



MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)
"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"

M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES
The Official Union Newsletter
NUMBER 8

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M.E.B.A. CELEBRATES 142nd ANNIVERSARY TODAY

Founded on February 23, 1875 on the banks of the Great Lakes, the M.E.B.A. is celebrating its anniversary today. M.E.B.A.'s ten founding fathers met in Cleveland, Ohio 142 years ago to form a united front to combat the oppressive and dangerous working conditions of the day. The founders were representatives of three Lakes associations, a river association and an ocean port – and over the course of a few days, they hammered out a cohesive Constitution for a national organization that protected and enhanced their members' interests. This was the beginning of the National Marine Engineers' Association. Eight years later the word "Beneficial" was added to the name.

Early on, our forefathers battled for favorable legislation to certify and license waterborne engineers. They secured U.S. officers – both deck and engine – aboard U.S.-flagships, helped repeal controversial seafarer fees, and raised the standard of living for all mariners. Those early struggles and many others paved the way for the worker protections and benefits we often take for granted today.

On the occasion of the Union's 50th anniversary in 1925, National M.E.B.A. Delegates were received by U.S. President Calvin Coolidge at the White House. The President noted, "It gratifies me to hear of the excellent record you have made [in the last 50 years] for loyalty, skill and devotion in the service you perform...You have ever lived up to those fine traditions of the sea which you and other Americans have helped to create. It must give you satisfaction to feel what an essential role you play in maintaining your country's standing on the seven seas, and I know we can count on your continued loyalty as we work out the future of our shipping."

Conflicting schedules did not accommodate a White House visit for today's anniversary, but as of press time, the phone lines were still open and we are awaiting the President's congratulatory call. Happy 142nd birthday M.E.B.A.!

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH CHEVRON

Executive Vice President Adam Vokac, L.A. Patrolman John McElhone, retiree extraordinaire Duncan Ballenger, and rank and file member Jeff Jones closed on a new tentative agreement with Chevron USA after a round of negotiations last week. The new deal provides pay increases as well as a wage reopener in 2020. Subject to bargaining unit ratification, the new 6-year contract will enter into force this April and continue until 2023. Ballots were sent to bargaining unit members this week. All ballots must be returned by February 28, 2017 noon PST to be counted.

M.E.B.A. represents the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Engineers in the U.S.-flag Chevron fleet as well as the Second and Third Mates. Vessels represented include the OREGON VOYAGER, CALIFORNIA VOYAGER, MISSISSIPPI VOYAGER and FLORIDA VOYAGER.

In addition, M.E.B.A. and Chevron continue to look for ways to grow our mutual partnership.

MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR STATIONARY ENGINEER POSITIONS IN PACIFIC NW

M.E.B.A.'s new contract with Commercial Transcontinental Services (CTS) will put members to work in shoreside positions as soon as early March. CTS is now accepting resumes for members to serve as temporary facilities engineers in the Seattle, Portland and Spokane areas.

Jobs will range from 1–90 days in duration, and generally run from 8-5 each day. This is covered employment for medical, training and pension purposes.

M.E.B.A.'s Executive V.P. Adam Vokac is the point of contact and is accepting resumes. This deal was crafted some months back but the company needed to complete preparations to accommodate this new arrangement. We are now ready to go to the next phase and interested members and applicants in the Pacific Northwest are encouraged to submit a current resume along with copies of their USCG officer's license and current M.E.B.A. drug test to Adam at avokac@mebaunion.org If this arrangement proves successful, there could be additional opportunities in other West Coast locations including Oakland and Los Angeles.

INDUSTRY IS GEARED UP FOR MARITIME SAIL-IN

For the eighth year running, maritime industry advocates will descend on Capitol Hill for the annual Sail-In as they get ready to visit over 100 Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle.

Representatives from unions, companies and other organizations will take part in the Maritime Congressional Sail-In set for Wednesday, March 1. Though the work in DC goes on all year long, this is a mass, consolidated effort to solidify support with lawmakers and remind Congress about the importance of our industry to the economy and national security. The cross-section of industry representatives will spend time with almost every newly elected Member of Congress as well as existing and future supporters of U.S. shipping.

Maritime is a bipartisan industry and ensuring our nation has the port and waterway infrastructure, U.S.-flag ships, and the U.S. crews they demand is in the national interest.

