

# Ship's Telegraph

## DUES LAGGARDS WILL BE DROPPED IN DECEMBER!

Members or applicants two or more years in arrears on their dues and/or service charges will be reviewed by the District Investigative Committee in December and likely dropped from the membership or applicant rolls. If you are in arrears and want to retain your membership or applicant status, you must contact Headquarters immediately to make payment on your arrearage to return to good standing.



The PRIDE OF HAWAII, crewed with MEBA officers in all licensed positions, was recently christened in L.A.



Left to right are MEBA's Honolulu Rep. Russell Rippetoe, NCL Pres. Colin Veitch and MEBA Executive V.P. Bud Jacque at a function welcoming the new PRIDE OF HAWAII.

## WWII MARINERS: WE WANT YOUR STORIES!!!

MEBA mariners have sailed in support of this country in every conflict and war since our Union was established in 1875. Our seafarers were crucial to this nation's success in World War II. Over the years, we have been fortunate to meet many of these heroes and hear their tales. However, so many of their stories have not been written down and will be lost to time when they are gone.

MEBA is asking World War II mariners to recount your war experiences in written form and send them to us. Though they each could probably write a book about their roles in the "Fourth Arm of Defense" we would like summaries of up to three pages. We hope to collect these narratives and use them to help forward beneficial legislation for retired mariners and the Merchant Marine on Capitol Hill. We may also publish some of the more interesting accounts in a future *Marine Officer*. You can e-mail them to the Editor at [editor@d1meba.org](mailto:editor@d1meba.org) or mail them to: MEBA c/o Marine Officer, 444 N. Capitol St. N.W., Suite 800, Washington D.C. 20001.



MEBA continued its support for the maritime academies with a \$12,000 Contribution to SUNY Maritime College. Left to right are Baltimore Branch Agent Bill McHugh, Vice Admiral John Craine (SUNY), Atlantic Coast V.P. Don Keefe and Rep. Jim LaRiviere who recently announced his retirement after a great run with the MEBA.



Some of the MEBA crew at the christening of the beautiful new ALASKAN LEGEND - left to right are C/E Drew Ferry C/E, 1st A/E Jim Economy, San Francisco Rep. Jim Anderson and C/E Rich McCann.

## NASSCO DELIVERS ALASKAN LEGEND

BP Shipping took delivery of the fourth and final newbuild tanker constructed for the company at San Diego's NASSCO Shipyard. The ALASKAN LEGEND, like three other newbuilds in the series will be operated by Alaska Tanker Company and crewed with MEBA officers. The LEGEND is double-hulled, diesel-electric powered and equipped with 20 separate cargo tanks. The ship is capable of carrying up to 1.3 million barrels of crude oil and will operate between Alaska and western U.S. ports. The first three Alaska-class ships are already in service with MEBA aboard. They are the ALASKAN FRONTIER, ALASKAN EXPLORER and ALASKAN NAVIGATOR.



Our Rep. in Portland Marc Townsend discussing LNG issues with Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski. The photo was taken at an Oregon AFL-CIO COPE event endorsing Kulongoski in his reelection bid.

## FORMER PASS PRESIDENT FANFALONE, DEAD AT 57

The Professional Airways Systems Specialists (PASS) lost a great leader this summer with the passing of Mike Fanfalone, one of the union's founders and former national president. PASS is an MEBA affiliate. "Mike Fanfalone has been a good friend to the MEBA through the years," President Ron Davis stated. "Members may remember him from his appearances at MEBA National Conventions. Our Union has worked together with him closely in the past and we were aware of his outstanding character. Eulogizing him a month short of his 58th birthday is a tragedy."

## OPERATION IRAQI PRETZEL IS A CRUNCHY SUCCESS

A large coordinated effort of employees from Keystone Shipping, the Maritime Administration and the crew of the CAPE KENNEDY (under MEBA Capt. John Hasson) helped realize a Berks County, Pennsylvania man's initiative to support our overseas troops with pretzels. Big John Ulrich, a Korean War veteran, helped secure 72,672 bags of pretzels from The Bachman Company, a Reading, PA snack food manufacturer. In an operation that inspired over a thousand people to assist, Big John was successful in his efforts to supply our fighting forces in Iraq with a little taste of the U.S.. The 13,515 pounds of pretzels were loaded up in Norfolk, VA on the Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve Force fleet vessel CAPE KENNEDY. The vessel, managed by Keystone Shipping is crewed by MEBA deck and engine officers.



