

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"

M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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JUDGE BLOCKS TERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT FLEET UNION CONTRACTS

A federal judge in Washington, D.C., has ordered the government to honor collective bargaining agreements with certain federal worker unions, including the M.E.B.A., in the Administration's efforts to limit federal employees' rights.

On Tuesday, Judge Paul Friedman of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a preliminary injunction from the bench, finding that the administration cannot sidestep union contracts or strip organized federal workers of their bargaining protections while litigation brought by the AFL-CIO, M.E.B.A. and others moves forward.

The M.E.B.A., alongside the AFL-CIO, MM&P and four other national labor organizations, filed a lawsuit against a sweeping executive order by President Trump that strips collective bargaining rights from many federal agency civilian employees, including those sailing in the Military Sealift Command and Army Corps of Engineers fleets. Executive Order 14251, issued March 27, claims national security as justification for eliminating longstanding collective bargaining rights and union protections.

The ruling comes at a time when several agencies have begun to abandon union agreements. In recent weeks, the Department of Veterans Affairs declared it would no longer recognize contracts covering hundreds of thousands of its workers. The EPA, CDC, FDA, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services soon followed with similar announcements. The administration is expected to appeal with previous appeals in other cases having halted past injunctions.

MORE NEW WORK: M.E.B.A. NIGHT WATCHES IN PORTLAND

M.E.B.A. secured additional jobs for its membership through a new agreement with Keystone Ocean Services, Inc. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) finalized this week provides for M.E.B.A. licensed officers to stand night watches aboard the Military Sealift Command vessel USNS MATTHEW PERRY while the vessel is in temporary lay-up in Portland, Oregon.

The vessel is one of the almost 20 MSC ships that the Navy idled in 2024 because of crew shortages. Through this agreement, M.E.B.A. members will crew the evening and overnight watches to ensure the security and safe upkeep of the vessel. The contract establishes strong hourly wages, premium overtime rates, and full contributions to the M.E.B.A. Benefit Plans, including pension, medical,

training, and MPB. Officers assigned under the agreement will also receive per diem, lodging, and travel allowances in line with federal Joint Travel Regulations.

“This agreement delivers good union jobs, fair compensation, and full benefits to our members while supporting the mission of the Military Sealift Command,” said M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac. “It’s another example of how M.E.B.A. continues to expand work opportunities and protect the professional standards of our officers.”

The agreement runs through August 2026, with yearly extensions thereafter, if exercised. The jobs are being called through the Seattle Union hall.

CMES SEEKS ACADEMIC DEAN

The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School is looking for a seasoned and dynamic leader to serve as its Academic Dean. This role offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of mariner education and enhance the student learning experience. The Academic Dean will oversee the development and delivery of the School’s academic programs, ensuring that students receive the highest quality education. The position involves collaborating closely with faculty and staff, fostering a culture of academic excellence, and leading strategic planning efforts. The Dean will also manage budgets for academic programs and represent the School at professional and educational events.

Ideal candidates will hold a degree in Marine Engineering, Marine Transportation, Education, or a related field, along with the highest-level U.S. Coast Guard license (Engine or Deck). Proven leadership experience in higher education, a strong grasp of curriculum development, and knowledge of accreditation processes are essential. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are also required to thrive in this role. Salary and employment terms are flexible and will reflect the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. Interested individuals are invited to submit their resumes to CMES Director Bryan Jennings at bjennings@mebaschool.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

BOSTON REP. HIRED ON INTERIM BASIS

Member Sam Berner will be holding down the M.E.B.A. hall in Boston after the Union’s District Executive Committee tapped him as our Representative there in an interim capacity. Sam is a 2016 graduate of Maine Maritime Academy who has sailed as a deep-sea engineer with the Union for the past six years, primarily with Maersk and Matson.

The go-getting Boston Berner is already installed at the hall and can be reached at (617) 261-2338 and sberner@mebaunion.org. Sam is raring to go and is already gearing up for next week’s Career Fair at Massachusetts Maritime Academy where he will talk to budding young mariners about the great career opportunities with the M.E.B.A. He lives just a few minutes away from the hall. Stop on in and say hello!

CHINA PLANS RETALIATION IN ADVANCE OF U.S. PORT FEES

China has rolled out updated regulations to retaliate against impending U.S. port fees targeting Chinese shipping. A Chinese State Council decree signed by Premier Li Qiang would level “necessary countermeasures against countries or regions that impose or support discriminatory bans, restrictions, or similar measures targeting Chinese operators, vessels, or crew engaged in international maritime transport and related services.”

