

# 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//Negotiations with Hapag-Crowley//MLL Reopener Talks Continue//Turbo Activations were a Success Says MarAd//Biden Honors Unions at White House Event//ILA Won't Work Autonomous Ships//Remember One of Our Own on 9-11 Anniversary//TTD Honors Frontline Workers//ICS Plan for Tax on Carbon Emissions//Frisbee Golf Tournament Reminder//AFL-CIO Podcast Returns after Hiatus//

### **NEGOTIATIONS WITH HAPAG/CROWLEY**

An M.E.B.A. negotiating team led by Gulf Coast Vice President Adam Smith, assisted by Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway, conducted negotiations today at M.E.B.A. Headquarters with Marine Personnel & Provisioning (MPP) (Hapag/Crowley). Talks will continue tomorrow covering the five "Express Class" vessels in the MTL/Hapag U.S.-flag fleet. Rank-and-file members Todd Williams, David Greenway and Rich Lundin are part of the M.E.B.A. negotiating team for this week's talks.

The company recently completed the change-out of its aging fleet with newer, much larger vessels. The five 17-18 year old 3,237 TEU geared containerships were replaced by five 12-year old A7 6,900 TEU Flex engine ships which assumed the former vessels' Maritime Security Program operating chits. The vessels in the fleet consist of the DELAWARE EXPRESS, COLORADO EXPRESS, HUDSON EXPRESS, MISSOURI EXPRESS, and the POTOMAC EXPRESS.

The current contract runs through December 31, 2021. Continued input and participation in future talks is encouraged. You can contact GCVP Adam Smith at the Houston hall or email him at [asmith@mebaunion.org](mailto:asmith@mebaunion.org) or Tampa Branch Agent Nicole Greenway at the Tampa hall or [ngreenway@mebaunion.org](mailto:ngreenway@mebaunion.org).

### **MORE MLL REOPENER TALKS AT HQ**

An M.E.B.A. negotiating team continued discussions with Maersk Line, Ltd. this week in reopener talks that took place at M.E.B.A. Headquarters in Washington D.C. The parties discussed wages and benefits as well as other economic terms of employment. The reopener covers 19 ships over three contracts (MLL, E-Ships & M-Ships). The overall agreements expire in 2025.

Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan is overseeing negotiations for the Union assisted by HQ Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher. A rank-and-file team will join negotiators in the next bargaining session that is scheduled to take place at M.E.B.A. Headquarters on Sept. 21-22.

### **MARAD CALLS RECENT TURBO ACTIVATIONS A "SUCCESS"**

The Maritime Administration credited ship managers and mariners for making the recent Ready Reserve Force turbo activation a success, despite the advanced age of the fleet.

M.E.B.A. deck and engine officers recently concluded missions onboard ten RRF vessels following turbo activations ordered last month to test the readiness of the fleet. The RRF fleet is an average age of 46 years old.

M.E.B.A. contracted companies managing vessels involved in the exercise included Keystone Shipping and American Ship Management (Patriot).

In an email sent to involved maritime unions and ship managers, Kevin Tokarski, MarAd's Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift (and Acting Executive Director), said that the RRF is even older today than it was in 1976, the year the RRF fleet was created using World War II ships. "The challenges of activating and operating these vessels is more difficult each year and we do not take for granted the significant efforts your personnel muster to get this done," he said.

Tokarski pointed out that the execution of the Government exercise was even more impressive because of the continued pandemic as well as the onset of Hurricane Ida that necessitated some of the activated vessels to carry out storm avoidance. He praised the partnership of labor, Government and ship managers and thanked participants for their excellent exercise response. "We recognize the separation, hardship, and rapidly-changing schedule of events for every activation, and note our success in spite of older ships, pandemics, holiday activations, and late-year activities. Our success is shared with and enabled by your members and staff and we remain grateful for their continued service, and unwavering organizational support."

### **BIDEN HONORS UNIONS AT WEDNESDAY WHITE HOUSE EVENT**

M.E.B.A. President Adam Vokac was an invited guest for a special White House celebration of labor unions on Wednesday headlined by President Joe Biden. The 46<sup>th</sup> U.S. President honored the memories of AFL-CIO leaders John Sweeney and Richard Trumka, who both died this year, and discussed how his economic agenda would create an economy that would benefit working people. He also repeated his oft-stated goal "to be the most pro-union President leading the most pro-union administration in American history."

Labor Secretary Marty Walsh delivered remarks as well, touting his intentions to help the Administration build back a "workers' economy." AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler addressed attendees, mostly labor union representatives, and noted that "the power of a good, sustainable union job is life-changing." However, she said, attacks through the years have tipped the balance in favor of corporations over working people. "Today, it's easier actually to stop a union than it is to form one," she said. That's why we need to pass the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act) as well as the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, she pointed out. "We will build back better with unions...to win an America where every working person has the right to a good, sustainable, union job," Shuler noted. "And with it...access to an expansive, new American middle class." You can watch event speakers on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=43oepUyzAZs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43oepUyzAZs)

### **ILA SAYS IT WON'T WORK AUTONOMOUS SHIPS**

With a couple of high-profile test sailings of autonomous ships currently making headlines, the International Longshoremen's Association has preemptively announced that it won't be part of the movement and its members won't load or unload crewless ships.

ILA President Harold Daggett declared, "Workers around the world are under assault from the threat of automation by greedy companies only interested in making money and eliminating workers who

helped them build their success and companies. It's got to stop, and my ILA will do what it needs to do to save our jobs and the jobs of maritime workers around the world."

