

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"

M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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NEW DECK & ENGINE WORK! KEYSTONE TAKES OVER LMSR TRANSFERRED FROM MSC

Keystone is getting ready to take over a Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-On, Roll-Off (LMSR) vessel as soon as October 1. The Military Sealift Command is transferring the USNS BOB HOPE to the Maritime Administration and Keystone has been assigned as the "general agent."

That means that new Deck and Engine officer positions are on the job board right now and qualified Engine and Deck members, applicants and retirees should visit a Union hall as soon as they can to consider one of these opportunities.

The vessel is currently in Bremerton, WA. The ship's name will be shortened to BOB HOPE, with its USNS designation removed, and will operate in Reduced Operating Status-5.

M.E.B.A. NAILS DOWN NEW SSA CONTRACT

After more than a year of negotiations, M.E.B.A. and the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority (SSA) have finalized a new contract. M.E.B.A. represents engineers onboard the 10 vessels in the SSA fleet. The service carries passengers, cars, and freight between mainland Massachusetts and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The agreement was recently ratified by M.E.B.A. members sailing in the fleet.

Our Atlantic Coast Vice President Jason Callahan and Boston Representative Stuart Fay headed up talks and rank and file members of Dan Lindberg and Coleman Nee helped shepherd the new three-year agreement to completion. The contract secures wage and benefit increases and takes effect retroactively to July 2021.

M.E.B.A. TRUSTEE HONORED

M.E.B.A. was in New York this week to cheer on contracted company-Patriot Contract Services (PCS) and Boriana Farrar who was honored by SUNY Maritime for the impact she's made on our industry. Maritime College President Dr. Michael Alfultis singled out Farrar, who is an M.E.B.A. Trustee and PCS Vice President/Chief Legal Officer, as part of a salute to the contributions women have made to the ongoing evolution of U.S.-flag shipping.

Sharing the spotlight as an honoree with Boriana was the organization she formerly headed up - the Women's International Shipping & Trade Association (WISTA) USA which promotes and empowers women to be part of a diverse and inclusive maritime industry.

M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha celebrated the honor on Boriana's big night in the Bronx, and Farrar lauded the M.E.B.A. for its leadership role on SA/SH issues.

Admiral Alfultis said, "In a male-dominated field, women are integrating their expertise, leadership, and invaluable perspectives to strengthen and enrich the maritime industry. By supporting women seeking to enlist and expand the industry, we are building a new generation of brilliant and competent leaders and entrepreneurs."

BILL LOOKS TO BOOST FEDERAL FERRY FUNDING

A handful of maritime-friendly legislators led by Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) have put forward identical House and Senate bills seeking to fuel public passenger ferry investment by beefing up competitive grant programs. The bipartisan Ferry Service Expansion Act would allow ferry systems such as the Alaska Marine Highway System, Staten Island Ferries and Washington State Ferry, and many others, to be eligible for millions in federal transit funding reserved for projects emphasizing clean energy.

The M.E.B.A. broadcasted its support for the bill which, among other things, would provide \$640 million in grants from the Federal Highway Administration's Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities Formula Program (\$180 million over current law); \$450 million in competitive grant programs from the Federal Transit Administration's Passenger Ferry Grant Program (\$300 million over current law); a one-time \$1.25 billion investment in federal transit funding for passenger ferries serving urbanized areas like San Francisco-Oakland and Seattle; Change the law to allow States to use their federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) for hovercraft ferry projects; make the 85% federal cost share permanent for the replacement or retrofit of diesel-powered ferries that substantially reduce emissions; and apply "Buy American" and Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements to the two newly authorized ferry grant programs established under the 2021 Infrastructure Law.

CG BILL PROVISION REMOVES RED TAPE FOR MILITARY VETS TO JOIN MERCHANT MARINE

Senators recently amended the Coast Guard Authorization Act to include a provision that would help smooth the way for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and veterans seeking to transition to careers as merchant mariners. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) along with Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) authored the provision that is designed to improve the application and credentialing process for veterans transitioning to join the maritime industry. It would require federal officials to outline current regulations and simplify the documentation requirements for veterans. It would also aim to improve mariner credentialing along with two amendments to study and improve merchant mariner processing and credentialing issuance.