The new regulations sets up China to pursue corrective measures, including suspending or withdrawing its obligations under maritime treaties, levying additional port fees on vessels from countries that enforce restrictions against Chinese carriers, or barring or limiting foreign ships from entering or departing its ports. They note that these responses will only be withheld if relevant treaties or agreements provide sufficient protection and remedies.

U.S. port fees on Chinese-owned and operated vessels are set to begin at \$50 per net ton (NT) starting October 14, 2025, increasing to \$140 per NT by April 2028. For vessels built in China, the charge will start at \$18 per NT or \$120 per container in 2025, climbing to \$33 per NT or \$250 per container in 2028. Each vessel will face the fee no more than five times annually.

M.E.B.A.-CREWED TANKER SUPPORTING NAVY MISSION

The M/T ALLIED PACIFIC, an M.E.B.A.-crewed Chemical/Oil tanker successfully carried out a consolidated cargo replenishment (CONSOL) at sea last month with the Republic of Korea Navy's fast combat support ship ROKS DAECHONG. The operation took place during Freedom Edge 25, a trilateral exercise underscoring defense cooperation between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea. ALLIED PACIFIC is under charter with the Military Sealift Command (MSC) through our agreement with Patriot Contract Services. Permanents on the vessel include M.E.B.A.'s Todd Roy (C/E) and Ken Pressey (1st A/E).

By enabling MSC-controlled tankers like the ALLIED PACIFIC to resupply combat logistics force (CLF) ships while underway, CONSOL operations reduce the need for resupply runs ashore, saving time and resources while extending the fleet's reach. This builds on a previous CONSOL between ALLIED PACIFIC and DAECHONG in June 2025, expanding the ROK Navy's capacity to sustain fleet operations at sea with fuel, cargo, and stores.

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF EL FARO TRAGEDY

The 10-year anniversary of the EL FARO sinking was observed this week, a tragedy that chills the heart of every mariner. The 790-foot, cargo vessel was enroute from Jacksonville, Florida, to San Juan, Puerto Rico on Oct. 1, 2015 when it succumbed to Hurricane Joaquin and sank in the Atlantic Ocean taking the lives of all 33 aboard. The TOTE-owned ship, managed by Sea Star Lines, was crewed with AMO and SIU mariners. The disaster prompted the implementation of additional safety regulations and tighter regulatory oversight. The sinking of the EL FARO stands as one of the most devastating commercial maritime tragedies, marking the deadliest loss of a U.S. merchant ship in nearly four decades.

CMES RELEASES 2026 COURSE SCHEDULE

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School has issued its 2026 course schedule along with a course application form. Applications for these classes will be accepted through www.mebaschool.org, by US Mail and by fax (410) 822-7220. Class schedule and registration dates are subject to change. Applications for classes held between January 1 and June 30, 2026 will be accepted no earlier than November 1, 2025. Applications for classes held between July 1 and December 31, 2026 will be accepted no earlier than May 1, 2026. 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 (www.mebaschool.org) or by calling the School's Admissions Desk at (410) 822-9600. The CMES announces the following course offerings for 2026:

