

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

*"On Watch in Peace and War Since 1875"*



## M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

*The Official Union Newsletter*



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### **FIGHT FOR THE JONES ACT – HELP COUNTERACT THE LIES**

Opportunistic Jones Act opponents are using the Puerto Rico crisis to mislead the public into believing the statute has hampered relief aid to the island and outlived its usefulness. Many reports perpetuate Jones Act lies that unsurprisingly makes the Average Joe's blood boil and ratchets up support for repeal. Mainstream media reporting has casually spewed falsehoods about the Jones Act making unsuspecting Americans believe that the Act prevents foreign-flag shipments to Puerto Rico and doubles the price of goods to the island. The Act has been portrayed as an "antiquated" sweetheart protectionist measure for fat-cat shippers and unions which has driven up Puerto Rico's debt. Several repeal and long-term waiver bills have been introduced in Congress since Hurricane Maria and online petitions are fooling people into supporting a Jones Act repeal. M.E.B.A. and the U.S. shipping industry is working hard to counteract the lies and make sure people understand, especially Members of Congress, that the Jones Act is vital for national security and for retention of a U.S. Merchant Marine. The Act has not delayed a single container of aid and the U.S. maritime industry has never opposed a temporary waiver in an emergency if enough U.S.-flag bottoms are not available. The biased 2012 Puerto Rico-sponsored report that claimed prices are double for the island under the Jones Act is laid low by a nonpartisan U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) 2013 report that effectively refuted those claims. It is crucial for you – *yes you* – to help emphasize the importance of the Jones Act to your Congressional delegation and refute those people who have been bamboozled into supporting the arguments of foreign interests.

Many of the online news items that bash the Jones Act have a comment section where you can inject a little truth into the false narratives being foisted on the public. Some valuable facts can be accessed from M.E.B.A.'s website ([www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org)) that will assist you when writing an online comment or penning a letter to your Congressional representation. The Navy League has made it easy to let your lawmakers know how you feel about this important issue. They created a ready-made modifiable pro-Jones Act letter accessed at <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=406073> With a few clicks, you can help counteract the lies and let your Congressional representation know that we need the Jones Act for a strong America!

### **TTD: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE JONES ACT**

The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), and its President Larry Willis issued a statement late last week in response to legislation (S.1894) introduced by Sen. John McCain to permanently repeal the Jones Act as it relates to Puerto Rico. In addition, a House bill, H.R. 3966, would exempt Puerto Rico from the Jones Act for 5 years and then direct GAO to provide a report

on the results after year 4. Incidentally, the recent 10-day Jones Act waiver for Puerto Rico expired on Sunday and was not renewed. The TTD statement follows:

“The humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico is being used by long-time opponents of the Jones Act to attack a law that promotes U.S. jobs and is critical to our national security. Damaging misinformation is being peddled about the Jones Act in an effort to weaken the law and advance the financial interests of foreign shipping companies.

“The claim that the Jones Act is hindering relief efforts in Puerto Rico is simply false. Already, U.S.-flag and other vessels have delivered thousands of containers full of relief supplies to the territory. Damaged infrastructure on the island has prevented these supplies from reaching those in need. Capacity of U.S. vessels is not the problem, and repealing the Jones Act cannot fix roads and bridges that have been flooded or power grids that are offline.

“Some claim the Jones Act is directly responsible for Puerto Rico’s economic crisis — another accusation that is simply not true. The economic problems facing Puerto Rico are caused by Congress’ failure to provide real fiscal relief and an economic stimulus package the territory needs, and have nothing to do with the Jones Act.

“Furthermore, when American vessels are unable to provide relief during emergencies, longstanding federal law allows for the temporary waiver of the Jones Act. Waivers should be granted judiciously when merited, and not for ideological reasons or at the request of foreign shippers. We will not oppose waivers that are needed in emergency situations when U.S. vessels are not available.

“Since 1920, the Jones Act has played an important role in protecting our national security by ensuring U.S. crews and ships are always available for military and humanitarian purposes, and by supporting American jobs. Repealing this law will lead to the outsourcing of good-paying American jobs, paving the way for foreign shippers to cherry-pick crews from countries where labor and wage laws are lax. There has never been a need to repeal this law, and there is not one now.”

