

# 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//New Deck Jobs! Keystone to Take Over Tankers//VADM Herberger Has Died//Interlake, Pasha Christenings//Oct. 20 4MF Disc Golf Tournament, Silent Auction//Gallup Poll Records Highest Labor Union Support since 1965//Union-Made Labor Day//CG Museum Construction//WSF News – Rescues, Ridership Increase//HQ Online Meeting on Wednesday//Labor Day Closings//*

### **NEW DECK OPPORTUNITIES: KEYSTONE TO TAKE OVER TWO TANKERS**

Keystone Shipping Co. will bareboat charter at least two of three tankers that were slated to leave the Overseas Shipholding Group (OSG) fleet at the end of the year.

In December, citing a need for diversification, OSG announced that it would not be exercising bareboat charter extension options with American Shipping Company (AMSC) for the OVERSEAS NEW YORK, OVERSEAS LOS ANGELES and OVERSEAS TEXAS CITY. OSG continues to operate those three vessels until the end of their current bareboat term in December 2022. M.E.B.A. represents engineers in the OSG tanker fleet.

Now, American Shipping Company has announced that bareboat charter agreements have been reached for at least two of those vessels with Keystone for minimum terms of three years.

M.E.B.A. represents both deck and engine officers for Keystone and therefore will pick up new deck billets for our membership when the bareboat charters take effect. The company believes they will take over the OVERSEAS LOS ANGELES and OVERSEAS TEXAS CITY around December 11. Keystone expressed their intentions to rename those vessels.

Keystone President Donald Kurz noted, "Taking the two AMSC vessels on back-to-back bareboat charters will fall well within our strategy to operate ships in the domestic tanker trade. We are very happy to have concluded this bareboat transaction which allows us to service a key oil and refinery group in the U.S. Gulf."

### **AL HERBERGER, FORMER MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR, HAS DIED**

One of the industry's favorite former Maritime Administrators, Vice Admiral Albert J. Herberger, who spent four productive years leading MarAd, has died at the age of 91. Admiral Herberger led MarAd from September 1993 to late June 1997 and is credited with weighty accomplishments on behalf of the industry including leadership efforts on the implementation of the 1993 National Shipbuilding Initiative as well as the Maritime Security Act of 1996 (Maritime Security Program and the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement).

In his early years, he was a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (Class of '55) and roomed with the late Tom Cannon, a legendary M.E.B.A. Chief Engineer and Calhoun School

instructor. He spent 35 years at sea in the Merchant Marine and with the Navy. He was the first Kings Point graduate to attain a three-star rank in the Navy. He later served as Deputy Commander-in-Chief for the U.S. Transportation Command. He was a 1996 recipient of the Admiral of the Ocean Sea Award (AOTOS) Award, a prestigious maritime lifetime achievement honor.

After his 1997 retirement from MarAd, he remained a strong proponent for the industry and stayed active fighting for U.S.-flag shipping. He regularly attended maritime meetings and events including the annual Maritime Congressional “Sail-In” to help educate Congress about the importance of our industry. Delivering remarks at one of the Sail-Ins, the Admiral noted, “The maritime industry is the backbone of the American and global economy. We represent thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in investment and we are the critical connection to the global economy. We can't take it for granted that government understands the complex nature of the American maritime industry and the necessity of the U.S.-flagged merchant fleet.”

In recent years, Herberger served as Vice Chairman of American Ship Management. The Maritime Administration released a statement saying that Vice Admiral Herberger “had a long, successful maritime career, and was often described as someone who ‘stood tall yet remained approachable and friendly.’ We will forever remain inspired by his leadership and his impact on the maritime community.”

## **INTERLAKE, PASHA CHRISTENINGS**

A pair of ceremonial christenings today brought attention to two beautiful new additions to the U.S.-flag fleet, both crewed with expert M.E.B.A. officers. This morning in Cleveland, Interlake Steamship Company welcomed the first US-flagged Great Lakes bulk carrier constructed in almost 40 years. The M/V MARK W. BARKER is a 639-foot, 28,000 DWT self-unloading bulk carrier that was constructed at the Fincantieri facility in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

M.E.B.A. officials, including President Adam Vokac were on hand for the ceremony. The vessel, with a crew represented by M.E.B.A. and Steelworkers Local 5000, has already made at least eight runs carrying iron ore, salt, coal and aggregates.

In Los Angeles, the MV GEORGE III is set for its official christening later this evening. Like the MARK BARKER, the Pasha Hawaii newbuild is already in service. It is crewed by M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU. The 774-foot LNG-fueled containership was constructed at Brownsville, Texas-based Keppel AmFels. There have already been several smaller ceremonies for the newbuild at the yard and at stops in Honolulu and Oakland.

It is the first of two Ohana-class containerships (JANET MARIE will be the second) that will serve the Hawaii - Mainland trade lane. The Ohana Class vessels are named in honor of George Pasha, III and Janet Marie, the late parents of The Pasha Group President and CEO George Pasha IV, marking three generations of service to Hawaii. The Jones Act vessels have a capacity of 2,525 TEUs, with a sailing speed of 23.0 knots.

