

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"
Number 39 – September 24, 2020



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ON WORLD MARITIME DAY, NAUTILUS FEDERATION SPOTLIGHTS CREW CHANGE CRISIS

On the occasion of World Maritime Day, the annual observance to bring attention to the huge role of seafarers and the maritime industry to this planet, the Nautilus Federation spotlighted the ongoing global crew change crisis and called for quick action.

M.E.B.A. is an affiliate of the Nautilus Federation that represents international mariners and shipping professionals with the objective of spotlighting officer issues such as criminalization, fatigue, and the impact of automation. The Federation also includes the MM&P as well as M.E.B.A.'s Panamanian affiliate Unión de Ingenieros Marinos (UIM), among 22 unions.

In the World Maritime Day statement, September 24, 2020 (today), unions draw attention to the inability of some of the world's largest flag states to enforce fundamental seafarer rights during the pandemic. While many of these Flags of Convenience (FOCs) nations quickly ratified the Maritime Labor Convention 2006 (MLC), ITF said, the "ease and speed by which many flag states subsequently ignored the rights of seafarers is a stain on the entire maritime industry."

The statement calls for mariners and others in the industry to be recognized globally as key workers and demands that IMO and ILO crew change protocols be adopted industry-wide.

Nautilus Federation director Mark Dickinson said, "Maritime and shipping professionals, at sea and on inland waterways, have had enough. We will continue to push for an international solution, together as Nautilus Federation affiliates and as affiliates of ITF, so that the key workers of the world's seas and rivers are able to get to and from their vessels without delay. Should that international solution cause Port States to detain growing numbers of vessels until seafarers are repatriated, the industry and governments will need to prepare for the disruption this would cause to global supply chains. This is a wholly predicted - yet avoidable - humanitarian crisis, and we call for action against governments who deny seafarers their fundamental rights."

The full statement has been posted on the M.E.B.A. website at www.mebaunion.org

ITF SAYS PANDEMIC SHORTCUTS COULD CAUSE ACCIDENTS

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) issued a stark warning that if temporary shortcuts adopted in the industry during the COVID-19 pandemic continue or become permanent, there will be a rise in shipping accidents and environmental disasters. The crew change crisis is a huge worry as hundreds of thousands of seafarers worldwide are being pushed to their limits of fatigue. But the ITF identified several other areas where exceptions and half-measures during the pandemic could cause real problems such as in continued certificate extensions, remote inspections, and the “rubber-stamping” of unsafe manning levels.

The predictions are contained in a new report released by the ITF's Maritime Safety Committee: “Beyond the Limit: How COVID-19 Corner-Cutting Places Too Much Risk in the International Shipping System.”

ITF Seafarers and Inland Navigation Section Coordinator Fabrizio Barcellona said, “This is not just about crew change, but that is part of the story...We understood the need for flexibility early on in this pandemic. But it has been six months now, and we have reached the safe limit of exemptions, extensions and all-too-convenient interpretations of these life-saving rules. If action is not taken, there will be loss of human life and irreparable damage to marine ecosystems,” Barcellona said.

TRANSPORTATION LABOR HONORS JUSTICE GINSBURG

The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), issued a statement praising the life and career of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who died last week. TTD, represents 33 transportation-related unions including the M.E.B.A.

“Today, as we mourn the loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, we pause to reflect on the life, career, and legacy of one of the greatest jurists of our time. Justice Ginsburg was a pioneer in her field who fought tirelessly for civil, human, women's, and worker's rights. She understood the power of the law to transform lives, and used the might of the American legal system as a catalyst for change. Throughout her distinguished career, Justice Ginsburg challenged this country to live up to its full potential, all while defending our Constitution with grace, humility, dignity, and humor.

“Transportation labor is proud to honor Justice Ginsburg's legacy now, and in the future, as we fight for a more fair and just society, and seek to make change one step at a time.”

NMC ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL REC REOPENINGS

The National Maritime Center (NMC) is reopening its Regional Examination Centers (RECs) in Anchorage, Baltimore, Oakland, Portland, and St. Louis for limited exam services beginning on Monday. Additionally, with the exception of Monitoring Unit (MU) Guam, all RECs and MUs are open for limited services. The full notice has been posted on the M.E.B.A. website in the “Documents & Member Notices” section. Mariners seeking to schedule examinations at these locations may do so by using the contact info below:

REC Anchorage – recanc@uscg.mil
REC Baltimore – recbaltimore@uscg.mil
REC Boston – recboston@uscg.mil
REC Charleston – reccha@uscg.mil
REC Honolulu – rechonolulu@uscg.mil
REC Houston – rechoustonexam@uscg.mil

REC Juneau – recjun@uscg.mil
REC Long Beach – reclb@uscg.mil
REC Memphis – recmemphis@uscg.mil
REC Miami – recmia@uscg.mil or (305) 536-4331
REC New Orleans – recnola@uscg.mil
REC New York – recny@uscg.mil
REC Oakland – recoakland@uscg.mil
REC Portland – recportland@uscg.mil
REC Seattle – recseattle@uscg.mil
REC St. Louis – recstl@uscg.mil
REC Toledo – rectol@uscg.mil
MU Ketchikan – (907) 225-4496 (extension #3)
MU San Juan – (787) 729-2368

MARAD RENEWS ADVISORY ON GPS INTERFERENCE

The Maritime Administration has updated an advisory warning ship traffic to remain cautious against nefarious attempts to block or influence vessel GPS readings. MarAd’s new advisory was issued this week and remains effective until March 21, 2021.

