

# 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"*

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*In this issue//M.E.B.A. MOU with Keystone to Augment GLMA Training Ship//Third S.I. Ferry Newbuild Complete, Talks with City Continue//AFL-CIO Welcomes MLBPA as Minor Leaguers Seek Union//Teamsters' Amazon Division to Assist Organizing//Donations Needed for 4MF Fundraiser//Lower Flags on Patriot Day//Monday is Defenders Day in Baltimore//*

### **M.E.B.A. MOU WITH KEYSTONE TO AUGMENT GLMA TRAINING SHIP**

The M.E.B.A. recently inked a contract with full benefits to provide augmenting licensed officers onboard the Great Lakes Maritime Academy (GLMA) training ship.

The agreement was put in place utilizing Keystone Ocean Services, Inc. and mirrors past contracts with Keystone that provide covered employment for M.E.B.A. marine officers. Those agreements provide for augmenting officers aboard commercial U.S.-flag research vessels as well as engineers on vessels in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fleet.

This is the first contract to be put in place linking M.E.B.A. and GLMA and further solidifies our relationship with the Great Lakes trades.

Last month, the arrangement was implemented when M.E.B.A. member and GLMA alumnus Pete Warner joined the T/S STATE OF MICHIGAN to finish out the third phase of the Academy's cadet sailing schedule.

Last week, M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac, Secretary-Treasurer Roland Rexha and Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway, who is a Great Lakes Maritime graduate, met with GLMA officials at the school. GLMA is part of Northwestern Michigan College which oversees a Culinary Arts Program.

The Academy is implementing a program for culinary students to help get sea time to earn Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMCs). M.E.B.A. is in discussions with the Academy about how we can help facilitate the successful implementation of this program that would enable culinary students to work toward their MMCs on some of our vessels including the Interlake boats.

### **THIRD S.I. FERRY NEWBUILD COMPLETED; TALKS CONTINUE FOR MARINER CONTRACT**

The third of three newbuilds to join the Staten Island Ferry fleet this year has been completed at the Eastern Shipbuilding facility in Panama City, FL and is on its way to New York City. The DOROTHY DAY, named for the renowned activist and journalist who lived and worked on Staten Island, is being towed to the Big Apple where it will be staged at Caddell Dry Dock for cleaning and undergo another round of trials and training. It is scheduled to begin transporting passengers later this year.

The SANDY GROUND, the second Ollis Class Staten Island Ferry built at Eastern Shipbuilding was delivered in December. The first vessel in the class, the M/V STAFF SGT. MICHAEL H. OLLIS, entered service late last year. Each vessel is a state-of-the-art, 320', 9,980 HP, 4,500-passenger boat requiring a crew of 16. The M.E.B.A. represents Captains, Assistant Captains, Engineers and Mates on the ferries.

The three Ollis Class double-ended 4,500 passenger ferries each feature four ABS Electro-Motive Diesel (EMD) L12ME23B @750 rpm EPA Tier 4 marine propulsion engines with two engines powering one ABS Reintjes DUP 3000 P combining gear and one ABS 36 RV6 ECS/285-2 Voith Schneider Propeller at each end of the vessel. Power generation is provided by three ABS, EPA Tier 3 marine continuous duty diesel generator sets, Caterpillar C18 driving 480 V, 60 Hz, 3-phase generators rated at 425 kW at 0.8 P.F. @ 1800 rpm.

The M.E.B.A. has been working with the City and the office of Mayor Eric Adams to cover the Staten Island Ferry workers with a fair contract that has withheld from them for over a decade. Staten Island ferry mariners haven't had a pay raise in almost 12 years after the contract expired in 2010 and underpaid workers in the fleet have sought opportunities elsewhere through the years. The City's inability to attract and retain qualified mariners has created service disruptions that occasionally boils over into frustration for commuters who rely on the ferry service during their daily lives.

But recently, a New York City Administrative Law Judge ruled that engine work aboard Staten Island Ferry vessels is commensurate to such jobs in the U.S.-flag Maersk fleet and that those ferry workers should be paid comparably.

The Union continues to meet in good faith in furtherance of a new and fair contract covering each of the ratings we represent.

### **AFL-CIO WELCOMES MLB PLAYERS ASSOCIATION INTO FOLD AS MINOR LEAGUERS PUSH FOR UNION**

Along with the M.E.B.A.'s vote, the AFL-CIO Executive Council unanimously voted to approve the affiliation request of the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA), as unionizing efforts heat up at the minor league level.

The minor leagues are essentially a development league for the majors, made up of 5,400 professional baseball players who serve as prospects on "farm teams" attached to the big-league squads. Most of those players earn (roughly) between \$5,000 to \$15,000 over the five-month season. The Players Association believes affiliating with the Federation will help strengthen its voice in efforts to create a separate Minor League bargaining unit under the MLBPA umbrella. They have requested formal recognition from Major League Baseball.

