

Photo 1: While the Great Lakes Maritime Academy's training ship was in Cleveland (just around the corner from our hall) M.E.B.A. Cleveland Rep. Salvatore Zingales presented Admiral John Tanner with a check for \$5,000 for the scholarship that our Union set up for GLMA students.



Ship's Telegraph



Photo 2: Aligning the coupling in the engine room of the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry M/V COLUMBIA are (l-r) 3rd A/E Mark Hudson, 2nd A/E Bill Gann and C/E Glen Scott. In May, the COLUMBIA helped shuttle 252 passengers and crew to safety from the distressed cruise ship EMPRESS OF THE NORTH.

with your signature then scan and e-mail it back to us.

Active and retired members who have not received mailings from Headquarters such as the *Marine Officer* or other important information may want to log onto our website to clarify their address. Because the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore and Headquarters databases are NOT linked you must also forward a signed change of address form to the Plans Office if you wish to update your information with them.



Photo 3: At the annual reunion of shipmates and friends of the Liberty Ship JOHN BROWN in Baltimore, William C. Van Loo, father of M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, was honored. William was a longtime M.E.B.A. member and instructor aboard the BROWN when it was a maritime high school in New York. Bill is seen in this group photo fourth from right (suit, no tie).

Update Your Info with HQ

Be sure to inform Headquarters if you recently changed your contact information. We have placed an address change form on our website to help expedite the process. Address changes now require a signature for validation along with your new information. You can get the form in either a .pdf or a Word document from www.meba.us. Once there, click on the "Members Only" tab and toggle "Address Changes." The form can be printed out by the member or retiree, filled out completely with a signature and faxed or mailed to Headquarters. Those of you with scanners can complete the document

Anthrax Immunizations Resume

The Navy has announced the resumption of the mandatory anthrax vaccine immunization program. This will require M.E.B.A. mariners sailing on ships under Military Sealift Command control to receive inoculations if their ship travels into the central command area of responsibility for 15 or more consecutive days. M.E.B.A. mariners serve on four dozen MSC Auxiliary and Special Mission ships as well as several other MSC-contracted vessels as well as MarAd RRF vessels that come under MSC control once activated. There is strong likelihood that there will be a reactivation of ROS, PREPO—MSC and MarAd vessels in the near future, the extent and number of which is uncertain. Members can view the Defense Department's webpage on the anthrax issue at www.anthrax.osd.mil.



Photo 4: Sen. John Warner (l) is this year's recipient of the Propeller Club's Salute to Congress Award for his consistent and strong support of the U.S. maritime industry. M.E.B.A.'s Govt. & Legislative Affairs Director Bill Doyle talks about industry issues with the Senator.

NCL to Redeploy PRIDE OF HAWAII

NCL Corporation, the parent company of M.E.B.A.-contracted company NCL America, has announced that they will redeploy the cruise ship PRIDE OF HAWAII in early 2008 to the international trades. An onslaught of foreign-flag cruise ships that piled into the Hawaiian trade lanes following NCL's landmark breakthrough in the state (with three U.S.-flag vessels) helped inundate the market and water down NCL's 2006 profits. Now the company has determined that they will be better served with the ship sailing between European ports and points that will give an advantage to their other two U.S.-flag vessels in the Hawaii trade. NCL expects to implement the plan in February 2008 and will rename the ship the NORWEGIAN JADE.

The redeployment plan presents interesting prospects for the Union. NCL has announced that they are opening up their international passenger vessel fleet to American crews including expert M.E.B.A. officers.

M.E.B.A. President Ron Davis affirmed that, "NCL's Colin Veitch and his team have demonstrated a commitment to the U.S.-flag passenger vessel registry when no other cruise ship company would. NCL enabled thousands upon thousands of American jobs through that decision. But tough times call for tough decisions, and M.E.B.A., NCL America and SIU will do whatever it takes legislatively or otherwise to keep the U.S.-flag passenger program on track. There is nothing that labor, management and government cannot accomplish when we are all aligned and dedicated toward a single purpose. We are looking forward to moving ahead with that plan and to building upon this important sector of the maritime industry."



Photo 5: The PRIDE OF THE HAWAII will be redeployed into the international trades on a temporary basis next year. However, M.E.B.A. officers will get the opportunity to sail in NCL's overseas fleet. In the control room of the PRIDE OF HAWAII (l-r) are 1st A/E Adam Vokac, 1st A/E Joe Demelin, Staff Chief Engineer Lindsay Smith and Chief Engineer Matthew McKeon.