An armed guard protects some of the 13,515 pounds of pretzels destined for our troops in Iraq. CAPE KENNEDY Capt. John Hasson and Chief Mate Dru DiMattia helped bring 72,672, or rather, 72,671 bags of pretzels to our troops in Iraq.

## CMES CARDBOARD BOAT RACE TEAM

In late June, the Calhoun MEBA Engineering School Cardboard Boat Race Team took 1st place in the Funny Boat race and 3rd Place in the Battle of the Brave race in the 18th Annual Cardboard Boat Races, a fundraiser for the Maryland Special Olympics. CMES was represented in the race by five MEBA members: Team Propulsion Specialists - Deborah Bellafonte and Jonathan Kalmaukos; Team Construction and Transportation Lead - John Dejewski; Team Material and Acquisitions - Scot McClintock; Team Research and Development - Bruce Cooper; and Team Support - CMES Staff. The crew raised \$310 to donate to the Maryland Special Olympics.



MEBA's Legal and Legislative Counsel David Tubman (l) and Organizing Director Robert Martin (r) attended a labor luncheon at the recent NAACP Convention in Washington D.C. where they were joined by Judge Greg Mathis (c). Judge Mathis rose from delinquent youth to Michigan district court judge and is a star on TV in the popular "Judge Mathis Show" on the WB.

## AFL-CIO OFFICIAL MEETS WITH MEBA WEST COAST AFFILIATES

MEBA Pres. Ron Davis recently traveled with AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Richard Trumka to meet with representatives of our West Coast affiliates. Davis initiated the meeting that was put together to discuss recent structural changes within the AFL-CIO. Others in attendance included Brian Brooks (CAPE President), John Rees (Executive-Director of ALADS), Bud Treece (ALADS & delegate to L.A. Labor Council), Steve Towell (L.A. Lifeguards V.P.), Blaine Meek (CAPE & ALADS counsel), MEBA L.A. Branch Agent Al Camelio and L.A. Patrolman Mike Nizetich. Pres. Davis declared the meeting a success and thanked

Trumka for taking time out to meet with an important segment of the MEBA family - our California affiliates.



At the meeting with our West Coast affiliates are (l-r) Brian Brooks (CAPE President), AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Richard Trumka, Blaine Meek (CAPE & ALADS counsel) and MEBA Pres. Ron Davis.

## MEMBER'S SON IS SAMMY AWARD WINNER

Luke Trafton, son of 23-year MEBA member Mike, has been selected as one of the elite SAMMY Award winners, a national honor. The Scholar-Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year (SAMMY) awards, sponsored by *USA Today* and the "Got Milk?" campaign, honors 25 high school senior athletes a year recognizing outstanding academic performance, athletic excellence, leadership skills and community service. Luke, living in Bath, ME, has maintained an A+ average is involved in swimming, cross country and track. He is also Class Treasurer, a YMCA



Member Mike Trafton's son Luke is a SAMMY award winner. Left to right are skating gold medalist Sarah Hughes, Luke Trafton and Seattle Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck.

Mentor, a Relay for Life Volunteer and part of the National Honor society. As a result, Luke receives a \$7,500 college scholarship and was featured in numerous magazines and newspapers around the country. He also appeared in a special milk mustache ad in *USA Today* and secures a spot in the prestigious "Sammy hall of fame" in the milk house at Disney's Orlando, FL wide world of sports complex.



MEBA recently supported Massachusetts Maritime with a \$12,000 scholarship check drawn from the Training Plan. Left to right are William Kolb ('75), Atlantic Coast V.P. Don Keefe ('78), Admiral Richard Gurnon Mass Maritime President, Boston Rep. Bill Campbell and William Hibbard ('72).