Some of the members who performed the hard work to get the GEORGE III off the blocks out to sea included Joseph Walla, Eric White, Sean Stevens (vessel C/E), Erik Gilbert, Rob Moulton, Steven Peters, David Rivera and Ray Tesson. Thanks, and congratulations all!

## **OCT. 20 - DISC GOLF, SILENT AUCTION WILL RAISE \$\$ FOR 4MF**

The M.E.B.A. family is invited to take part in a fundraiser at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School to benefit the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF). The Second Annual M MMMMF Invitational Jamie Butler Memorial Disc Golf Tournament will take place on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> (at 1300). There will also be a Silent Auction soon after as well as a karaoke challenge to take place at the CMES Lounge. Donations of auction items are appreciated. If you have an item of value that you feel could raise money for this great cause, please contact the Foundation. The 4MF is a section 501(c)(3) entity under Internal Revenue Service rules, so all donations are tax deductible. Jamie Butler was a 1983 CMES cadet school graduate who shipped as an M.E.B.A. Chief Engineer for years and served as the Baltimore hall dispatcher before he sailed into the sunset in late 2020 at the age of 59.

The \$25 entry fee will benefit the 4MF and the Memorial Park. As you know, the Memorial was created to honor fallen seafarers who have delivered the goods and answered the call of this country since 1775. The tournament winner will have his or her name engraved on the M MMMMF Maritime Heritage Cup proudly displayed at the CMES Lounge. You can contact 4MF Chairman Bill Van Loo for additional information. He can be reached at [bvanloo@bvtworks.org](mailto:bvanloo@bvtworks.org) or call/text him at (443) 676-6248.

## **GALLUP POLL RECORDS HIGHEST APPROVAL OF LABOR UNIONS SINCE 1965**

A newly released Gallup poll found that the American people's approval rating of labor unions has risen to 71%, the highest rating recorded by Gallup since 1965. Support for labor unions were at their highest point in the early 1950s with 75% approval. The lowest mark recorded by Gallup was 49% in 2009. The latest data was collected for Gallup's annual Work and Education survey, conducted earlier this month. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said that "it comes as no surprise that public support for unions continues to rise across the country. Union members have delivered for our communities throughout the country, as workers have finally been recognized as essential to our economy and society during the coronavirus pandemic...This polling data should send a clear message to Congress that union jobs are vital as we re-emerge from this pandemic with a stronger economy that is built upon the principles of fairness and equality." Mario Cilento, president of the New York State AFL-CIO, pointed out that the data correlates with renewed organizing efforts around the nation in the cannabis and agriculture industries and at Amazon, Starbucks, and nonprofits. "When you think of the challenges that workers faced throughout the pandemic, it has become very clear that at no other time in recent memory has it been so vitally important to be able to have a voice in the workplace. That is exactly what union membership gives you and this poll confirms. Workers recognize that we are much stronger together. It's that simple," Cilento added.

## **UNION-MADE LABOR DAY**

Labor Day is Monday, and we should honor working families and recommit ourselves to updating labor laws that will help strengthen the hand of working men and women. But hey, it's also a holiday weekend - you've worked hard, and you deserve a break. Here's a list of union-friendly movies, beverages, and grilling products that will help you intensify your weekend of slack.

***Labor Day Movie Selection*** - 10,000 Black Men Named George (1992); American Dream (1990); American Factory (2019); At the River I Stand (1993); Blue Collar (1978); Bound for Glory (1976); Boxcar Bertha (1972); Brassed Off (1996); Bread and Roses (2000); Comrades (1986); Cradle Will Rock (1999); F.I.S.T. (1978); Germinal (1993); Glengarry Glen Ross (1992); Gung Ho (1986); Harlan County U.S.A (1976); Hoffa (1992); How Green Was My Valley (1941); I'm All Right, Jack (1959);