Staten Island Ferry, Prison Barges Contract

New York Union hall officials along with a sizeable rank and file group have hammered out a new contract for members sailing in the Staten Island Ferry system. At the same time, contract terms were worked out for the five engineers and deck officer who work on the prison barges in New York. The contract was ratified by a large margin by members working under it. The deal provides wage and annuity fund increases for our members retroactive to November 26, 2006 and going forward to November 2008. Negotiations were primarily handled by M.E.B.A. Representatives Erik Barton and Michael O'Toole along with shop stewards and other members sailing in the fleet.



Photo 6: Congressman Gene Green (D-TX) addressed M.E.B.A. brothers and sisters at Houston's April meeting. Officials later presented Rep. Green, who has been a strong supporter of labor and M.E.B.A. issues, with a Political Action Fund check.

Longtime HQ Staffer Frank Laurito Retires

On his last day before his well-deserved retirement began, Frank Laurito, a mainstay in M.E.B.A.'s Accounting Department for decades, was honored for an amazing career with the Union. Frank joined the M.E.B.A. in 1956 after a brief career on Wall Street

and with a steel company. He worked at Local 33 (New York) when it was located at 752 Broadway with Bud Lamy and Leon Shapiro among others. Herbert Daggett was the President of the Union at that time and Headquarters was located at 17 Battery Place in the Big Apple.



Photo 7: Longtime HQ staffer Frank Laurito joined the ranks of the retirees after a terrific career with the Union that began in 1956. We'll miss you Frank!

When HQ was relocated to Washington D.C. in the Summer of 1977, President Jesse Calhoun lured Frank away from the New York hall to serve as Comptroller at 444 North Capitol Street. He was part of the M.E.B.A. for many of the groundbreaking Union events and has a story to tell about each of them. He took a hiatus from the Union in the late 1980's and ran an auto insurance business in Gaithersburg, MD. But Frank was brought back onboard after the Union ousted corrupt President DeFries from office in the early 1990's and M.E.B.A. democracy was reestablished. He is proud of the fact that he always ran a clean operation for the Union and did things the right way. Among other well-wishers at the celebration to honor Frank were Calhoun School Director Lou Marciello and Roy Luebbe, the very first School Director who joined the Union in 1959.



Photo 8: Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) stopped by HQ and visited with members performing the annual review of union finances. Rep. Sanchez chairs a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee and is a strong supporter of labor issues. Left to right are Joe McElhinney, Jr., Travis Ellis, Colin Murray, Rep. Sanchez, Claude Pfeffer, Charles Feist and Courtney Lamm.

His co-workers at M.E.B.A. will miss him and are appreciative of how Frank "showed them the ropes" when they came onboard at HQ. We wish you the very best, Mr. Frank... get out there and live it up!!

New S.F./Oakland Hall is Up and Running

At long last, the new M.E.B.A. Union hall located in Oakland, CA is up and running. It officially kicked off on Wednesday, May 2nd with members participating in job call. The hall is located at 548 Thomas L. Berkley Way, Oakland, CA 94611. The old phone and fax numbers, as well as the Dispatcher and Plans numbers will remain operational since they have been linked to the new hall. However there are a whole set of direct phone and fax numbers that will work for the hall and may be a better choice for those having problems connecting or those who are calling from Oakland.

They are: Oakland Hall Phone/Fax: (510) 291-4912/(510) 291-4928; Dispatch Phone/Fax: (510) 291-4917/(510) 291-4929; Plans Phone/Fax: (510) 291-4919/(510) 291-4930.

The phone and fax numbers of the Diagnostic Center have changed. The Center is contained inside the new hall but will carry a new phone number: (510) 663-6810 and fax number: (510) 663-6818. In all cases, e-mail addresses are unchanged.



Photo 9: Congressman Mike Michaud (D-ME) - at left - visited with the rank and file FRC at M.E.B.A. HQ recently. A lifelong union member, Rep. Michaud told Joe McElhinney, Jr (right) and others on the FRC that he is grateful that M.E.B.A. has always been there for him and that his door is always open to us.

McKays Go Up the River

Michael McKay, the former President of the American Maritime Officers, began serving a 6½ year term in Federal Prison in late April. His brother, Robert McKay, formerly Secretary-Treasurer at AMO, began his 15-month jail sentence. The McKays were convicted on an assortment of Federal racketeering charges relating to theft of AMO union money, spying on union trustees and election rigging.

Trio of Maritime Industry Friends Sail into the Sunset

M.E.B.A. was saddened to learn about the deaths of a trio of maritime leaders who worked behind the scenes to make this industry better. Tal Simpkins passed on at the age of 79 in March after sustaining injuries incurred in an auto accident. Tal had devoted 50 years to American maritime labor and the seafaring community and had been serving as the President of the United Seamen's Service helping mariners around the world. He also recently retired as the Executive Vice President of the Labor Management Maritime Committee based



Photo 11: Tal Simpkins was a great friend to the maritime industry. Tal, Peter Finnerty and Brad Mulholland recently sailed into the sunset.



