

MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)



"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"

M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

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M.E.B.A. CREWING UP TWO MSC SURGE VESSELS FOLLOWING PATRIOT BID AWARD

M.E.B.A. engineers are crewing up two Military Sealift Command Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-On/Roll-Off vessels after Patriot Contract Services (PCS) prevailed in a competitively bid solicitation. Patriot won the small business set-aside award for operation and maintenance of the USNS SEAY and USNS PILILAAU, two of the MSC-owned surge ships that support strategic sealift needs around the world.

The contract includes a 12-month base period with four 12-month option periods and one 6-month option period, that would stretch out to Aug. 21, 2028 if all options are exercised. Mariners aboard the two vessels are represented by the M.E.B.A., MM&P, SIU, SUP, MFOW and ARA.

Patriot formerly operated the two Bob Hope class vessels in the early 2000s when they were fresh out of Avondale Shipyard. They proved to be workhorse vessels during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

PCS WINS MSC BID FOR HAINA PATRIOT FUEL TRANSPORT

Patriot Contract Services has won a Military Sealift Command bid to provide ongoing fuel transportation services to MSC until early 2028, if all options are exercised.

MSC will time charter the Patriot-managed M/T HAINA PATRIOT, a shallow-draft chemical/oil products tanker that the M.E.B.A. has crewed since the company flagged it into the U.S. fleet in late 2021. Other crewmembers aboard the ship are represented by MM&P, SIU, SUP and MFOW.

The firm-fixed-price contract includes a 12-month base period with three 12-month option periods and one 11-month option. Work will be performed in Hawaii and worldwide and is expected to be completed (if all options are exercised) by March 2028.

The 340-foot , 6765 DWT HAINA PATRIOT was constructed in a Chinese shipyard in 2011 as the SNANTI T1 and later renamed AMANI sailing under the flag of the Marshall Islands.

M.E.B.A. AT HIGH LEVEL DOT MEETING ON U.S. OFFSHORE WIND ROLE

Continuing the push towards new opportunities for American workers in the emerging offshore wind industry, M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac and Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha took part in a high-level meeting at the Department of Transportation earlier today. The meeting was hosted by Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and included Maritime Administrator Rear Admiral Ann Phillips and Deputy Maritime Administrator Tamekia Flack. The M.E.B.A. noted that it is crucial that American workers get in on the ground floor of budding offshore wind efforts so that the U.S. can begin ramping up its workforce to be players in this lucrative new industry.

Legislative efforts are underway to advance the growth of U.S. maritime jobs in wind industry through the American Offshore Worker Fairness Act led by Representatives Garrett Graves (R-LA) and John Garamendi (D-CA). The bill would limit the employment of foreign crews operating in U.S. waters for the offshore wind/oil & gas industries. The legislation was adopted as an amendment to the House-passed Coast Guard reauthorization bill that passed last March.

M.E.B.A. LEADS U.S. MARITIME LABOR DELEGATION IN COPENHAGEN TO ADVANCE OFFSHORE WIND JOBS

In late August, M.E.B.A. joined its counterpart maritime labor unions in Copenhagen, Denmark as part of a delegation under the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) to identify and explore future opportunities for offshore wind jobs in the United States. The delegation was led by the host trade unions, Dansk Metal and 3F, which represent various industrial workers across the offshore sector in Denmark. Over the course of a week, several meetings were held with key stakeholders including the Danish Energy Agency, wind developers Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Orsted, original equipment manufacturer Siemens Gamesa, logistics company Blue Water Shipping, and vessel owner/operators Esvagt and Cadeler.

Discussion topics ranged from overseeing collective bargaining agreements, and training standards for specialized Wind Turbine Installation Vessels (WTIV) and Service Operation Vessels (SOV). The meetings in Copenhagen were followed by a private tour of the Port of Esbjerg which serves as the world's largest port in Europe for exporting wind power in the North Sea.

The U.S.-based maritime unions represented in Denmark included the M.E.B.A., American Maritime Officers, Masters, Mates & Pilots, the Inland Boatman's Union, and the Seafarers International Union. M.E.B.A. was represented by ITF U.S. Offshore Task Force Chair/Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha, Gulf Coast Vice President Adam Smith, and Director of Government Affairs Erick Siahaan.

Since 1991, Denmark has been a global leader in the deployment of offshore wind farms that contribute to nearly 50% of the nation's renewable energy supply.

SI FERRY BARGAINING UNIT RATIFIES CONTRACT; M.E.B.A. PART OF EVENT WITH MAYOR

A landmark agreement reached with the City of New York covering M.E.B.A. mariners aboard the Staten Island Ferries has been ratified by the bargaining unit finally ending a whopping 13-year gap without a pay raise for the hard-working crews in the fleet.

Instead, as M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha noted, the new Memorandum of Agreement achieves “a remarkable feat — transforming the lowest paid ferry jobs in the nation into the highest paid.”