Norwegian company Yara International is currently test-sailing a zero-emission autonomous cargo ship. The electric ship, the YARA BIRKELAND, features a 7 MWh battery capacity, powering two 900 kW Azipull pods, as well as two 700 kW tunnel thrusters, with a top speed of 13 knots. Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK Line) has also made news recently by testing an autonomous cargo ship in heavily trafficked waters and recently completed the construction of a fleet operation center to provide onshore support for crewless ships.

ILA has been a steady opponent of automation at sea and at the terminals and even included anti-automation language for ILA ports in their current agreement with employer U.S. Maritime Alliance Ltd. (USMX).

"The ILA will not work a container ship without a crew aboard," said Daggett. "Already one company developing these automated ships are also plans for automated loading and unloading of cargo from these crew-less ships without workers. That's not going to happen under my watch."

"We will continue to negotiate for no automation, or automated equipment at ILA ports," he continued. "And we are going to demand no semi-automated equipment be allowed. The ILA has learned that even allowing semi-automated equipment is the path for companies to slowly eliminate our jobs. Now more than ever, dockworkers from around the world, joined by all maritime workers must unite to fight this important battle against automation."

### **REMEMBER ONE OF OUR OWN ON THE 9/11 ANNIVERSARY**

On September 11, 2001 the nation was plunged into a new era. The attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon and the loss of life aboard the downed plane in a Pennsylvania field affected many on a visceral level. It further hit home for M.E.B.A. members when the Union learned that one of its own was whisked away from us on his way to catch a ship.

20-year M.E.B.A. member John "Jay" Corcoran kissed his wife Diann goodbye on that September morning at Boston's Logan International Airport. He climbed aboard United Airlines Flight 175 bound for L.A., looking to join his ship – the APL THAILAND – where he was serving as the vessel's permanent 1<sup>st</sup> A/E. Soon after the plane departed Gate C-19 along with 64 other souls, including nine crew and five hijackers, control of the craft was wrested away and the Boeing 767-222 tore into Tower 2 of the World Trade Center.

Jay Corcoran was three weeks short of his 44th birthday when he was taken too soon. He exemplified the best of the M.E.B.A. An outstanding engineer and good union man, he was devoted to his family and had adjusted his shipping schedule to spend more time at home with his children during the summer months. A great shipmate, Jay was easygoing and popular. He was a 1979 graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and was a gifted athlete with a terrific sense of humor. On Saturday's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, remember Jay and all those we lost on that dark day.

## **TRANSPORTATION UNIONS HONOR FRONTLINE WORKERS**

The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) along with the Department of Transportation joined forces on Labor Day to extend appreciation to frontline transportation workers for their service and sacrifice. M.E.B.A. is a founding member of the TTD which represents 33 unions in the maritime, aviation, rail, transit, trucking, highway, longshore, and related industries.

You can watch a quick tribute video posted on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDyZz9Mimsk>

Transportation unions are encouraging the general public, elected leaders, and members of transportation and infrastructure community to join the campaign by following and engaging with the hashtag #EssentialAlways on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and to watch and share this video explaining the important role transportation workers played before and during the pandemic, and the role they will play for years to come.

“Frontline transportation workers power the most advanced economy in the world by operating, maintaining, and building the most complex transportation network on earth,” said TTD President Greg Regan. “Whether they’re helping people get to home, work, or school, moving the goods and raw materials we all rely on, delivering our mail, seeing us through a crisis, or building transportation projects of the future, these dedicated professionals have always been essential to the fabric of America, and they always will be.”

## **ICS SUBMITS PLAN FOR GLOBAL TAX ON CARBON EMISSIONS**

The International Chamber of Shipping is calling for a global carbon tax that would help expedite shipping industry decarbonization efforts. ICS represents the world’s national shipowner associations and more than 80% of the merchant fleet. The proposal was submitted to the International Maritime Organization calling for an internationally accepted market-based measure to accelerate the uptake and deployment of zero-carbon fuels.

The levy would be based on mandatory contributions by ships trading globally, exceeding 5,000 gross tonnage, for each ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted. The money would go into an ‘IMO Climate Fund’ which would be used to deploy the bunkering infrastructure required in ports throughout the world to supply fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia, ensuring consistency in the industry’s green transition for both developed and developing economies.

## **JAMIE BUTLER FRISBEE GOLF TOURNAMENT IS SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**

The M.E.B.A. family is invited to take part in a Disc Golf Tournament at the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School to benefit the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation (4MF). The M.M.M.M.F. Invitational Jamie Butler Memorial Disc Golf Tournament will take place on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> (at 1300). Jamie 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 late last year at the age of 59. The Disc Golf Invitational will be open only to Members, Applicants, Retirees, staff and employers. 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 M.M.M.M.F. 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)

## **AFL-CIO'S STATE OF THE UNIONS PODCAST RETURNS**

The AFL-CIO's "State of the Unions" podcast relaunched on Labor Day after a year and a half on hiatus. New podcast episodes about the issues and stories that matter to working people will be posted every other Monday. This week's episode features a conversation with Labor Secretary Marty Walsh and a discussion of the legacy of Richard Trumka and the new AFL-CIO leadership team.

You can listen on Apple Music, Spotify, Podbean and Amazon Music. Check it out at <https://tinyurl.com/vt84tcm4> and catch up on previous episodes.

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

**Friday, September 10 – Honolulu@1100**

**Monday, October 4 – Boston@1200; Seattle-Fife@1300;**

**Tuesday, October 5 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;**

**Wednesday, October 6 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online Headquarters "Town Hall" Meeting@1200 (No Voting)**

**Thursday, October 7 – L.A.-San Pedro@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;**

**Friday, October 8 – 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](mailto: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](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org) Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*