Photo 10: Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-PA) at right chats with member Travis Ellis as Claude Pfeffer looks on. Before serving in Congress, Rep. Murphy was a captain with the 82nd Airborne and later received a Bronze Star. Brother Ellis served on one of the vessels that helped carry troops and equipment for the 82nd Airborne to Iraq.

in Washington, DC and had also served as Executive Director of the AFL-CIO Maritime Committee. Tal received a special AOTOS award in 2002.

Peter Finnerty was a maritime industry presence for years and a former Sea-Land executive who died of a heart attack at the age of 64 in February. He was the former vice-president of Sea-Land Service and of late was President of American Ocean Enterprises, Inc. and American International Car Carrier, Inc. with over forty years of experience in the maritime industry. He was once the president of the National Propeller Club.

C. Bradley Mulholland, former President and CEO of Matson Navigation, died in February at the age of 65 from cancer complications. He had joined Matson in 1965 as an assistant auto-booking clerk and worked himself up to the top in his 38 years with the company. He was a 1996 AOTOS recipient and a valuable participant in maritime meetings and events nationwide that helped forward the industry.

CMES Providing Industry Training

Since its inception in 1966, the Calhoun M.E.B.A Engineering School (CMES) has provided quality training solely to the members and contracted company employees of the M.E.B.A. For years, the School has been approached by commercial and governmental organizations seeking



Photo 12: At a recent California Maritime Academy function, M.E.B.A. presented CMA President Dr. William Eisenhardt with an extremely generous check to support budding mariners at the school. At the function (l-r) were member Jerry Bellows, his wife Fran, MarAd Administrator Sean Connaughton, MEBA's Mike Blakeslee, San Francisco Patrolman Ed MacCormack and member Patrick Anderson.

access to its array of outstanding training and educational services.

Starting on May 1, 2007, CMES began providing educational and training services as well as certificate programs to non-M.E.B.A. maritime professionals and technical industries. CMES has worked steadily to develop courses that satisfy emerging technologies and regulatory training requirements that meet the ever-changing needs of today's professionals.

However, only the M.E.B.A. membership will be afforded the early registration of courses and will again have the opportunity to register in September for classes scheduled for the following year. As per current practice, each member may submit up to four course applications for classes. The number of students registered per class and the interests shown in a particular instructional discipline may lead to additional classes being scheduled to satisfy the needs of the membership.

Business entities requesting training may begin to do so in January of the incoming year. In that way, classes scheduled for the membership that are not full at the time of delivery may be supplemented with business related students. The ongoing mission of CMES, to provide educational services to the members of the M.E.B.A., will continue uninterrupted and will most certainly be fortified with the additional funding provided by outside commercial business ventures.

Coast Guard Establishes Mariner Website

The Coast Guard has launched a website to provide merchant mariners with real-time information on the status of pending mariner credential applications. Merchant mariners can check the status of application packages throughout the verification and approval process by logging onto <http://homeport.uscg.mil/>, clicking on the Merchant Mariners tab and then clicking on Merchant Mariner Application Status.



Photo 13: Patrolman Donn Reamer attended the Texas A&M University at Galveston Texas Maritime Academy award ceremony to present Scholarships to six cadets. Houston Dispatcher Erin Bertram (class of '91) delivered the \$2,000 award to Vice President and CEO Dr. R. Bowen Loftin during Career Day at the Academy in March. From left to right are \$250 recipient Grant Williams, Christopher Rabalais (\$500), Patrolman Donn Reamer, Stephanie Blummer (\$250) and Timothy Cullen (\$250). Not pictured are \$250 recipients Graham Monahan and Jeremiah Winters.

L.A. Hall Has New Location

M.E.B.A.'s Los Angeles Union hall has relocated to Wilmington, CA and is currently sharing space with the Masters, Mates & Pilots at their union hall – at least on a temporary basis. The rising cost of rent at the San Pedro location necessitated the move. The hall is located at 533 N. Marine Ave., Wilmington, CA 90744-5527. Phone and fax numbers as well as e-mail addresses remain the same.

Turn Back the Chronometer

...to January 1920 in the
American Marine Engineer

First Woman in the World
to Hold Chief's License.

M.E.B.A can boast that one of its members became the first female licensed Chief Engineer in history (Carlia Westcott in 1919 almost a year before women won the right to vote.) When he handed over the license, U.S. Inspector of Boilers H.C. Lord told Carlia, "You are showing the way for all the other women of the United States."