

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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In this issue//Maritime Labor Urges Member Vaccinations//AMC's Caponiti is 'Friend of Seafarers'//Int'l Prop Club has Interesting & Informative Agenda//Ports Look to Reduce GHG//Use Website to Iron Out LWOP, Vacation Dues Lapses//Union-Made Candy//Make Sure Your E-Mail Address is on File//Halls, Offices Closed on Monday for Holiday//

MARITIME LABOR URGES VACCINATIONS

Calling it "a matter of future industry stability and mariner job security," six maritime labor unions issued a strong message for their members to take COVID precautions and get vaccinated. A joint message issued by the leaders of M.E.B.A., AMO, MM&P, SIU, MFOW and SUP pointed out that conflicting policies and protocols at ports, shipyards and elsewhere dictate that ship personnel should protect themselves and others as soon as possible by arming themselves with the COVID-19 vaccine. "Masks, social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing have now become routine," the letter reads, "but the best additional precaution for shipmates and families includes becoming vaccinated."

An arbitrator recently ruled in favor of the American Maritime Association (AMA) **upholding a shipping company's** right to unilaterally impose vaccine mandates. AMA is a multi-employer bargaining unit made up of Crowley Maritime, 'Horizon Lines' (Matson Navigation), Intrepid Personnel, Maersk Line Ltd., North Star Shipping OSG Ship Management (including Alaska Tanker Company), Sunrise Operations and Tote Services. In addition, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) recently updated guidance reiterating that federal law does not prevent a private employer from requiring its employees to be vaccinated. As it is, shipping companies have begun instituting 100% vaccine requirements, including Matson Navigation and Chevron Shipping with more to follow. The M.E.B.A. has been working with such companies to make sure members are properly incentivized to support the effort, while also ensuring that the execution of these mandates don't encroach on specific circumstances of our mariner force.

"We understand the stress and anxiety of working in persistent and intensified danger," the maritime leaders wrote, "and so we support fair and common-sense safety practices ashore and at sea. Your dedication, professionalism and perseverance are recognized, and your efforts are best honored by ensuring your own safety and the safety of others aboard ship by getting vaccinated."

Letter signatories included Presidents Adam Vokac (M.E.B.A.) Paul Doell (AMO), Don Marcus (MM&P), Mike Sacco (SIU), Anthony Poplawski (MFOW) and Dave Connolly (SUP). The letter has been posted on the home page of the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org).

AMC'S CAPONITI ACCEPTS OVERDUE HONOR

American Maritime Congress President Jim Caponiti has finally been drummed in as an “Outstanding Friend of Seafarers” – a long-delayed, and well-deserved honor awarded by the Seafarers International House (SIH). The SIH is a charitable organization that provides seafarers and travelers with pastoral care, hospitality, social assistance and advocacy. Their (normally) annual “Setting the Course” event in New York City honors those who fight on behalf of the maritime community and is dedicated to the welfare of seafarers. Last year’s event was scrapped due to the pandemic.

Jim has poured over 47 years of his heart and soul into the industry – 37 with the Maritime Administration and the past 10 with the AMC. The AMC is a research and education group comprised of an M.E.B.A. and employer-side Board of Directors. Jim was a driving force behind the development and implementation of the Maritime Security Program and was instrumental in MarAd’s sealift efforts through the years including the response following September 11, 2001.

At Wednesday evening’s event, Jim was joined by several other SIH honorees including recently-retired MM&P Secretary-Treasurer Steve Werse and American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier President and CEO Eric Ebeling. ITF Maritime Coordinator Jaqueline Smith was also honored as a 2021 Outstanding Friend of Seafarers and special recognition was extended to Tim Ferrie, President of the Marine Society of the City of NY. Congratulations!

UNIQUE CHANCE TO “ATTEND” STAR-STUDED INT’L PROP CLUB EVENT

At least the pandemic is good for something. Shipping advocates from far-flung locations will be able to attend the International Propeller Club’s annual Convention next week courtesy of an online format that will allow you to easily enjoy this maritime pow-wow in the comfort of your home.

The three-day Convention and Leadership Conference (Oct. 12-14) is chock full of workshops and panels tackling the multifaceted issues facing the maritime sector while featuring some of the giants of our industry such as Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz, International Maritime Organization Secretary-General Kitack Lim and M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac. Adam will be part of a Maritime Workforce Panel that will discuss COVID’s effects on our mariners as well as the supply chain. Joining him will be ILWU President Willie Adams, Acting Maritime Administrator Lucinda Lessley, SUNY President Dr. Michael Alfultis and Moderator Dave Heindel (SIU/ITF). Other panels will tackle inland and Great Lakes shipping, maritime leadership, port issues, and cybersecurity, among others. Registration is quick, easy and relatively inexpensive. You can check out the agenda and sign up at <https://propellerclub.us>.

PORTS LOOK TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Member ports of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) have committed to address climate change on a national and global scale. Efforts, include plans to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, support facility electrification, and increase the use of alternative energy sources, while working cooperatively across the maritime industry to advance world-wide climate change initiatives. The AAPA represents more than 140 seaports. AAPA is taking a leadership role in the fight against climate change, including advocating for the creation of a federal port electrification grant program, becoming a founding member of the Blue Sky Maritime Coalition, and announcing a partnership with PortVision50. Blue Sky and PortVision50 were created to facilitate collaboration toward reducing GHG emissions in North America.