### MEBA CREWS UP OSG PRODUCT CARRIER

MEBA-contracted company OSG Ship Management oversaw the deployment of an additional vessel entered into its fleet that was crewed up by MEBA engineers in July. SIU represents the unlicensed crew. OSG took over the GALENA BAY, a 50,920 dwt, double-bottom product tanker owned by the company and previously bareboat chartered to Sea River Maritime. The jobs for the vessel were crewed up in the Houston area.

OSG will soon welcome its first in a series of newbuilds being constructed at Aker Philadelphia Shipyard. The initial double-hulled product tanker will be called the OVERSEAS HOUSTON and is expected to be unveiled in October. MEBA engineers will serve aboard that vessel.



At a recent dinner for Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) are (l-r) Mike Nizetich (MEBA L.A. Patrolman), Yvette Reed (MEBA L.A. Political Coordinator), former President Bill Clinton, Fouad Barakat (Treasurer CAPE Board of Directors) and Nelson Manabat (CAPE Board of Directors).



In front of the MEBA booth at the annual Baltimore Propeller Club crab feast are (l-r) the colorfully attired David Tubman (MEBA Legal & Legislative Counsel), Martin O'Malley (Baltimore Mayor who is running for Governor), MEBA C/E Mark Anderson, MEBA C/E Michael O'Sullivan, MEBA Secretary Treasurer Bill Van Loo, MEBA Political Director Mike Bocchini and MEBA Baltimore Branch Agent Bill McHugh.

### CONNAUGHTON SWORN IN AS NEW MARAD CHIEF

The nomination of Sean T. Connaughton as the next Maritime Administrator moved swiftly through the Senate resulting in his confirmation for the post in August. The job had been vacant since February 2005 when Capt. William Schubert retired. Since then John Jamian served as MarAd head in an Acting capacity followed by MarAd Counsel Julie Nelson who took the reins on a temporary basis in May. A maritime and environmental attorney, Connaughton is a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.



New Maritime Administrator Sean Connaughton with the legendary Joe Gibbs, coach of the mighty Washington Redskins.

### MEBA CONTRACT WITH WOODS HOLE RESEARCH SHIPS

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) research vessels will benefit from the services of MEBA relief engineers through a new agreement made with our contracted company Patriot Contract Services. Patriot already has an understanding with the Commerce Department to supply MEBA relief engineers on NOAA research vessels and this contract is a similar

arrangement. The deal was finalized by MEBA President Ron Davis along with Atlantic Coast V.P. Don Keefe and will be put into effect for an initial period that goes through Sept. 30, 2007.

WHOI operates a fleet of four vessels that conduct research missions ranging from one-day to many weeks along U.S. coastal waters and in various locations around the world. The vessels include the R/V ATLANTIS, R/V KNORR, R/V OCEANUS and R/V TIOGA.

### NFOPAPE ELECTION/CONVENTION

MEBA President Ron Davis helped launch our largest affiliate's bi-annual convention recently with an address before the National Federation of Public and Private Employees (NFOPAPE) in South Florida. The address kicked off the union's three-day Convention that culminated in the re-election of NFOPAPE President Dan Reynolds and Secretary-Treasurer Pat Lambert for new four year terms. Both ran unopposed.



At a New Jersey State AFL-CIO conference MEBA networked with NJ Gov. Jon Corzine. Left to right are Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, Gov. Corzine, Atlantic Coast V.P. Don Keefe and Baltimore Branch Agent Bill McHugh.

### FOURTH MATSON NEWBUILD CHRISTENED AT AKER

An MEBA contingent led by President Ron Davis helped welcome the latest newbuild into Matson Navigation's fleet at Aker shipyard in Philadelphia. The ceremony for the M/V MAUNALEI went off without a hitch as Millie Akaka, wife of Senator Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), christened the vessel. This was the fourth new containership built by the yard for Matson in the past four years. A series of Calhoun MEBA graduates work aboard the ship including permanent 1st A/E Bryan Rusk, permanent 1st A/E Mark Newberg, permanent C/E Rick Davies and

the Matson Manager of Marine Engineering Scott Hauck. The other permanent Chief Engineer is member Gary Blakesley.

