

# MEBA President Touches Base with Affiliates

In a series of productive discussions that has drawn the MEBA family closer together, President Ron Davis has met with each of the Union's seven affiliates this year.

This summer, President Davis welcomed longtime MEBA ally, the American Radio Association, into the fold after a whopping 93% of ARA members voted to affiliate with our Union. MEBA has continued to partner with the ARA on an abundance of maritime matters throughout the year. Late last year, MEBA oversaw the conversion of our former Panamanian office to affiliate status. Since that time, MEBA members and officials have conferred with representatives at the Asociacion Benefica de Ingenieros Marineros (ABIM) both in Panama and in our D.C. Headquarters to further solidify our relationship and move forward on issues of concern.

President Davis greeted the newly elected National President of the Professional Airways Systems Specialists recently. Tom Brantley had served as the National Vice President of PASS for more than six years, and began his three-year term as President on October 1. The pair got together to discuss relevant concerns including PASS's

recent battle against the Administration's initiative to privatize FAA systems specialists (which PASS represents). With MEBA's support in hand, as well as that of the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department, the initiative was beaten back for Fiscal Year 2004.

The Union enjoys a strong relationship with our affiliate in Plantation, FL and their nearly 7,000 members. Among several meetings with the National Federation of Public and Private Employees (NFOPAPE) this year, MEBA President Ron Davis and Jacksonville Representative Tom Suneson spent Labor Day with affiliate representatives at the Annual Federation Day Fest in Plantation. Among the 1,500 attendees at the function hosted by Federation President Walter Browne were local area officials, Broward County commissioners and judges, elected school board members and various labor officials. President Davis delivered Labor Day comments to two area newspapers and gave a brief interview to a local television station.

Many people may not realize that the MEBA has over 30,000 members. Included in that number are our West Coast affiliates of the California Association of Professional

Employees (CAPE), Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS) and the Los Angeles County Lifeguard Association (LACoLA). On a California trip in October that coincided with meeting week, President Davis (and other MEBA reps) met with CAPE officials including President Brian Brooks, and addressed their Executive Board. CAPE represents many professional supervisory and non-supervisory Los Angeles County employees. It had been over a decade since an MEBA president visited with CAPE.

The MEBA team also met with John Rees, Executive Director of the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs. ALADS has been wrapped up in intense collective bargaining negotiations with the County. Ron Davis later met with Garth Canning, President of the Los Angeles County Lifeguard Association who detailed the latest LACoLA efforts and initiatives. LACoLA is responsible for most of the waterfront safety in Los Angeles County.

In all cases, President Davis guaranteed the full support of the MEBA for our affiliates and offered up the Union's assistance in helping realize the success of future endeavors. ✕



FOUNDED 1977

