200,000 to over 1.4 million. His commitment to inclusivity and equity was exemplified when he co-founded the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) in 1972, redefining the role of African Americans in labor unions...Bill’s influence extended beyond national borders. As the first African American president of Public Services International, he oversaw a global federation of 10 million members, advocating for workers’ rights on an international scale.

His service on the AFL-CIO executive council and various civic boards, including the NAACP, further exemplified his dedication to civil rights and community empowerment.

Bill Lucy's legacy lives on through the countless lives he touched and the enduring impact of his work. His commitment to living wages, healthcare benefits, and job safety will continue to inspire generations of workers and activists around the world. In honoring William Lucy, we celebrate a life dedicated to the noble cause of labor and civil rights. May he be remembered in the ongoing fight for justice and equity for all.

HALLS, OFFICES CLOSED ON MONDAY TO HONOR COLUMBUS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

M.E.B.A. halls and offices will be closed on Monday Oct. 14 in observance of Columbus Day and the original Admiral of the Ocean Seas - Christopher Columbus. Christopher Columbus has been described as a visionary who opened up the New World and conversely as a greedy imperialist who engaged in slave trading, genocide and stealing Indian land. Though he never set foot in North America, his celebrated voyages brought him to the Caribbean, Central and South America leading the way to European colonization and ushering in a new era of globalization.

Columbus's travels are a source of pride to the Italian community which embraces the federal holiday that became official in all 50 states in 1971. Much of the romanticism of the Columbus voyages was perpetuated by author Washington Irving who catalogued the explorations in a series of books which were a mixture of history and fiction. One of the myths that continues to be believed today due to Irving's work, is that Columbus set out on his voyage to disprove the theory that the world was flat by accomplishing his mission without falling off the edge of the world. Irving's books have certainly helped blur the lines in understanding what is fact or fiction in the life of this complex man.

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

Friday, October 11 – **Honolulu@1100**

Monday, November 4 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, November 5 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.**

Wednesday, November 6 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ "Town Hall" Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, November 7 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

Friday, November 8 – **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.***