### AMC's Tosi ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

The longtime leader of the American Maritime Congress, Gloria Cataneo Tosi has announced her retirement. Gloria has worked behind the scenes on Capitol Hill performing important work on behalf of the Union and our contracted companies since 1981.

MEBA Pres. Ron Davis praised her as someone who has not only achieved important gains for mariners of the past but who has succeeded in protecting today's mariner with numerous beneficial initiatives. "Gloria is someone who knows how to get things done on Capitol Hill," he noted. "There's no doubt she'll continue to be a valuable contact even after she wraps up her terrific career spent battling on behalf of our contracted companies and members."

AMC will steam ahead with Brian W. Schoeneman, formerly MEBA Government Affairs Director, at the helm. See Gloria's final *Marine Officer* column in this issue for more details.



AMC's Gloria Tosi has retired after a long and productive career heading up the American Maritime Congress. Left to right are MM&P Pres. Tim Brown, Gloria Tosi, SIU Pres. Mike Sacco and MEBA Pres. Ron Davis.

### ABSENTEE BALLOT INFO AVAILABLE AT HALLS

Headquarters has mailed each of the MEBA Union halls packets with absentee ballot information that can be used in U.S. elections in November. These materials are designed to help members of the U.S. Merchant Marine participate in the general elections during 2006 and 2007 if they are unable to vote in person at the polls. The packets include: 2006-7 voter assistance guide books, election posters, registration

and absentee ballot request forms and federal general election write-in absentee ballots. Please encourage all MEBA members and retirees to register to vote and participate in the general election on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.



Following a recent meeting in San Francisco are (l-r) MEBA members Jim Rowe, Executive V.P. Louie Bud Jacque and Jerry Bellows.

### MEBA PERSONNEL CHANGES

Members at the August membership meetings were informed of several personnel changes within the Union. Secretary-Treasurer Cecil McIntyre has announced his retirement effective September 1, 2006. Cecil is a 27-year member who came up through the hawsepipe. Under his watch as Secretary-Treasurer, he has put the Union back in the black. Baltimore Branch Agent Bill Van Loo becomes the new Secretary-Treasurer and New York Patrolman Bill McHugh takes over as the new Baltimore Branch Agent. In addition, Seattle Branch Agent Jon Anderson, a real "go-getter," stepped down for personal reasons as of August 1, 2006. New Orleans Patrolman Mike "Moose" Mallini takes over as our top man in Seattle. At our NY hall, MEBA Representative Jim LaRiviere has retired. A member since 1980, Jim had been the longest serving official and oversaw New York harbor contracts for two decades. Erik Barton is his replacement. Finally, in New Orleans there is a new official. Wilfred Jones, who previously had been shipping out of the hall, is the new Representative.

### SAN FRANCISCO OAKLAND HALL UPDATE

After two years of negotiations and administrative procedures, the sale of MEBA's San Francisco Union hall was completed. Progress continues on the new Oakland Hall.

While work goes on there, MEBA is sharing the Sailors' Union of the Pacific (SUP) hall at 450 Harrison St. in San Francisco. In

the meantime, phone, fax numbers and e-mail have been transferred to the SUP hall and remain the same. Although occupancy permits are subject to the utility company and the city of Oakland, MEBA is hoping to move into the new location sometime before November. The S.F. Diagnostic Center is temporarily closed until the completion of work at the new Oakland hall where it will reopen.

### PENSION REFORM BILL PASSED

H.R. 4, the Pension Protection Act of 2006, was signed into law by the President in mid-August. The bill amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code to establish new minimum funding standards for single-employer and multiemployer defined benefit pension plans. Under the new law, multiemployer plans funded at less than 80 percent will have to implement a funding improvement plan – and multiemployer plans funded at less than 65 percent will have to implement rehabilitation plans. It also sets schedules for implementation of these improvement and rehabilitation plans. These measures are meant to forestall insolvency of multiemployer plans.



Aboard the Keystone-managed USNS FRED STOCKHAM are (l-r) 1st A/E Dan Sappington, 3rd A/E Kevin Wright, C/E Mike Blevins, 2nd A/E Eugene Ennesser and Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo.

