

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"



M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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FARM BILL CONFEREES BEGIN WORK - FOOD FOR PEACE AT ISSUE

57 Senate and House Conferees began meeting this week to work out final details of the 2018 Farm Bill – a five-year package that includes the authorization for food aid programs.

The House and Senate each passed their respective Farm Bill versions in July, with the final details to be worked out through the Conference process prior to expiration of the current authorization on Sept. 30th. The Senate version includes several provisions which would negatively impact the U.S. Merchant Marine by decreasing the total amount of food aid available for export. Maritime unions and carriers are actively lobbying both the House and Senate to ensure that the House version prevails.

You can help by visiting the Navy League's "Voice to Congress" page on its website. The site assists you in easily sending a ready-made letter to your lawmakers urging their support for the carriage of Food for Peace cargoes by U.S.-flag ships. Check it out at www.voterveice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/59973/Respond

GEN LYONS INSTALLED AS TRANSCOM COMMANDER

At a change of command ceremony last week at Scott Air Force Base, Army General Stephen R. Lyons took over as the new Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command succeeding the retiring Gen. Darren McDew. Gen. Lyons is the first ever non-Air Force officer to head up TRANSCOM.

He previously served as Deputy Commander at TRANSCOM under both Gen. Paul Selva and briefly under Gen. McDew before his assignment to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Director for Logistics. TRANSCOM is responsible for the global, joint movement of combat units, sustainment cargo, and service member household goods and privately owned vehicles.

Like previous Commanders, General Lyons understands that the military is dependent on the U.S. Merchant Marine to help project U.S. power overseas.

APL TALKS CONTINUE LATER THIS MONTH, ADDITIONAL RANK & FILE PARTICIPATION SOUGHT

M.E.B.A. is set to continue negotiations with American President Lines later this month in Oakland. The Union is interested in supplementing our negotiating team with qualified rank and file members.

The first round of talks with APL began in late August as the parties work on a new contract covering Deep-Sea engineers as well as Port Engineers. The current agreement expires on September 30.

Executive Vice President Adam Vokac is leading negotiations joined by L.A. Branch Agent Rich Doherty and Oakland Patrolman Maxim Alper. Chief Engineer Fred Cuzner, 1st A/E Trevor Lapham, Rotary Engineer Kurt Landwehr and M.E.B.A. retiree Duncan Ballenger participated in the late August talks.

The next scheduled dates for negotiations are September 20-21 and October 3-5. Rank and file members who are interested in participating should contact Oakland Patrolman Max Alper at the Oakland Union hall. He can be emailed at malper@mebaunion.org.

AFL-CIO LAUNCHES TV AD HIGHLIGHTING WORKER POWER

The AFL-CIO launched a new 60-second TV ad airing on CNN, MSNBC and Fox News to draw attention to the wave of collective action happening across the country and to show that anyone can join the momentum working people are generating. From a resounding defeat of “right to work” in Missouri to organizing victories in numerous industries nationwide, working people are standing up together.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said, “We don’t fear the attacks against us. We don’t fear right-to-work. Our power comes from the connection between us. We want fairness, we want dignity. We want everybody to have access to the American Dream.”

A recent Gallup poll shows labor unions garnered their highest approval rating in 15 years, with 62% of Americans having a positive opinion of unions. You can visit M.E.B.A.’s Facebook site to see the ad or follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/LaborRising>

NAUTILUS SURVEY GAUGES VIEWS ON MARINER CRIMINALIZATION

The Nautilus Federation is urging members to take part in a special survey put together to highlight the continued threat that criminalization presents to the maritime industry. Mariners concerned about their rights during incidents at sea are being urged to take part in the survey on their experiences of fair treatment. You can access the survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FairTreat18

M.E.B.A. is an affiliate of Nautilus which represents international mariners and shipping professionals with the objective of spotlighting officer issues such as criminalization.

Sadly, seafarers remain at high risk of being treated as scapegoats after accidents at sea. The results of the survey will be used to help look at new ways to support members when they face issues by providing access to support and guidance when they need it most, wherever they are in the world.

The survey is part of a campaign that is also promoting awareness of the Nautilus Federation’s Joint Assistance & Support Network (JASON) which aims to safeguard members’ rights to fair treatment after accidents.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO COMMENTED ON MARITIME DEREGULATION DOCKET

Many thanks to members who added their input to an Office of Management and Budget comment period on maritime industry deregulation. The comment period is now closed, but thanks to many of

our members, applicants and retirees, there is a more balanced and level-headed sampling of responses the agency will be reviewing.