The contract is retroactive, beginning on November 7, 2010, and expires on January 4, 2027. It provides pattern-conforming wage increases to captains, assistant captains, and mates. In addition, marine engineers and chief marine engineers will receive retroactive wage increases consistent with the prevailing wage determination issued by the New York City comptroller earlier this year. The contract also establishes new salary rates and a 40-hour workweek effective October 1, 2023. In addition, all M.E.B.A.-represented employees will be allowed to take vacation in one-week blocks instead of two-week blocks, providing greater flexibility for them.

The contract was put out to the bargaining unit for a ratification vote last week and passed easily. Over 97% of the enthusiastic bargaining unit cast a ballot in the online vote and almost 94% voted to accept the MOA that finally rectifies the broken wage structure at the system and will make the fleet a great place to work again.

Secretary-Treasurer Rexha spoke at a Labor Day event aboard the DOROTHY DAY ferry along with New York City Mayor Eric Adams. He said, “It is not lost on us that this historic contract is being formally accepted on Labor Day on the DOROTHY DAY. Today as we commemorate the contributions of working people we also recognize the power of workers to have a voice in the workplace. I am immensely proud of my membership for speaking up and refusing to accept anything less than what they deserve. They understand their value. They excel at their jobs, and they refuse to settle for mediocrity.”

Mayor Adams noted, “Today, we thank our tireless ferry workers, not just with words — but with a contract that delivers the fair wages and benefits they deserve. Our nation has been suffering from a shortage of marine workers. We know that to attract and retain a talented workforce we must offer competitive wages and benefits that everyone can agree on.”

LABOR PEACE ON WESTCOAST WATERFRONT AS DOCKWORKERS RATIFY 6-YEAR CONTRACT

West Coast dockworkers represented by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) have voted to ratify a six-year contract reached in June with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) that covers 22,000 workers at 29 West Coast ports. Talks had been ongoing since May 10 of last year. ILWU members voted 75% in favor of the agreement that includes a 32% pay raise and an “appreciation payment” that recognizes the crucial role dockworkers played in keeping supply chains moving during the pandemic. Raises will be paid retroactively from July 1, 2022 when the previous contract expired. It also maintains health benefits, and improves pensions and safety protections, among other items. The new agreement runs until July 1, 2028.

The contract protects well-paying jobs in 29 West Coast port communities, maintains health benefits, and improves wages, pensions and safety protections.

“The negotiations for this contract were protracted and challenging,” said Willie Adams, ILWU International President. “I am grateful to our rank and file for their strength, to our negotiating

committee for their vision and tenacity, and to those that supported us, giving the ILWU and PMA the space we needed to get to this result.”

POLLING DATA SHOWS BROAD FAVORABILITY FOR UNIONS

A new poll underscores that Americans broadly support labor unions and view them as critical to growing the middle class and providing good opportunities for working people. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler and Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond hailed the results of the poll indicating that 71% of Americans support unions – including majorities of both Republicans and Independents. In addition, the poll found that 88% of people under 30 view unions favorably. GBAO, a public opinion research firm, conducted the poll on behalf of the AFL-CIO in advance of Labor Day.

“The idea of a union may sound complicated, but in reality, unions are just a group of people coming together,” President Shuler stated at a “State of the Unions” address this week. “They are about each of us becoming the most powerful version of ourselves that we possibly can. And there is nothing better than finding that power alongside the people we work with and being a part of something bigger than ourselves. That’s all a union is. It’s that simple. People in this country have been searching for their power for a long time now, young people especially.”

“Every day, more and more working people are finding out that the labor movement is the solution to low wages and unsafe workplaces, to inequality and discrimination,” said Secretary-Treasurer Redmond. “That the labor movement is the only institution in America that has the infrastructure and reach to address and vanquish oppression in all its forms. That working people - standing together and standing up for one another - are an incredible force for progress at work, in our unions, in our economy and in our democracy.”

OPENINGS FOR UPCOMING CMES COURSES: SHIP’S REACTION FORCE, STEAM ENGINEERING & WARTSILA FLEX ENGINE

1. The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School announced that there are still spots available for the upcoming *Ship’s Reaction Force* class taking place from Sept. 18-20. This is a 3-day course (Monday-Wednesday). Students are required to have a current Small Arms certificate to be eligible to attend this course.
2. There is still space available for the October 9-November 17 **Steam Engineering** class. This is a six-week course.
3. There is still space available for the *Wartsila Flex Engine Training “Level 1” RT-Flex Basic* course for both the Sept. 25-27 as well as the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 classes. These are 3-day courses (Monday-Wednesday). In addition, there are minimal openings for the one-week *Wartsila Flex Engine Training, “Level 2” RT-Flex Operator* course being run from Oct. 23-27.

For each class, applications should be submitted as normal and should be sent via the CMES website (mebaschool.org), faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to applications@mebaschool.org

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

Friday, September 8 – Honolulu@1100.

Monday, October 2 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300.

Tuesday, October 3 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230.

Wednesday, October 4 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing mebahq@mebaunion.org
Thursday, October 5 – L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.
Friday, October 6 – 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. 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.