Tony Clark, who leads the Players Association as Executive Director, said that "minor league players have made it unmistakably clear they want the MLBPA to represent them and are ready to begin collective bargaining in order to positively affect the upcoming season."

They are looking to push towards formalizing an arrangement so that minor leaguers can enter next year's spring training covered by a collective bargaining agreement. "Minor Leaguers represent our

game's future and deserve wages and working conditions that befit elite athletes who entertain millions of baseball fans nationwide," Clark said. "They're an important part of our fraternity and we want to help them achieve their goals both on and off the field."

"The MLBPA and every single one of its 1,200 players have a home in our movement because this union understands and lives the meaning of the word solidarity by leveraging the power of sports and helping others," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. "Together, with our 12.5 million members, we will bring our strength to their fights, including working to organize 5,400 minor league players."

The MLBPA will play an active role in the AFL-CIO's Sports Council, a working group of professional athletes' unions founded to align interests in areas of common concern with service, hospitality and other workers who support the professional sports industries. The Sports Council founding unions include the NFL Players Association, the National Women's Soccer League Players Association, the United Soccer League Players Association-CWA, the U.S. Women's National Team Players Association and the newly organized United Football Players Association-USW.

### **TEAMSTERS FORM AMAZON DIVISION TO ASSIST UNION EFFORTS**

This week, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters formally launched an Amazon Division to unite Amazon employees, securing more workplace protections in the warehouse and logistics industry, and defending workers from the unchecked exploitation "of one of the world's most dangerous employers."

The Teamsters is home to 1.2 million workers, including 340,000 UPS employees, most of whom perform the same roles as Amazon workers. The union said that Amazon employs one third of the warehouse workers in the U.S. but is responsible for half of all workplace injuries in the sector as its employees sustain serious injury at five times the national average. They say injury rates at Amazon facilities are nearly 80 percent higher than all other employers in the warehousing industry.

"For Teamsters, and the labor movement as a whole, Amazon poses an existential threat to the rights and standards that our members have fought for and won for over 100 years," said Randy Korgan, the head of the new Division. "The new Amazon Division is ready to create and support direct action by workers across the country to beat back this corporate threat to working people."

### **DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT, SILENT AUCTION TO RAISE MONEY FOR MEMORIAL SCHEDULED; ITEM DONATIONS WELCOMED & APPRECIATED!**

The M.E.B.A. family is invited to take part in a fundraiser at the Calhoon 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 20th (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 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@bvlworks.org](mailto:bvanloo@bvlworks.org) or call/text him at (443) 676-6248.

### **LOWER FLAGS TO HALF STAFF ON SUNDAY, PATRIOT DAY**

Sunday, September 11th, 2022 marks the 21-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 which crashed in suburban Pennsylvania. Patriot Day serves as a remembrance of the lives lost on that September morning. September 11<sup>th</sup> of each year has been designated as "Patriot Day" which also directs "all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the U.S. and interested organizations and individuals" to lower flags to half-staff for the entire day.

Among those we lost on that dark day were M.E.B.A. brother John "Jay" Corcoran who was set to ship out on the APL THAILAND when he boarded United Flight 175 on September 11, 2001. Stephen Ward, the son of former M.E.B.A. President Gordon Ward, was working as a public accountant on the 101<sup>st</sup> floor of Tower 1 that day in New York City and was also taken away.

### **BALTIMORE HALL CLOSED ON MONDAY FOR DEFENDERS DAY**

The Baltimore Union hall will be closed on Monday (September 12) in honor of Defenders Day – a holiday in the State of Maryland. The day celebrates the successful defense of Baltimore from the British during the War of 1812. Mere weeks after the redcoats defeated the Americans at the Battle of Bladensburg then burned Washington DC, the British turned their attention to Baltimore to continue punishing their former colony.

But American General John Stricker and the Baltimore Garrison provided unexpected stiff resistance to the British forces commanded by Major General Robert Ross at the Battle of North Point, the opening salvo of the Battle of Baltimore. Ross was cut down by an American rifleman and the British temporarily broke off their attack to lick their wounds and regroup. This gave the Americans time to better organize their defenses and batten down the hatches during the British naval bombardment of Fort McHenry days later. Maryland lawyer Frank Key, better known today as Francis Scott Key, waited out the night aboard a sloop near the 50-ship British fleet during over 25 hours of aggression targeting the American fort. Unable to shatter the recently fortified American defenses, the British broke off their attack on the morning of September 14<sup>th</sup>.

At the early light of dawn, Key, trying to grasp the situation, looked toward the Fort and saw the Stars and Stripes still waving. The Americans had outlasted the bombardment! In a fit of patriotic euphoria, he feverishly scrawled out an epic four-verse poem on the back of a letter that captured the moment. His poem was reprinted in Baltimore newspapers a week later under the title of "Defence of Fort M<sup>H</sup>Henry." Two months later it was redubbed "The Star-Spangled Banner" and it officially became our national anthem in March of 1931.

**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-----



*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.*