

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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MTL/HAPAG (MPP) AGREEMENT FINALIZED

An M.E.B.A. agreement reached with Marine Personnel & Provisioning (MPP) during reopener talks this summer has been finalized. The agreement, which covers the five Express Class vessels in the MTL/Hapag U.S.-flag fleet, establishes new economic terms in the last three years of the contract. Increases in wage and wage related items, as well as benefit plan contributions were negotiated for the M.E.B.A. Plans and funds. The agreement runs through December 31, 2021.

Negotiated wage and wage-related item increases will go into effect on January 1, 2019. However, a couple of the agreement's provisions benefiting M.E.B.A. members and applicants sailing in rotary positions aboard the Express Class vessels went into effect on September 1, 2018.

One provision puts the one-trip off LOA provision for rotary officers back into full force and effect. The other now ensures that officers taking a 90 day rotary job are able to complete their 90 days onboard.

Reopener talks were led by Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram and included Tampa Branch Agent Adam Smith, Headquarters Contracts Rep. Mark S. Gallagher, along with ST. LOUIS EXPRESS Chief Engineer Todd Williams.

The agreement is being forwarded to the Union halls.

SUDDEN LOSS OF LONGTIME MSC CHIEF & OFFICIAL PETE SCHUFFELS

M.E.B.A. is grieving the loss of Pete Schuffels, longtime member and Chief Engineer who also served as an M.E.B.A. official during almost 40 years in the industry. An immense motorcycle enthusiast, Pete was struck by a Virginia Beach service vehicle while motoring his way home on Tuesday afternoon. He was 75. After serving a term in the Army, Pete sailed on vessels in the international fleet before joining the M.E.B.A. and embarking on a long distinguished career at sea with the Military Sealift Command in 1979. He headed up multiple Combat Stores ships, Underway Replenishment tankers and Survey vessels as Chief Engineer including the USNS COMFORT, SPICA, SATURN, TANNER, KANAWHA and KAISER, among many others.

After he retired from sailing with MSC, he served as Deputy Program Manager at the CIVMAR Support Center focusing on recruiting efforts, employee orientation and mariner support.

In 2011, the M.E.B.A. brought him back to the fold to head up operations at our Norfolk Union hall and serve as our Government Fleet Representative. He stayed on until 2014 easing into retirement after he helped transition current Norfolk Branch Agent and Govt. Fleet Representative Tracy Burke into the job. He was a resident of Knotts Island, NC, roughly an hour away from the Norfolk hall.

To stay busy in retirement, he volunteered at St. John the Apostle Catholic School – typical for Pete, one of the nicest guys you could meet, funny, kind and generous. Arrangements for a memorial service will be forthcoming.

Pete leaves behind his wife Zenaida and son Alex, who like many of us, are struggling to deal with the sudden shock of his passing.

AFL-CIO PODCAST HIGHLIGHTS WORKER STORIES

One in four Americans listen to podcasts on a monthly basis. Now the AFL-CIO has given an even better reason to increase those percentages with the launch of their “State of the Unions” podcast – another tool to bring you the issues and stories that matter to working people.

Hosted by two young and diverse members of the AFL-CIO team, the once-every-two-week podcast captures stories of workers across the country. AFL-CIO Political Mobilization Director Julie Greene and Executive Speechwriter Tim Schlittner host each episode which features interesting interviews with workers and allies across the country infused with compelling insights from the podcast hosts. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yc6n4cjf> to check it out.

“State of the Unions” is available on iTunes, Google Play, Stitcher and anywhere else you can find podcasts. The kickoff episodes discuss the Brett Kavanaugh hearings and interview Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, the pediatrician who helped expose the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. An upcoming episode provides an interview with Mayor Dahlia Vertreese of Hillside, New Jersey—a member of the Operating Engineers (IUOE)—a post-election recap, analysis and more.

APPLICANTS SHOULD REMEMBER TO SUBMIT SAILING TIME, FULFILL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should remember that membership doesn’t happen automatically. They must fulfill the requirements stated in their original application packet including the submission of sailing time to M.E.B.A. Headquarters (not Plans.) HQ does not, and cannot, update an Applicant’s record with sailing time unless that Applicant manually submits the paperwork with time.