MARINE OFFICER IS ONLINE

The latest edition of the *Marine Officer* was mailed out last week and is also available online at the new M.E.B.A. website. The new-look website (www.mebaunion.org) is now updated in-house affording more control and cost-savings. Cosmetic changes and supplemental information continue to be uploaded to the site as time permits. Member input is welcomed and can be forwarded to marco@mebaunion.org.

ECDIS CLASS AVAILABILITY

The March 6–10, 2017 ECDIS class at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School still has plenty of open slots on the roster.

Eligible M.E.B.A. Deck Officers are encouraged to apply. Applications may be sent via the CMES website, faxed to (410) 822-7220, or emailed to applications@mebaschool.org.

THANKS ISSUED FOR M.E.B.A.'S SUPPORT OF JAY CORCORAN & HIS FOUNDATION

Heartfelt gratitude was expressed by event organizers and our fallen brother Jay Corcoran's wife Diann for the Union's support of the Foundation that bears Jay's name.

Jay Corcoran was a popular 22-year M.E.B.A. member who was flying from his Massachusetts home on September 11, 2001 to rejoin his vessel (the APL THAILAND) on the West Coast. His airplane was hijacked and flown into the World Trade Center.

A memorial golf tournament was set up in his name to benefit high school students in Jay's hometown of Norwell, Massachusetts. Members of the M.E.B.A. family came out in droves for 15 straight years to support the tournament. M.E.B.A. regularly participated in the tournament and was also generous with donations to this great event. Diann Corcoran DuBois had announced that this last summer's tournament would be the final such event. She and the Foundation issued gratitude to those who have been so generous over the past 15 years – or as she termed them "Jay's Angels." "Without the love and support of friends & family like you, this Foundation could not have survived," she said. She noted that over the past 15 years, the Foundation has awarded over \$500,000 in scholarships.

MARDI GRAS, TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY NEXT WEEK

A pair of Union halls in the Gulf will observe local holidays next week.

The New Orleans Union hall will be closed for business on Tuesday, February 28th for Mardi Gras. The hall is strategically located near several of the parade routes of the various Fat Tuesday "krewes." In particular, the vaunted all-female "Krewe of Iris", celebrating its 100th anniversary, begins its gaudy and elaborate 36-float parade from Carondelet Street (at 11 a.m.).

As is their custom, the Krewe will be wearing white gloves and full-length Carnival masks and will be heaving ousy hand-decorated sunglasses and king cake babies. Make sure you get all decked out in purple, green and gold and check it out!

M.E.B.A.'s Union hall in Houston will be closed a week from today on Thursday, March 2nd for Texas Independence Day. Texas signed its Declaration of Independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836 as the Alamo was being laid siege to by the Mexican army. It fell four days later. It wasn't until April of that year when Sam Houston's 910-man army defeated Mexican General Santa Anna in a surprise attack at the San Jacinto River that Texans would turn the tide. Soon after, Sam Houston was sworn in as President of the Republic of Texas. Various skirmishes with the Mexicans continued until a truce was finally signed in June 1843. Texas was actually an independent nation for several years until December of 1845 when President James Polk signed an annexation act allowing Texas to join the union.

UPDATE YOUR MMC/STCW EXPIRATION DATE(S)

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) requests that every M.E.B.A. member and applicant submit the expiration date for their Merchant Mariner Credential to them. If your STCW Endorsement expiration date differs from your MMC expiration then please include that information as well. Please send an email with your information to info@mebaschool.org. Make sure you properly identify yourself (last 4 numbers of SSN will help). A webform can be found on the CMES website (www.mebaschool.org) making it very easy for members and applicants to submit this information.

SIGN UP FOR M.E.B.A. VACATION PLAN DIRECT DEPOSIT

Designed for convenience, M.E.B.A. members can help themselves by taking advantage of the Vacation Plan Direct Deposit that will help save them time and ease Plans processing costs. Authorization forms are available from the Plans Office, Plans Outport Offices and at the Plans' website – www.mebaplans.org (Forms, Vacation). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or vacation@mebaplans.org for more info.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, March 6 – Boston@1200; Seattle (Fife)@1300;

Tuesday, March 7 – CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230;

Wednesday, March 8 – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

Thursday, March 9 – L.A.@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300;

Friday, March 10 – Honolulu@1100.

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