ADVANCED METEOROLOGY - (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - April 20–April 24; May 18–May 22; August 17–August 21; September 14–September 18. **ADVANCED PIPE WELDING** - (2-Week Course - 6 students maximum) - February 23–March 6. **ADVANCED SHIPHANDLING** - (2-Week Course - 6 students maximum) - January 12–January 23; March 23–April 3; June 15–June 26; September 21–October 2. **ADVANCED STABILITY** - (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - April 27–May 1; June 1–June 5; August 24–August 28; October 12–October 16. **BST REFRESHER** - (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - March 23–March 27; May 18–May 22; July 27–July 31; November 9–November 13. **BST REVALIDATION** - (3-Day Course - 12 students maximum) - January 12–January 14; January 26–January 28; February 23–February 25; March 9–March 11; March 16–March 18; March 30–April 1; April 20–April 22; May 4–May 6; June 1–June 3; August 10–August 12; August 31–September 2; September 28–September 30; October 19–October 21. **CONTAINER REFRIGERATION** - (2-Week Course - 10 students maximum) - February 2–February 13; November 30–December 11. **DAMAGE CONTROL/CBRN** - (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - May 11–May 15; September 21–September 25. **DIESEL ENGINEERING** - (6-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - April 13–May 22. **FAST RESCUE BOAT** - (4-Day Course - 5 students maximum) - August 24–August 27. **GAS TURBINE ENGINEERING** - (4-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - September 14–October 9. **INDUSTRIAL NETWORKING** - (1-Week Course - 10 students maximum) - March 23–March 27; August 3–August 7. **INSTRUMENTATION** - (2-Week Course - 10 students maximum) - February 23–March 6; June 1–June 12; October 5–October 16. **LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT** - (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - August 3–August 7; October 19–October 23. **LNG AS A FUEL** - (5-Day Course - 12 students maximum) - January 5–January 9; February 9–February 13; March 2–March 6; April 13–April 17; April 27–May 1; June 1–June 5; August 3–August 7; August 10–August 14; October 12–October 16; October 19–October 23; November 16–November 20; November 30–December 4; December 7–December 11. **MACHINE SHOP PROFICIENCY** - (2-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - March 9–March 20; August 24–September 4. **MARINE ELECTRIC PROPULSION/HIGH VOLTAGE SAFETY** - (2-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - March 9–March 20; May 11–May 22; August 24–September 4; October 19–October 30. **MEECE** - (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - January 26–January 30; May 11–May 15; September 14–September 18; November 9–November 13. **MSC CONMAR** - (2-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - March 9–March 20; June 1–June 12; August 10–August 21; October 19–October 30. **PRACTICAL ELECTRICAL TROUBLESHOOTING** - (2-Week Course - 10 students maximum) - January 12–January 23; February 2–February 13; May 11–May 22; June 1–June 12; August 3–August 14; August 24–September 3. **PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLERS** - (1-Week Course - 9 students maximum) - January 5–January 9; April 20–April 24; August 24–August 28; November 30 – December 4. **REFRIGERATION** - (2-Week Course - 10 students maximum) - January 12–January 23; November 2–November 13. **SMALL ARMS** - (4-Day Course - 12 students maximum) - May 4–May 7; September 14–September 17. **STEAM ENGINEERING** - (6-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - October 12–November 20. **TANKERMAN DL** - (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - March 16–March 20; June 8–June 12 (Live Virtual - 6 students maximum); August 31–September 4; November 9–November 13 (Live Virtual - 6 students maximum). **TANKSHIP LNG** (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - May 11–May 22. **TIG WELDING** - (2-Week Course - 6 students maximum) - October 5–October 16. **WARTSILA FLEX BASIC LEVEL 1** - (3-Day Course - 12 students maximum) - January 28–January 30; February 4–February 6; June 3–June 5; June 10–June 12; October 21–October 23; October 28–October 30. **WARTSILA FLEX OPERATOR LEVEL 2** - (1-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - February 2–February 6; February 9–February

13; June 8–June 12; June 15–June 19; October 26–October 30; November 2–November 6. **WELDING** - (4-Week Course - 12 students maximum) - January 19–February 13; April 13–May 8; October 26–November 20. **WELDING PROFICIENCY** – (2-Week Course – 12 students maximum) - September 14–September 25.

STOP BY FOR THE 4MF 20-YEAR CELEBRATION AT CMES ON OCTOBER 7

If you can, make plans to attend the membership meeting at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School on Tuesday, October 7. After the meeting, there will be a ceremony at the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial on School grounds to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Memorial. As members know, the Memorial Park is shaped like a 600-foot merchant vessel complete with 5-ton anchors, a ship's bell, a bow section with plaques memorializing mariners and friends of the M.E.B.A., and a six-bladed, 22-foot diameter bronze propeller that represents the stern section. The foremast, installed near the bow section, further adds to the effect. Bill Van Loo, who was integral to the construction of the project and remains involved in the continued upkeep of the structure, will deliver inspiring remarks at the observance. A short reception will take place at the Manor House following the event (around 1630).

Members, applicants, retirees and everyone else are strongly encouraged to support the Foundation (the 4MF) which provides upkeep and improvements to the Memorial Park. The 4MF is a section 501(c)(3) entity under Internal Revenue Service rules, so all donations are tax deductible. Donations are always welcome. For more information visit the School's website at www.mebaschool.org and click on the Memorial link on the home page. You can email memorial@mebaschool.org to get any related questions answered and you can send in a donation or make one at an M.E.B.A. Union hall anytime. You can view a nice 3-minute video about the M.E.B.A. Memorial Park at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDGCxvw9f0g>

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

Monday, October 6 – **Boston@1200. Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

Tuesday, October 7 – **CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.**

Wednesday, October 8 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org**

Thursday, October 9 – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

Friday, October 10 – **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. Website: www.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 Calhoon 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