### **CMES RELEASES 2018 COURSE SCHEDULE**

The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School has published its 2018 course listing and class schedule as well as the accompanying course application form. Applications for these classes will be accepted using the CMES website ([www.mebaschool.org](http://www.mebaschool.org)), by US Mail and fax (410) 822-7220. Applications for classes held between January 1 and June 30, 2018 will be accepted no earlier than Wednesday, November 1, 2017. Applications for classes held between July 1 and December 31, 2018 will be accepted no earlier than Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Applications sent prior to the acceptance dates will be discarded with no notice sent to the applicant.

Application forms can be obtained at the M.E.B.A. Union halls, the School website or by calling the School’s Admissions Desk at (410) 822-9600, extension “0”. The following is a list of the announced courses for 2017. The School announced the following course offerings for 2018:

**ADVANCED FIRE FIGHTING** - (1-Week Course - 10 students max) - April 23–April 27; Oct. 29–Nov. 2. **ADVANCED METEOROLOGY** - (1-Week Course - 6 students max) - Feb. 12–Feb. 16. **ADVANCED PIPE WELDING** - (2-Week Course - 6 students max) - Dec. 3–Dec. 14. **ADVANCED SHIPHANDLING** - (2-Week Course - 6 students max) - March 5–March 16. **ADVANCED STABILITY** - (1-Week Course - 6 students max) - Feb. 19–Feb. 23. **BST**

**REFRESHER** - (1-Week Course - 12 students max) - Feb. 26–March 2; March 12–March 16; April 9–April 13; May 7–May 11; June 11–June 15; Aug. 6–Aug. 10; Sept. 10–Sept. 14; Nov. 5–Nov. 9. **BST REVALIDATION** - (1-Week Course - 16 students max) - Jan. 29–Feb. 2; March 5–March 9; April 16–April 20; May 14–May 18; June 4–June 8; June 18–June 22; Aug. 20–Aug. 24; Aug. 27–Aug. 31; Oct. 1–Oct. 5; Oct. 22–Oct. 26; Nov. 12–Nov. 16; Dec. 3–Dec. 7. **CMEQ** - (1-Week Course - 12 students max) - March 12–March 16; May 14–May 18; Oct. 1–Oct. 5. **CONTAINER REFRIGERATION** - (2-Week Course - 10 students max) - Feb. 5–Feb. 16; Oct. 29–Nov. 9. **DAMAGE CONTROL/CBRD** - (1-Week Course - 12 students max) - Jan. 22–Jan. 26; March 19–March 23; May 21–May 25; Aug. 13–Aug. 17; Oct. 15–Oct. 19; Dec. 10–Dec. 14. **DIESEL ENGINEERING** - (6-Week Course-12 students max) - April 9–May 18; Sept. 10–Oct. 19. **ECDIS** - (1-Week Course - 12 students max) - Feb. 5–Feb. 9; Nov. 12–Nov. 16. **ENGINE ROOM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** - (1-Week Course - 24 students max) - Feb. 5–Feb. 9; Sept. 17–Sept. 21. **GAS TURBINE ENGINEERING** - (4-Week Course - 12 students max) - March 5–March 30; Sept. 10–Oct. 5. **INDUSTRIAL NETWORKING** - (1-Week Course - 12 students max) - May 14–May 18; Aug. 27–Aug. 31; **INSTRUMENTATION** - (2-Week Course - 12 students max) - Feb. 26–March 9; Oct. 1–Oct. 12. **LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT** - (1-Week Course - 24 students max) - Jan. 29–Feb. 2; Sept. 10–Sept. 14. **MACHINE SHOP PROFICIENCY** - (2-Week Course - 12 students max) - Feb. 26–March 9; April 30–May 11; Aug. 20–Aug. 31. **MARINE ELECTRIC PROPULSION/HIGH VOLTAGE SAFETY** - (2-Week Course - 12 students max) - March 5–March 16; May 7–May 18; Aug. 13–Aug. 24; Oct. 8–Oct. 19. **MEECE** - (1-Week Course - 24 students max) - April 16–April 20; Nov. 26–Nov. 30. **PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLERS** - (1-Week Course - 10 students max) - Feb. 5–Feb. 9; June 4–June 8; Aug. 6–Aug. 10; Nov. 5–Nov. 9. **QUALIFIED ASSESSOR** - (3-Day Course - 24 students max) - Feb. 5–Feb. 7; March 19–March 21; April 9–April 11; Aug. 20–Aug. 22; Sept. 10–Sept. 12; Nov. 26–Nov. 28; **RADAR RE-CERTIFICATION** - (Examination Only - Scheduled by Appointment). **REFRIGERATION** - (3-Week Course - 10 students max) - April 30–May 18. **SMALL ARMS** - (1-Week Course - 8 students max) - March 5–March 9; April 30–May 4; June 4–June 8; July 30–Aug. 3; Sept. 10–Sept. 14; Oct. 8–Oct. 12. **STEAM ENGINEERING** - (6-Week Course - 12 students max) - Oct. 8–Nov. 16. **TANKERMAN DL** - (1-Week Course-12 students max) - Jan. 8–Jan. 12; April 16–April 20; June 4–June 8; Oct. 1–Oct. 5; Dec. 3–Dec. 7; **TANKSHIP – LNG** - (2-Week Course - 12 students max) - July 30–Aug. 10 - **TIG WELDING** - (2-Week Course - 6 students max) - Sept. 24–Oct. 5; **VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER** - (1-Week Course - 12 students max) - April 30–May 4; Aug. 20–Aug. 24. **VESSEL PERSONNEL WITH DESIGNATED SECURITY DUTIES (VPDSD)** - (2-Day Course - Scheduled by Appointment). **VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS (Flashing Light)** - (Examination Only - Scheduled by Appointment). **WELDING** - (4-Week Course - 12 students max) - Jan. 8–Feb. 2; **WELDING PROFICIENCY** - (2-Week Course - 12 students max) - Feb. 12–Feb. 23; March 12–March 23; Oct. 22–Nov. 2.

