

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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APL CONTRACT EXTENDED AGAIN AS MORE BARGAINING IS SCHEDULED

M.E.B.A. continues negotiations with American President Lines on a new contract covering Deep-Sea engineers as well as Port Engineers. The current agreement had originally been set to expire on September 30th but was extended a week to October 5th shortly before last week's talks. However, while the parties have made progress so far, no agreement has yet been reached. As a result, M.E.B.A. Executive Vice President Adam Vokac and APL's John Dragone agreed to further extend the contract to Nov 2nd after last week's talks ended without an agreement. The next bargaining sessions will occur in Oakland beginning on October 29, 2018.

Executive V.P. Adam Vokac is leading negotiations joined by L.A. Branch Agent Rich Doherty and Oakland Patrolman Maxim Alper. Rank and file members involved in the most recent round of negotiations included Chief Engineer Torey Zingales, 1st A/E Trevor Lapham and Rotary Engineers Lamont Randel and Connor White.

ILA MAY BOYCOTT ITF CONGRESS AFTER PORT AUTOMATION ROW

Concerned about the International Transport Workers' Federation's (ITF) views on port automation, the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO says it plans to boycott the ITF Congress set to begin on Sunday in Singapore. ILA President Harold Daggett said his union will not send delegates to the ITF Congress to condemn the ITF for its plans to sign an agreement with Ong Teng Cheong Labor Leadership Institute of the Singapore National Trades Union Congress that the ILA believes signals the ITF's endorsement and acceptance of fully automated terminals.

"We just learned through an ITF press release sent out with great fanfare that they were agreeing to a so-called study by the Singapore Leadership Institute to examine how best transport workers, including Dockers, 'be ready for the huge changes that are coming in their sector, and this means their unions must be prepared to shape that change,'" said ILA President Daggett. "This is a disgrace that a labor organization like the ITF that represents 670 affiliate trade unions in 140 countries, representing 19.7 million workers would surrender so easily."

"This is the environment in Singapore – eliminate the worker with more automation – and here you have our world-wide labor organization, the ITF, coming here and signing agreements that mean the destruction of decent paying jobs," said President Daggett. ILA said that all transportation unions affiliated with the ITF are facing grave threats due to automation.

“Instead of signing agreements for automation studies, we should start a campaign worldwide, involving all unions to fight for our rights, for the future to all unions to protect our jobs, and come together as a brotherhood,” the ILA leader charged. “If you’re in negotiations, take a strong stand against automation. Do not give in...Automation will spell the death of unions everywhere,” President Daggett concluded. “It’s time for workers everywhere to declare war on automation.”

WORKERS ON STRIKE AGAINST MARRIOTT

M.E.B.A. is honoring the work action against Marriott hotels as thousands of employees, represented by UNITE HERE, continue to fight for a fair contract. Hawai’i (Maui & Oahu) Marriott workers recently joined striking employees at hotel locations in Boston, San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Detroit, and San Diego. “Today 7,700 UNITE HERE workers are on strike across Marriott hotels in eight tourism destinations across America to change the hospitality industry and demand that one job be enough to support their families,” said D. Taylor, UNITE HERE president. “Marriott is the richest and most profitable hotel company in the world, and by taking them on in this historic hotel worker strike, UNITE HERE union members are going to change the lives of all workers in our industry.”

Marriott failed to make significant movement on key strike issues including providing jobs that pay enough for workers to support their families, securing job protection around automation, and workplace safety around the so-called “Green Choice” program. UNITE HERE returned to the bargaining table after authorizing the strikes over the past two weeks, but Marriott remained unwilling to make meaningful progress on central issues. If Marriott continues to drag its feet, additional cities could soon be added to the list.

PASS HAILS FAA REAUTHORIZATION

The Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS), an M.E.B.A. affiliate, hailed the passage of the five year Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization that was signed into law on Friday. PASS represents 11,000 FAA and Defense Department workers throughout the air traffic control system. The Trump budget proposal had supported the privatization of the Air Traffic Control system, a plan that PASS vehemently opposed. However, ATC privatization proved to be a non-starter in the Senate and the House version eventually shed the proposal. PASS President Mike Perrone said the final bipartisan version signed into law “includes important worker protections and investments that ensure the U.S. remains the world’s gold standard in aviation safety.”

APPLAUSE FOR PASSAGE OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

The Senate passage of America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 drew praise from many industry coalitions including the Lake Carriers’ Association and the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA). The \$6 billion bill is expected to be signed by the President in the coming days. It authorizes investments in the nation’s ports and waterways, and includes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018. Among other things, it includes a provision to authorize construction of a second Poe-sized lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Lake Carriers’ President James Weakley said “A Department of Homeland Security study found that if the Poe Lock went down for six months, domestic steel production would grind to a halt and 11 million Americans lose their jobs. A second Poe-sized lock is critical to our nation’s economic well-being and national defense capabilities.” The new lock is projected to cost approximately \$922 million and take seven years to build.