Multiple instances of significant GPS interference have been reported worldwide in the maritime domain. This interference is resulting in lost or inaccurate GPS signals affecting bridge navigation, GPS-based timing, and communications equipment. Satellite communications equipment may also be impacted. Over the last year, areas from which multiple instances have been reported include the eastern and central Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf, and multiple Chinese ports.

Maritime GPS disruptions or anomalies should be reported immediately to the NAVCEN at <https://go.usa.gov/xQBaw> or via phone at 703-313-5900, 24-hours a day. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <http://www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI>

CRUISE LINES LOOK TOWARD RESUMPTION, ADOPT HEALTH PROTOCOLS

The cruise ship lobby has announced that large passenger vessels in U.S. waters plan to implement new pandemic protocols including masks and 100% testing in an effort to resume operation before the end of the year. Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), which represents 95% of global ocean-going cruise capacity, announced the adoption of health protocols that large passenger vessels in U.S. waters plan to implement as part of a phased-in, controlled resumption of operations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) No Sail Order for cruise ships is in effect through September 30th. CLIA plans to submit the adopted protocols, on behalf of its member lines, to CDC. CLIA says the core elements of the protocols mirror those used by other countries which have already resumed cruises - 100% testing of passengers and crew prior to boarding; Physical distancing; Mandatory mask wearing by all passengers and crew onboard and during excursions whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained; Enhanced onboard ventilation and medical capabilities and more guarded shore excursions.

GREAT LAKES IRON ORE, LIMESTONE TRADES WAY OFF LAST YEAR’S PACE

Shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes totaled 3.6 million tons in August, a decrease of 40.3 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments were also below the month’s 5-year average by 37.9 percent. Year-

to-date the iron ore trade stands at 24.3 million tons, a decrease of 25.9 percent compared to the same point in 2019. Through August iron shipments are nearly 23.2 percent below their 5-year average for eight months of the year.

Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 3.6 million tons in August, a decrease of 16.6 percent from 2019. Limestone cargos were also below the month's 5-year average by 8.4 percent. Loadings from U.S. quarries totaled 2.9 million tons, a decrease of 18 percent compared to a year ago. Shipments from Canadian quarries totaled 729,336 tons, a decrease of 10.8 percent. Year-to-date the Lakes limestone trade stands at 16 million tons, a decrease of 17.3 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings from Michigan and Ohio quarries total 12.7 million tons, a decrease of 20 percent. Shipments from Ontario quarries total 3.3 million tons, a decrease of 4.8 percent.

M.E.B.A. ELECTION: OBTAINING A DUPLICATE BALLOT

If you are an M.E.B.A. member and did not receive a ballot – or yours has been lost or destroyed - you can request a duplicate ballot in writing.

The M.E.B.A. By-Laws states, "A member shall be entitled to make a written request of the Impartial Administrator for a duplicate ballot and receive the same provided he states in his letter that he has not received his ballot or that his ballot has been lost or mutilated so that it cannot be used. Duplicate ballots shall be counted unless the original and duplicate ballot mailed to a member are both cast, in which event neither ballot shall be counted."

Please use the following Impartial Administrator contact information to request a duplicate ballot. Any written requests for duplicate ballots made to the M.E.B.A. will be referred to the Impartial Administrator.

TrueBallot, Inc.

3 Bethesda Metro Center
Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814
Email: 0212001@trueballot.com

Please make sure you include the address where the duplicate ballot should be sent.

LAST CHANCE FOR GLORY! 4MF RAFFLE DRAWING IS COMING UP

The drawing for the months-long 50/50 raffle to raise money for the M.E.B.A.'s Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF) will take place on October 6th – leaving just less than two weeks to get in on the action. The winning raffle ticket (\$2 apiece) will be drawn on October 6, 2020 at the CMES during the online membership meeting. You do not need to be present to win. The grand winner will receive 50% of the proceeds from raffle sales. The popular swag giveaway promotion is in effect for this raffle for those who buy at least \$50 worth of tickets. You can purchase raffle tickets at any M.E.B.A. Union hall as well as Headquarters.

Supporting the 4MF is easy and it's a great cause. Members, applicants, retirees and everyone else are strongly encouraged to support the 4MF which provides upkeep and improvements to the Memorial Park located at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES). The Memorial honors fallen mariners who helped blaze the proud tradition our members continue today.

ONLINE OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – (All times are local)
(Registration Period is Sept. 24 – October 1 - Refer to the notice on the M.E.B.A. website)

Monday, October 5 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, October 6 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, October 7 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, October 8 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, October 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 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.