The Coast Guard Authorization bill calls for funding to enhance Coast Guard operations, help the service replace and modernize its cutters, and make big shoreside and cyber infrastructure improvements, among other items. The Senate Commerce Committee passed the bill which is expected to be included in the Senate's version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

MARAD STUDYING LOW CARBON SHIPPING ON LAKES

The Maritime Administration has launched a 16-month study exploring low carbon options for shipping on the Great Lakes. Their research group, led by the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) in partnership with the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers (GSGP) will assess the suitability of alternative fuels and power options for Great Lakes shipping.

Over a period of 16 months, researchers will make the assessments and develop a detailed profile of Great Lakes fleets, ports, and fueling infrastructure. The project will also summarize relevant domestic and international environmental regulations that will influence the uptake of these technologies.

MARAD INITIATIVES TO HEIGHTEN CARGO PREFERENCE ACCOUNTABILITY & COMPLIANCE

The Maritime Administration (MarAd) has announced efforts to increase accountability of federal compliance with cargo preference requirements in the wake of a newly released GAO report. Existing requirements stipulate that U.S.-flag vessels must be utilized for at least 50% of Government-impelled cargo and 100% of military shipments

MarAd monitors federal agencies' cargo volumes to calculate the percentage shipped on U.S.-flag vessels. But a recent Government Accountability Office report notes that since reporting requirements were eliminated, MarAd no longer publicly releases that data.

GAO stated that without public reporting of that data, transparency of federal agency cargo shipments is compromised and an important accountability measure is lost.

The GAO also found that MarAd continues to notify federal agencies and contractors about potential violations and encourages shipping additional cargo on U.S.-flag vessels. However, they found that MarAd has not taken any enforcement actions, partly because regulations have not been developed to allow them to do so. The report notes, "Without taking steps to evaluate options for developing regulations that achieve sought-after consensus with agencies, MarAd will continue to lack the tools necessary to oversee and enforce agencies' compliance with cargo preference requirements."

At a Congressional hearing last week, Maritime Administrator Rear Admiral Ann Phillips announced that MarAd will resume publishing comprehensive federal cargo preference data to increase interagency efficiency and to provide transparency regarding the movement of government-impelled cargo on both U.S.-flagged and foreign-flagged vessels.

MarAd will also issue a Request for Information to solicit input from all stakeholders on cargo preference requirements.

CMES READYING 2023 COURSE SCHEDULE – BE FIRST TO KNOW BY TEXT ALERT

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School is shoring up its course schedule for 2023 and expects to issue it to the masses sometime in October.

You can be among the first to know when the schedule is released by signing up for the School's new text alert system. Text alerts include announcements about recently added classes, open spots on a roster, availability of the next year's course schedule, and other items of interest. *To start receiving texts, members must opt-in by texting CMES to (410) 822-9600.* This is completely voluntary, and members may opt-out at any time by replying STOP to the last text they received.

CMES ADDS RT-FLEX BASIC TRAINING COURSE

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) has added a Wartsila RT-Flex Basic Training class to its 2022 course schedule, to take place from November 14–16. This is a three-day class that will be held Monday to Wednesday. Topics covered will be:

- Introduction to 2-Stroke Flex Engines
- Engine components
- Engine basics:
 - Fuel rail system,
 - Servo oil, Control oil
- Flex view program
- Basic principle WECS (Wartsila Engine Control System)

Applications may be sent via the CMES website (mebaschool.org), faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to applications@mebaschool.org

REP. ELAINE LURIA HONORED BY NAVY LEAGUE

Rep. Elaine Luria, Vice Chair of the House Armed Services' Seapower Subcommittee and strong proponent of U.S.-flag shipping was honored this week by the Navy League. The Navy League is a non-profit civilian organization whose mission is to educate Americans about the enduring importance of sea power and to support the men and women of the U.S. sea services. It advocates for the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S. Merchant Marine. Rep. Luria was chosen as this year's honoree of the Congressional Sea Services Award, presented to a member of the House or Senate who has provided outstanding contributions to the Sea Services in the previous calendar year. Rep. Luria represents the Hampton Roads area including Virginia Beach, Williamsburg and parts of Norfolk, VA, where M.E.B.A. maintains a Union hall. A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, she has been a prominent voice on behalf of our industry in her Congressional career.

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

Monday, October 3 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, October 4 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, October 5 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ "Town Hall" Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org

Thurs. October 6 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.

Friday, October 7 – Honolulu@1100.

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