Justice on Wheels: The Diana Kilmury Story (Mother Trucker) (1996); Live Nude Girls Unite! (2000); Made in Dagenham (2010); Matewan (1987); Miles of Smiles: Years of Struggle (1982); Modern Times (1936); Native Land (1942); Newsies (1992); Norma Rae (1979); North Country (2005); On the Waterfront (1954); Pride (2014); Reprise (1996); Roger & Me (1989); Salt of the Earth (1954); Silkwood (1983); Sometimes a Great Notion (1971); Sorry to Bother You (2018); Still the Enemy Within (2014); Strike (1925); The Burning Season: The Chico Mendes Story (1994); The Devil and Miss Jones (1941); The Fight in the Fields (1997); The Grapes of Wrath (1940); The Molly Maguires (1970); The Killing Floor (1984); The Organiser (1963); The Pajama Game (1957); The Triangle Factory Fire Scandal (1979); The Willmar 8 (1981); The Wobblies (1979); With Babies and Banners (1979). **Meat & Buns** – Ball Park franks (UFCW, IBT); Butterball turkey tenderloins, drumsticks, burgers and franks (UFCW, IBT); Dearborn Sausage Company (IBT); Empire Kosher chicken and turkey (UFCW); Farmer John (IBT); Foster Farms poultry (IBT, UFCW); Hormel beef, pork and chicken franks (IBT); Sara Lee buns (BCTGM, IBT, UFCW); Oroweat buns (BCTGM). **Snacks** - Act II Popcorn (UFCW); Cheez-It (BCTGM); Cheetos (BCTGM); Chex Mixes (IBT); Doritos (BCTGM, IBT); Rold Gold Pretzels (. BCTGM, IBT); Slim Jim (UFCW, IBT); Sun Chips (BCTGM, IBT); Wheat Thins (BCTGM, IBT). **Union-Made Beer & Sodas** (*There are so many more!* Visit [www.unionplus.org/blog/union-made/union-made-beer](http://www.unionplus.org/blog/union-made/union-made-beer)): Anchor Steam (ILWU); Beck's (IAM); Budweiser (IBT, IAM); Coors Light (IUOE, IBT); Henry Weinhard's (IUOE, IBT); Miller Genuine Draft (UAW, IAM, IUOE, IBT); Red Stripe (IUE-CWA); Rolling Rock (IAM); Sam Adams (IBT, IUOE, SEIU); Shock Top (IAM, IUOE, IBT); Barq's Root Beer; Coca-Cola; Dr Pepper; Pepsi. **Union-made BBQ Supplies** - Durex Maverick Barbeque Tools; Igloo Cooler; Rubbermaid coolers; Solo cups, plates, and bowls; Thermador Grills; Weber Grills (Genesis, Summit & Q Series).

## **CG MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION IN NEW LONDON, CT**

The Coast Guard commemorated the start of construction on the National Coast Guard Museum with a formal ceremony recently on the City Pier, New London (Connecticut) Waterfront. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Linda Fagan officiated the symbolic “keel-laying” ceremony for the museum’s main building, which will memorialize more than 230 years of service into one central location to honor the legacy and heritage of the Coast Guard. The National Coast Guard Museum’s six floors and 80,000 square-foot exhibit space will represent the Coast Guard members who have, are, or will stand the watch at home and abroad, embodying the service’s core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

## **WSF NEWS: RESCUES; RIDERSHIP RISES**

1. In early August, crewmembers aboard the Washington State Ferry TOKITAE saved three people when the engine of a 20-foot SeaMaster died after the sun went down and the boat began taking on water. After a 911 call, the three distressed men fired a flare which helped the TOKITAE pinpoint their position. The ferry crew worked quickly to launch a rescue boat and towed the Seamaster to shore in Clinton. Boat survivors were unscathed. Just a few days later, the crew aboard TACOMA rescued a person who was flailing in the water near Seattle’s Colman Dock.

2. Walk-on ridership is near its highest point since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic at Washington State Ferries. Since the start of WSF’s peak travel summer season on June 19, the systemwide vehicle count is at 91% of pre-pandemic levels. Walk-on passengers have been slower to return and are at just 62% of this time three years ago. The total combined vehicle and walk-on summer season ridership through Aug. 28 is at 82% of pre-pandemic levels. Ridership is expected to

grow even closer to pre-pandemic levels as WSF restores service on a route-by-route basis outlined in its COVID-19 Service Restoration Plan.

### **M.E.B.A. HQ ONLINE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY – SIGN UP NOW**

The monthly town-hall style M.E.B.A. Headquarters informational meeting will be held online – with no voting and no resolutions introduced - on Wednesday, September 7 at 1300 (Eastern Time). This is not an actual membership meeting, but it is an excellent opportunity for Members, Applicants and Retirees to discuss M.E.B.A. business, exchange information and learn more about the latest Union initiatives. Members, applicants and retirees need to register in advance for this meeting to [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org) When registering for the Online HQ Informational Meeting, provide your full name and proof of good standing - such as your last dues receipt/service charge number or statement that you are enrolled in Dues Check-Off (DCO) with a particular bargaining unit. Retirees should provide their full name and indicate their retired status. Upon confirmation of your status, the Zoom access link will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting.

### **HALLS, OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY FOR LABOR DAY**

M.E.B.A. halls and offices will be closed on Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, but will reopen on Tuesday. Union halls which usually have their regular membership meetings on the Monday of meeting week (Boston & Seattle) will instead conduct their meetings on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at the regular time. Labor Day is observed on the first Monday in September to pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of everyday working families. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated in New York City on Tuesday, September 5, 1882. Following the deaths of 13 workers during the Pullman Strike in June of 1894, President Grover Cleveland made the reconciliation with the labor movement a top political priority, and Labor Day become a federal holiday in 1894.

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

**Monday, September 5** – Halls Closed – *Labor Day*

**Tuesday, September 6** – Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

**Wednesday, September 7** – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)

**Thurs. September 8** – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

**Friday, September 9** – 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](mailto:mebahq@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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org) Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*