M.E.B.A.’s District Investigating Committee (DIC) meets twice a year to consider applicants for membership. To make membership, an Applicant needs the required sailing days or specified years of employment with a particular bargaining unit, must be current with service charges and must complete other necessary requirements which may include an initiation fee and/or letters of recommendation.

The Headquarters Membership Department sends a letter each year to all Applicants who have at least two years under their belt with the Union. The letter details the remaining steps that particular Applicant needs to complete and be accepted into membership by the District Investigating

Committee before the DIC meets. The DIC usually meets in June and December before they release their report.

For further information you can visit your local Union hall or contact the Membership Department at M.E.B.A. Headquarters.

M.E.B.A.-CREWED NOAA VESSEL RETURNS FROM LATEST AROUND-THE-WORLD DEPLOYMENT

NOAA's largest oceanographic research vessel, the RONALD H. BROWN, steamed into its Charleston, South Carolina, home port last week after a 243-day voyage around the world to conduct scientific research and service buoys that inform global weather, climate and ocean forecasting.

The ship sailed nearly 44,289 miles, made port calls in South Africa, the Seychelles, India, Australia and Hawaii, and opened its decks to international partner scientists and school children.

A highpoint was the arrival of Brown in Goa, India, in June, to take part in a major U.S. -India science colloquium that brought together 20 U.S. scientists and 200 Indian scientists to advance ocean observations used to improve climate, weather and fisheries prediction. The meeting in India came after the Brown's historic oceanographic cruise through the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, a rarely studied region that the United States last surveyed 23 years ago.

"The dedication, commitment and collective efforts of NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown's officers, crew and scientists have proved invaluable to supporting NOAA and the nation," said Rear Admiral Michael J. Silah, director of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps and NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. "I commend them for their exemplary service and many accomplishments during this extended deployment."

The 274-foot ship is a global-class oceanographic and atmospheric research platform operated by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, which includes civilians and NOAA Corps officers. As many as 60 officers, crew and scientists were on the ship at once.

THOSE IN DUES ARREARS SET TO BE DROPPED IN DECEMBER

Members or applicants two or more years in arrears on their dues or service charges will be DROPPED from the membership or applicant rolls. The District Investigating Committee (DIC) is making its review and will issue their drop list in early December. If you are in arrears and desire to retain your membership or applicant status, you must contact Headquarters immediately to make payment on your arrearage and return to good standing. Members and applicants can make payments online in a secure manner. Visit the M.E.B.A. homepage at www.mebaunion.org.

INK DRY ON GO-AHEAD FOR SECOND SAULT-STE. MARIE LOCK; LAKES GROUPS ARE EXCITED

The Lake Carriers Association (LCA) hailed the signing of a bill that gives the green light to the construction of a desperately needed lock on the Great Lakes. LCA, which represents 13 companies that operate vessels on the Great Lakes including M.E.B.A.-contracted Interlake Steamship Company, hailed the President's signing of "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018." The new law includes the Soo Lock Post-Authorization Change Report that authorizes construction of a second Poe-sized lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, allow vessels, some more than 1,000 feet long, to move between Lake Superior and the lower four Great Lakes. In a typical year, as much as 80 million tons of cargo pass through the Soo Locks. Iron ore for steel production is the single largest commodity, but the locks also handle significant volumes of coal, grain and limestone. Approximately 90 percent of that cargo transits the Poe Lock. The other lock, the MacArthur, is too small to accommodate the most efficient ships working the Lakes.

The new lock is projected to cost approximately \$922 million and take seven years to build.

TRIO OF ILA LEADERS TO BE HONORED THIS WEEKEND

Three International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) leaders from the Ports of Savannah, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina and Galveston, TX will be honored this weekend at the ILA's Civil, Human and Women's Rights Committee Awards Dinner in Savannah.

Willie J. Seymore, Executive V.P. of the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District will receive the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. Yvette Flowers from the Port of Charleston, South Carolina will receive the Women's Rights Award and Andrew Lee Laws from the Port of Galveston is slated to receive the Labor Leader Award. Sister Flowers is currently serving her fourth term as Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1422, ILA in the Port of Charleston. Brother Laws, a veteran of more than 70 years with the ILA, is a District Representative with the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District. A fourth award, The Humanitarian Award, will be given to Griff Lynch, Chief Operating Officer/Incoming Executive Director of the Georgia Ports Authority. Congratulations!

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.**

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



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