#### **LABOR 411: TASTY TREATS FOR A SPOOKY EVENING**

Kids want candy and Halloween gives them an officially-sanctioned excuse. As Halloween nears, be sure to stock up on the following items to help make that spooky night a frightful success. Not only will these sugary treats delight your little monsters, they are all made by companies that treat their workers fairly. There are dozens of additional candy options beyond what's listed here. For more, visit Labor411.org. 5th Avenue; Abba-Zaba; Almond Roca; Baby Ruth; Big Hunk; Bit-O-Honey; Butterfinger; Cadbury; Candy House Buttons; Caramello; Clark Bar; Dum Dums; Ghirardelli Chocolate; Gimbal's Fine Candies; Hershey's Kisses; Hershey's Hugs; Hershey's Nuggets; Jawbreakers; Jelly Belly; Kit Kat; LOOK!; Mallo Cups; Mary Jane; Mighty Malts; Necco Wafers; Red

Vines; Rocky Road; Rolo; Russell Stover; See's Candies; Sky Bar; Smarties; Snaps; Sour Patch Kids; Sour Punch; Super Ropes; Toblerone; Tootsie Rolls; U-NO; York Peppermint Patties; Zagnut.

### **MARINE OFFICER ACCEPTING ADVERTISEMENTS**

As you may know, the M.E.B.A. *Marine Officer* accepts advertisements to help defray the cost of providing you with the finest union magazine. The M.E.B.A. reserves final right of placement over all ads but will consider placement requests. In addition, we reserve the right to reject any advertisement for any reason whatsoever or no reason at all. Finally, the M.E.B.A. will not accept political advertisements relating to either internal or external politics. Full page ads cost \$1,200 for a one-time placement and \$995 (per ad) if you commit to three or more ads. A 1/2 page costs \$700 or \$580 (per ad) for a three or more commitment. A 1/3<sup>rd</sup> page ad costs \$500 with a \$415 (per ad) price for three or more. The 4-color process is included in the rate. Call Headquarters or e-mail [marco@mebaunion.org](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org) for more info.

### **SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans' website – [www.mebaplans.org](http://www.mebaplans.org) (Forms & Documents, Vacation Plan Forms). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or [vacation@mebaplans.org](mailto:vacation@mebaplans.org) for more info.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Monday, November 6 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;  
Tuesday, November 7 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;  
Wednesday, November 8 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;  
Thursday, November 9 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;  
Friday, November 10 - 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](mailto: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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org)*