### MEBA CLOSES ON PACT FOR AMHS FERRY

Along with two other unions, MEBA has finalized an agreement with the State of Alaska to continue operations aboard the ferry M/V LeCONTE. In March, the U.S. Coast Guard directed the Alaska Marine Highway System to operate the M/V LeCONTE in a manner that ensures that the crew gets a minimum amount of rest. The MEBA, along with the Masters Mates & Pilots and Inland Boatman's Union, has been negotiating with the State since that time. Changes in ship operations that

affect crew staffing levels require modifying existing contracts. Negotiations were headed up by MEBA's Executive Vice President Bud Jacque along with our Representative in Juneau Ben Goldrich. MEBA lobbyist Don Kubley provided valuable behind-the-scenes work.



The annual Plans picnic was held at Hershey Park, PA this year. In this photo, kids get tattoos in the MEBA tent following a day of fun.




MEBA Pres. Ron Davis (l) thanked Cecil for years of dedicated service to the MEBA. As a 27 year member, Cecil had a great and colorful career as a sailing member and official and helped reaffirm the Union's democratic roots. As Secretary-Treasurer he helped the Union get "back in black." We'll miss ya Cecil!



Several months ago, our New Orleans hall made the presentation of an engraved plate to members aboard the CAPE KENNEDY, a Keystone-managed vessel with MEBA deck and engine officers. The ship's crew helped save their vessel during Hurricane Katrina and performed relief operations for weeks afterwards. Left to right are N.O. Patrolman Moose Mallini (now Seattle Branch Agent), Mark deGruy and Gulf Coast V.P. John McCurdy.

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 (212) 269-0711 www.uss-ammla.com

*Maersk has announced that they will match any contributions to the USS put forward by mariners on Maersk Line vessels.*

Dear American seafarers:

You may recall the first time you stepped into a USS center in a foreign port. If not, certainly many of your shipmates do.

*A safe haven, a friendly face, a telephone to call home, money orders so you can transfer funds, a deliciously prepared meal, a gift shop with affordable items, a friend when you need one most—a place to call home away from home.*

Since 1942, United Seamen's Service (USS) has prided itself on the programs and services offered to promote the welfare and help American and allied seafarers like you. Today, USS needs your help. Dwindling financial resources makes USS increasingly unsustainable. Survival will depend on the agency's ability and flexibility to continue partnerships with seafarers to build relationships and seek support in the maritime industry — unions, carriers, government, military and veteran mariners.

The origin of the USS coincides with the United States involvement in World War II. The military had the USO and military clubs. It was necessary, to provide a facility for those American seafarers who traveled into harm's way to carry troops and supplies throughout the world and President Franklin Roosevelt was at the forefront of the effort by the maritime unions and management to establish the USS.

USS has continued over the years to provide services to American seafarers to help alleviate the hardships experienced during the Korean, Vietnamese and Persian Gulf conflicts. Today, American mariners are again engaged in maintaining the critical flow of supplies to U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and the network of USS centers are there to support them. USS affiliate, the American Merchant Marine Library Association, continues to provide libraries to U.S. flag vessels, and especially to the ships of the Ready Reserve Fleet, to ensure that our mariners have quality reading material while at sea.

The survival of USS in an industry that has been through radical change over the last 65 years demonstrates the continuing need for the vital support of seafarers. Those of us in the maritime industry understand the challenge: international unrest keeping military ships at sea rather than on shore; higher food, beverage and labor costs not easily passed on to seafarers visiting our centers; unstable currency exchange rates; extremely high insurance premiums at our centers in the Pacific due to storms and threat of earthquake; the total loss of our headquarters office in the World Trade Center on 9/11; among other issues. It is imperative that we support the American seafarers across the globe, who overcome adversity and proudly carry our world commerce and serve America in times of crises.

You know by personal experience the value of our programs and services. Your tax-deductible donation will assist USS in supporting American seafarers; the heart of maritime. Thank you for your consideration of this worthy cause. As we said in our Historic 1940's campaign, "That's Our Outfit! Let's Keep It Going!"

Let's keep USS going today.

Sincerely,

  
 Talmage E. Simpkins  
 President

  
 Roger T. Korner  
 Executive Director