AAPA President and CEO Kurt Nagle, said "Today's AWIA passage continues the trend of streamlining maritime infrastructure improvements by expediting evaluations, enabling timely decisions and providing greater funding flexibilities, as well as authorizing new projects."

MEMORIAL FUND & SEATTLE-AREA RETIREE ARE BIG WINNERS IN RAFFLE

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the raffle supporting the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF). This was a needed shot in the arm for this great fund that supports the memorial located at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School that honors mariners past and present.

At the raffle drawing that took place at the October CMES membership meeting on Tuesday, Bruce Huntington was the lucky winner of 50% of the raffle proceeds. The winning ticket was sold in Seattle by Patrolman Kevin Cross. Bruce, a recent retiree based in the Seattle, WA area, was a Calhoon graduate (Group 54A) who made application with the Union in 1972. He announced that he would donate a portion of his winnings back to the 4MF.

4MF Chairman Bill Van Loo congratulated the lucky winner while extending his sincere thanks for Bruce's generosity. In addition, Bill offered his appreciation for everyone who bought a ticket in support of the 4MF and urged members and retirees to continue to keep the Memorial in mind and "honor our heritage" all year long.

MSC MARINERS RESCUE STRICKEN FISHERMEN

The crew of the Military Sealift Command fleet ordnance and dry cargo ship USNS WALLY SCHIRRA rescued five Filipino fishermen off an adrift and distressed boat in the South China Sea on Monday. M.E.B.A. represents the engineers in MSC's Civilian Mariner fleet.

According to the rescued individuals, all personnel from the boat survived despite being adrift for approximately five days. WALLY SCHIRRA was conducting a routine mission when the watch officer and lookout spotted the individuals in apparent distress on an adrift boat. According to the fishermen, their boat sank Oct. 3 after the hull was punctured by the bill of a blue marlin, estimated at 6-feet long and about 200 lbs.

"The fishermen salvaged what they could from the rapidly sinking boat, removing the outriggers and planks to turn it into a raft with floats and barrels underneath for floatation," said civilian mariner Leon Hadley, SCHIRRA Chief Mate. "They took with them some rice, clothes, batteries, an 8-watt bulb, an AM-receive only radio and a handheld GPS. They had no water."

After the WALLY SCHIRRA crew spotted the boat then closed the distance, the fishermen entered the water and swam toward the MSC vessel which deployed a rigid-hulled, inflatable boat and search and rescue swimmers to pull the survivors to safety. The fishermen thanked the SCHIRRA crew for rescuing and housing them, and for their generosity in providing them with spare clothes and cash donations.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Besides other designations such as "National Pit Bull Awareness Month," "National Vaccine Injury Awareness Month" and "Optical Coherence Tomography Month," October is also "National Cybersecurity Awareness Month." Coast Guard cyber program specialist Charles Blackmore noted that our Nation's critical infrastructure and key resources are interlinked between physical and cyber

security - especially true in the Marine Transportation System. Here are a few examples of cyber threats that can affect all industries and organizations, especially those in the maritime environment:

Phishing/Spear Phishing – Phishing is an attempt to induce individuals to reveal personal information such as passwords and credit card numbers. Spear phishing is a targeted attempt based on who the individual is (i.e. the company they work for). This is accomplished by trying to get an individual to download a file or click on a hyperlink. Users should be wary of emails received from people they do not know asking them to click on a link or download a file.

Malware – Similar to phishing/spear phishing, the intent of malware is to get individuals to download a file or click on a link. However, unlike phishing/spear phishing, such attempts do not try to garner information. The intent of malware is to gain access to a system or network with an end result of causing some sort of damage to the system or network. Terms you may hear in connection to malware are: computer virus, Trojan horse, spyware, and ransomware. A user must be wary of popups containing links or emails containing files from unrecognized sources.

Insider Threat – This is a malicious threat to an organization originating from a person within the organization itself. This could manifest itself in fraud, theft of information, or damage to internal systems. Individuals should make sure that they lock their workstations when they leave their desks and never share passwords with anyone.

Social Media Fraud – Nefarious characters increasingly use social media to engage in identity theft and entice individuals to download malicious code or reveal passwords. Users should take great care with the information they post online and avoid accepting “friend” requests from people they do not recognize. Additionally, it is a good practice to check social media settings to determine who can access your information and secure it to the greatest extent possible.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Monday, November 5 – **Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**

Tuesday, November 6 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**

Wednesday, November 7 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

Thursday, November 8 – **L.A.@1230 (Meeting in San Pedro at new location). NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

Friday, November 9 – **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 proven 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 contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – marco@mebaunion.org