



# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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## Hot Off the Press

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# TELEX TIMES

# #04

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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 4**

**JANUARY 26, 2017**

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**TRAINING DATABASE NEEDS YOUR MMC/STCW EXPIRATION DATE(S)**

Member and applicant information is being sought to allow the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) to better assist membership training needs. Due to the regulatory training required for Basic Safety Training (BST) Refresher and BST Revalidation courses, the CMES is requesting that every M.E.B.A. member and applicant submit the expiration date for their Merchant Mariner Credential to the M.E.B.A. School. If your STCW Endorsement expiration date differs from your MMC expiration then please include that information as well. This info will allow the Training Plan to more accurately determine how many BST Refresher and/or BST Revalidation courses need to be added to the schedule by better understanding how many members need to renew their credentials in a given year.

Please send an email with your information to [info@mebaschool.org](mailto:info@mebaschool.org). Make sure you properly identify yourself (last 4 numbers of SSN will help). Additionally, a form will be added to the CMES website shortly as a second means of submitting this information.

**M.E.B.A. DECK & ENGINE OFFICERS GUIDING  
NEW MSP SHIP ON FIRST VOYAGE**

M.E.B.A. deck and engine officers have fully crewed up the new M/V LIBERTY PASSION, a newbuild Pure Car/Truck Carrier (PC/TC) that flagged to the Stars and Stripes earlier today in Bahrain. The Liberty-managed vessel will operate under the Maritime Security Program. The ship is set to depart tomorrow and head out to a Red Sea port for cargo loading before sailing to a U.S. terminal. An official naming/flagging ceremony will likely take place in Beaumont, TX towards the end of next month.

The first crew of the new LIBERTY PASSION consists of Chief Engineer Mike Tinkel, 1<sup>st</sup> A/E Paul Morrow, 2<sup>nd</sup> A/E David Bick and 3<sup>rd</sup> A/E Edward Albrecht. On deck are Captain Jim Meyers, Chief Mate Mark Bostick, Second Mate Tim Harley and Third Mate Dominique Dertien. Smooth sailing!

**NEW DISPATCHER/REP. IN TAMPA**

Glenn Buettner is the new Dispatcher/Representative in M.E.B.A.'s Tampa Union hall after Joe Barbacane wrapped up steadfast service there before voluntarily stepping down to pursue other ambitions.

Buettner (pronounced BIT-ner) is a recent retiree and a Calhoon M.E.B.A. School graduate. He's filled in as Dispatcher before at the hall and should be able to ease into the job and continue to meet the level of service the membership expects. He'll be working with Branch Agent Adam Smith and can be contacted at the hall at the regular phone number or by email at [tampa@mebaunion.org](mailto:tampa@mebaunion.org). Glenn will be at work for his first day bright and early on Monday morning. Congrats!

### **FINAL VOYAGE: MIKE RIBERA**

Popular member Mike Ribera – Chief Engineer and former Union official – has sailed into the sunset a week short of his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mike grew up in Newport, Rhode Island, trained at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point then transferred to the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School when it was on Light Street in Baltimore, MD. A 1973 graduate of the CMES cadet program, he had a distinguished career at sea crossing the globe many times and visiting 128 countries before his 2001 retirement. He regularly attended Calhoon Alumni Association reunions including the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this last summer. He would often tell stories of how he turned 21 in Vietnam, and turned 40 in Desert Storm bringing supplies and equipment to U.S. Forces. He served as M.E.B.A. Patrolman in New Orleans in the late 1980s through the early 90s. He was also the owner and host of the Higgins House Victorian Bed & Breakfast in Sanford, FL.

Among others, Mike is survived by his wife of 20 years, Patty as well as his mother Ann O'Neill, sons Michael, Zachariah and Sebastian, stepchildren Michael Rodgers and Liberty Rodgers, 4 grandchildren and siblings Carolyn Were, Sal Ribera, Christopher Childs, Ellen McCallum Roger Ribera and Raphael Ribera. Mike's ashes will be returned to Newport and a memorial service will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at the O'Neill-Hayes Funeral Home, 465 Spring Street in Newport, R.I. Donations can be made in his name to the M.E.B.A. Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation and should be sent to the 4MF at 27050 St. Michaels Rd, Easton, MD 21601.

### **CMES HOSTS CADETS FOR TWO POCKET-SIZED INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS**

The Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School hosted two sets of cadets in the last two weeks as part of its internship program which continues to attract talented young mariners into the M.E.B.A.

The two one-week sessions were abbreviated versions of the three-week summer program that takes place annually at the School. Several cadets who were not able to attend the summer program due to scheduling conflicts were able to take part in one of the one-week sessions including several cadets from Maine Maritime whose summer cruise habitually conflicts with the timing of the three-week installment. Along with Maine, cadets from Massachusetts Maritime, SUNY and Great Lakes Maritime were also able to take advantage of the one-week program. The first one-week session was a smaller affair with five cadets with the second week hosting 15 more budding young engineers.

Cadets at the one-week sessions were able to learn more about the excellent career opportunities that the M.E.B.A. presents and received valuable training from our state-of-the-art facility including welding and machine shop, electricity and refrigeration. They were also provided Maersk/Pasha Group proficiency training. In addition, the second group of cadets on the one-week program were at the School during an M.E.B.A. officials "All-Hands" meeting. Our

officials answered all of their questions and told them what to expect if these talented young engineers choose a seagoing career and are accepted into the M.E.B.A. fold.