AAPA signed onto a letter stating, “A port industry-specific grant program to reduce emissions and electrify port equipment will help spur the adoption of green energy and equipment at ports and allow for faster installation of electric grid and electric equipment charging infrastructure that will be critical in the effort to create a sustainable maritime transportation industry.”

USE M.E.B.A. WEBSITE DUES PAYMENT OPTION TO IRON OUT LWOP/VACATION DUES LAPSES

Some M.E.B.A. bargaining unit members pay dues by automatic Dues Check-Off (DCO). But when DCO members take vacation or (in the case of the Government fleet) Leave without Pay (LWOP), there are lapses in payroll where dues aren't automatically submitted. Those members can iron out the imbalance from a link on the M.E.B.A. homepage (www.mebaunion.org). Click the link, select the bargaining unit in the “Check Off, Catch-Up” section and make sure you remain a member in good standing. A “Vacation Pay” option is also available. This is useful for port engineers and Union officials who can make these payments online. Many members and applicants think that paying online is the most efficient and advantageous manner to remain in good standing.

YOU DESERVE SOME OF YOUR KIDS' UNION-MADE CANDY

Your kid shouldn't be eating all that sugar this Halloween! Yes, he or she will “work” for it – costumed-up and shambling from door-to-door to beg for that candy. But you're the one who brings home the paycheck and makes it all happen! This Halloween you can feel good about taking the candy away from your kid and keeping it for yourself. After all, that's your cut, and you deserve it!

Obviously you'll need to throw away all the candy made by non-union labor that your kid collects. But happily, there's a lot of treats made by hardworking union workers. Here's a list of union and ethically-made sweets. Just remember to brush your teeth after you eat their candy – and deny everything!

Annabelle Candy Company - Abba-Zaba peanut; Big Hunk; Rocky Road S'mores; U-No; *Bachman* - Cheese curls; Corn chips; Jax Cheese Curls; Keystone Snacks Party Mix; Pretzels; *Ghirardelli Chocolates* - All filled and non-filled squares; All filled and non-filled bars; Chocolate chips; Nonpareils; *Hershey Products* - Cadbury Dairy Milk Bar; Cadbury Fruit & Nut Bar; Cadbury Roast Almond Bar; Cadbury Royal Dark Bar; Caramello Bar; Hershey's Kissables; Hershey's Kisses; Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bar; Hershey's Milk Chocolate with Almonds Bar; Hershey's Nuggets; Hershey's Special Dark Bars; Hershey's Symphony Bar with Toffee; Hershey's Syrups; Jolly Ranchers; Kit Kat Bars; Rolo; - Candy Corn; Disney Mickey and Minnie jelly beans; Fall Festival Mix; Gummi Rats; Gummi Tarantulas; Halloween Jelly Belly; Harry Potter Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans; Harry Potter Jelly Slugs; Hello Kitty Halloween Deluxe Mix; Jelly Belly BeanBoozled; Jelly Belly Disney Villains bags; Mellocreme Pumpkins; Sour Gummi Pumpkins; *Nestlé* - Baby Ruth; Butterfinger; Butterfinger Crisp; Laffy Taffy; Nestle Crunch; Peanut Butter Cups; Pearsons Nips; *Pearson's Candy* - Bun Bars; Mint Patties; Nut Goodie; Salted Nut Roll; *Sconza Candies* - Boston Baked Beans; Chocolate; Chocolate Covered Cherries; Chocolate/Yogurt Fruit and Raisins; Jaw Breakers; Jordan Almonds; Lemoncello Almonds; *See's Candies* - Brittles and toffees; Candy Bars; Chocolate assortment; Lollypops; Nuts & Chews; Truffles; *Tootsie Roll Industries* - Andes Mints; Blow Pops; Charleston Chew; Junior Mints; Sugar Daddy; Tootsie Rolls; Wack-O-Wax.

MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE!!!

Members and applicants should make sure that M.E.B.A. Headquarters has your e-mail address along with your other contact information. If you haven't filled out an M.E.B.A. Database Update Form – or if your information has changed – grab the form off the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) located in the “Documents & Member Notices” section. Update Forms should be sent to the HQ Membership Dept. by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail membership@mebaunion.org. The HQ database is NOT LINKED to the databases at the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore OR the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School. To update your information with Plans, you can find a change of address form on the Plans website (www.mebaplans.org) under “Forms & Documents” and “Member Services Forms”.

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

M.E.B.A. halls and offices will be closed on Monday Oct. 11 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.

In some states, the barbarism of the Columbus explorations prompted them to redub the federal holiday. A growing list of states, at least thirteen - as well as Washington D.C. - changed Columbus Day to either “Native American Day” or “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.” Some Italian Americans are not enthused that their holiday is being co-opted and, if it changes away from Columbus, would rather substitute a more air-tight and honorable Italian. Suggestions: Leonardo Da Vinci, Marco Polo, Michelangelo, Galileo or Don Vito Corleone. Anyway, whoever you choose to honor on Monday, have a terrific day and a long weekend!

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS *(All times are local)*

Friday, October 8 – Honolulu@1100.

Monday, November 8 – Boston@1200; Seattle-Fife@1300;

Tuesday, November 9 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, November 10 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online Headquarters “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting)

Thursday, November 11 – Veterans’ Day – *All Halls Closed*

Friday, November 12 – Honolulu@1100; L.A.-San Pedro@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

-----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 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. Visit us on Facebook. 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.