

No PEACE? No Justice! Informational Picket against Liberty Maritime Over Contract Violation

Since Wednesday morning, M.E.B.A. members and applicants have maintained a vigil at the Port of Beaumont as they continue a round-the-clock informational picket against Liberty Maritime Corp. (which includes Liberty Global Logistics). The M.E.B.A. has jurisdiction over the licensed deck and engineering officers onboard any vessel crewed by Liberty Maritime and their affiliates. But Liberty has violated the M.E.B.A. contract and is in the process of crewing up the LIBERTY PEACE – a new ship to be operated under the U.S.-flag – with non-M.E.B.A. officers.



M.E.B.A.'s L.A. Branch Agent Rich Doherty and Applicant P.J. Hamill in Beaumont picketing Liberty Maritime. The NOCC BALTIC will be flagged under the Stars & Stripes and renamed the LIBERTY PEACE. However, Liberty has chosen to violate the contract and crew the ship with non-M.E.B.A. officers. M.E.B.A. won an arbitration the last time Liberty pulled a similar move several years back and the company is on the hook for a big financial settlement. M.E.B.A. will continue the fight to protect our jurisdiction and contract language.

M.E.B.A. officials, including Gulf Coast V.P. Erin Bertram, have been picketing in the shadow of the NOCC BALTIC, the foreign-flag vessel which is set to be redubbed as the LIBERTY PEACE in a renaming ceremony set for early next week. Members and applicants plan to stay at the site of the ship as long as safety permits – Hurricane Harvey is approaching the Gulf and weather conditions could soon deteriorate. On Long Island, in Lake Success, NY, M.E.B.A. Patrolman Nico

Sermoneta is leading a group of members picketing Liberty Maritime headquarters. They were also in their second day of picketing today and welcome solidarity from area members and union brothers and sisters (contact Nico at nsermoneta@mebaunion.org).

M.E.B.A.'s position is that the LIBERTY PEACE is covered under the parties' existing Collective Bargaining Agreement as has been the case with every other U.S.-flag vessel Liberty has owned/operated for the last 29 years and most recently earlier this year with the recently reflagged LIBERTY PASSION.

M.E.B.A. would like to further clarify that that the Union has no issues with the unlicensed personnel or any other vessel owner/operator at the dock, and our issue is confined exclusively to Liberty Maritime and its affiliate Liberty Global Logistics, LLC.

Again, the M.E.B.A. is NOT on strike against and DOES NOT have a labor dispute with any other employer. The Union is NOT seeking to interfere with the business operations of any entity or induce employees of other employers to cease work or refuse to make deliveries.



Members set up shop by the soon-to-be LIBERTY PEACE in the Port of Beaumont. It was sunny and warm at first, but by Thursday conditions worsened in advance of Hurricane Harvey.

Area members and applicants (who have their TWIC card) are welcome to join the picket at the ship in Beaumont as long as weather conditions permit. For further information, please contact M.E.B.A. Gulf Coast Vice President Erin Bertram at ebertram@mebaunion.org.



At dawn on Thursday. Members planned to picket as long as weather conditions allowed them to continue. New York-area members and labor unions showing solidarity continue to picket at Liberty headquarters in Lake Success, NY.