### **CBP FAST LANE PROGRAM MAY RESTRICT MARINER SHORE LEAVE**

Maritime union presidents are bringing attention to the detrimental impact of a Customs ship security program that may restrict mariner shore leave rights. The Customs and Border Protection's Advanced Qualified Unlading Approval (AQUA) program allows quicker vessel turnaround times in port for low-risk ships, which includes U.S.-flag vessels. Low-risk ships in the international trades are eligible for the program as long as they are a part of the Customs–Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT). The AQUA Lane program allows vessels to begin cargo operations prior to CBP boarding and clearing of the ship and crew. However, the unions point out that the implementation of the program “may effectively deny U.S. citizen crew members the right to go ashore or visit family in their own country.”

The letter sent to CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske late last week was penned by M.E.B.A. President Marshall Ainley, AMO President Paul Doell, ARA President John Radcliffe, MFU President Anthony Poplawski, MM&P President Don Marcus, SUP President Gunnar Lundeborg and SIU President Mike Sacco.

“The rationale for the AQUA Lane program is that it saves time and money by expediting the free movement of low risk cargo,” the Presidents noted. “But it unreasonably places a higher priority on the free movement of cargo in international trade than the free movement of low risk U.S. citizen mariners.” They pointed out the program is “creating an unnecessary hardship on U.S. citizen mariners and the efficient operation of U.S. ships that needs to be addressed.”

The unions are looking to schedule a sit-down with CBP to discuss “a way forward” on the issue.

### **TTD REACHES OUT TO NEW ADMINISTRATION**

President Donald Trump began his first week in office as labor extended its hand to assist the new administration in its stated mission of fueling the U.S. economy with jobs and trade policies that make sense. Ed Wytkind, President of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), congratulated Pres. Trump and said that he and the 32 member unions he represents “look forward to offering our best ideas to the President and Transportation Secretary-designate Elaine Chao on policy and investment initiatives that put people to work in good jobs, modernize and expand our transportation system and infrastructure, and strengthen safety and security.”

He hailed Pres. Trump's initiatives to reform trade policies, mend our crumbling infrastructure, promulgate Buy American rules and keep and expand U.S. jobs. “These are priorities we have long supported and we will work to find common ground with the new Administration in these critical areas. At the same time, we hope the President rejects policy proposals that cut the wages and eviscerate the rights of working people, and instead champions policies that rebuild the middle class.”

### **MEETING WITH TRUMP; TPP WITHDRAWAL PRAISED BY LABOR**

The AFL-CIO and others issued statements in favor of President Trump's move this week to unravel U.S. participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Trump's opposition to many of the trade deals of the past including the North American Free Trade Agreement resonated with union members during the campaign and several unions applauded Trump's executive action this week.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said the action on TPP and Trump's interest in reopening NAFTA "is an important first step toward a trade policy that works for working people. While these are necessary actions, they aren't enough. They are just the first in a series of necessary policy changes required to build a fair and just global economy."

Teamsters President James Hoffa echoed the sentiment and noted, "With this decision, the President has taken the first step toward fixing 30 years of bad trade policies that have cost working Americans millions of good-paying jobs."

Trump's remarks about reopening NAFTA came earlier this week at a White House meeting with construction trade unions. Participants included North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey, Laborers' International Union of North America President Terry O'Sullivan, SMART sheet metal workers' union President Joseph Sellers, United Brotherhood of Carpenters President Doug McCarron and Mark McManus, president of the United Association that represents plumbers, pipefitters, welders and others.

Terry O'Sullivan praised the scheduling of the meeting and said that "President Trump was clear about his determination to create opportunities for working men and women through infrastructure investment."

### **SHOW-ME STATE, GRANITE STATERS MAY HAVE THE 'RIGHT TO WORK' FOR LESS**

Legislatures in Missouri and New Hampshire have made a move to pass Right to Work legislation this month with both states mischaracterizing it as a boon for the economy and working families. An Economic Policy Institute study concluded that workers in Right to Work states make \$5,000 less on average per year coupled with minimal benefits and protections. In addition, such states have higher workplace and infant mortality rates, higher poverty rates and invest less in education.

Kentucky became the 27th state to pass a Right to Work law earlier this month and the push is on in GOP controlled states to add to that total.

New Hampshire labor leaders issued a statement saying the Right to Work measure "is an attack on all working families by special interests seeking to lower wages for everyone and undermine worker protections. This bill is designed to do one thing and one thing only: limit employees' ability to advocate on behalf of what's best for their families and communities."

### **CHAO NOMINATION ADVANCES**

Elaine Chao's nomination to be the next Secretary of Transportation was officially approved by the Senate Commerce Committee. The nomination will be put before the full Senate next week. The nomination is noncontroversial and she is expected to succeed Anthony Foxx as SECDOT following the Senate vote which may take place Tuesday or Wednesday. She will become the 18<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Department since its establishment in 1967.

### **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](http://www.mebaplans.org) (Forms, Vacation). Complete details are available on the Plans' site as well. Contact (800) 811-6322 or [vacation@mebaplans.org](mailto:vacation@mebaplans.org) for more info.

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS**

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

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

*Wednesday, February 8* – Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315;

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

*Friday, February 10* – Honolulu@1100.

**-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----**