The docket was set up to accept input on related agency requirements that should “be modified or repealed to increase efficiency, reduce or eliminate unnecessary or unjustified regulatory burdens, or simplify regulatory compliance while continuing to meet statutory missions.”

Some initial commenters called for an end to the Jones Act while others used the opportunity to savage cargo preference requirements. But eventually, comments from mariners, relevant industry organizations and others provided full-throated defenses of those crucial statutes and stressed that any government deregulation of the industry should avoid toppling such programs and laws that keep the U.S. Merchant Marine afloat.

If lawmakers and those in government don’t understand - or aren’t made aware - of the importance of programs and statutes upholding the U.S. Merchant Marine, we could find our livelihoods legislated away with the stroke of a pen. Members, applicants and retirees who stay vigilant and assist the fight for U.S.-flag shipping continue to prove extremely valuable to the cause.

You can visit the docket online and review submitted comments. It can be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> (Search for Docket ID: OMB-2018-0002).

FEASIBILITY OF MODIFYING WSF VESSELS TO HYBRID-ELECTRIC SUPPORTED

A newly-released study justifies the modification of three Washington State Ferry Jumbo Mark II-class vessels to hybrid-electric power. Elliott Bay Design Group (EBDG) prepared an analysis into the feasibility of modifying the TACOMA, WENATCHEE and PUYALLUP to integrate battery power into their propulsion plants. The study discussed the initial power and energy requirements for each route (Seattle to Bainbridge and Edmonds to Kingston), the sizing of the battery banks, new arrangements on the vessels, impacts to the existing system and life cycle cost analysis.

Results from the Jumbo Mark II study not only proved the feasibility and financial justification of the vessel conversion but highlighted several long-term benefits for Washington State Ferries and the impacted region. Benefits included zero-emission crossings on the proposed routes, major reductions in NOx and particulate emissions after the conversion and near elimination of diesel fuel consumption for the Jumbo Mark II vessels. The three ferries are the largest in the Washington State fleet and the biggest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions. Collectively, these three vessels burn approximately 4.2 million gallons of fuel per year – more than 26% of the fleet's consumption.

This project is said to have an enormous impact in meeting WSDOT's 2020 emissions targets set by the Washington State Legislature and complying with the Governor's Executive Order to transition to a zero-carbon emission fleet.

GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE STAYS STEADY

Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 3,941,085 tons in August, a near carbon copy of both a year ago and July of this year. Limestone cargos also bettered the month's 5-year average by 5.8 percent. Loadings from U.S. quarries totaled 3.248 million tons, a decrease 3.3 percent, or 110,000 tons, compared to a year ago. Shipments from Canadian quarries totaled 693,003 tons, an increase of 9.4 percent or roughly three loads in a mid-sized laker.

Year-to-date the Lakes limestone trade stands at 17.2 million tons, an increase of 3.5 percent compared to a year ago. Loadings from Michigan and Ohio quarries total 14.1 million tons, an increase of 3.3 percent. Shipments from Ontario quarries total 3.1 million tons, an increase 4.5 percent.

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & OTHER INFO WITH HQ

Be sure to inform Headquarters if you have changed your contact information. There is an address change form on our website to help expedite the process. It can be found at www.mebaunion.org under the “Members” tab or in the “Documents & Notices” section. Alternatively, you can send your updated information to Doris Fitzgerald at HQ by mail, fax at (202) 638-5369, or e-mail at membership@mebaunion.org Since the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore and Headquarters databases are NOT linked, you must also forward a signed change of address form to the Plans Office if you wish to update your information with them.

PAYMENT PORTAL FOR DUES, P.A.F., G&W

The payment portal accessed from M.E.B.A.’s homepage (www.mebaunion.org) allows members and applicants ease when making a dues or service charge payment and to assist the P.A.F. and Good & Welfare funds. Payments can be made by credit card, debit card or through a checking account. A recurring payment option is also available on the portal enabling automatic quarterly payments so members can “set it and forget it” and always stay current. You simply check the “Recurring Billing” box that appears at the top of the page when you’re filling out your information to enable automatic quarterly payments. This feature is also available to support the Good & Welfare and the Political Action Fund on a monthly basis. P.A.F. is crucial for keeping U.S. shipping and the Union’s interests viable in the halls of Congress.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Monday, October 8 – **Columbus Day** – *Halls Closed*

Tuesday, October 9 – **Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300;**

Wednesday, October 10 – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;**

Thursday, October 11 – **L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

Friday, October 12 – **Honolulu@1100.**

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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