

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

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RON DAVIS  
PRESIDENT



BILL VAN LOO  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

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Dear MEBA Member,

On behalf of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association District Executive Committee, I am writing to you regarding the Merchant Officers Labor Alliance. As you probably know, MEBA and Masters, Mates & Pilots (MM&P) have signed an Alliance Labor Document which we believe will allow both unions to work together and accomplish both unified and individual goals in the years to come. In order for this document to become effective, it must be positively voted on by both the MEBA membership and the MM&P membership. Ballots have been mailed out to the membership for your vote on whether the MEBA should enter into this cooperative agreement with the MM&P. I believe that after a careful reading of the Merchant Officers Labor Alliance, members will support this important initiative.

For the past several months, the MEBA and the MM&P have been circulating drafts of the Merchant Officers Labor Alliance for membership review and consideration. MEBA members submitted comments at the monthly membership meetings, via a special email address set up for comments and suggestions, and by phone calls and letters. The document has also been posted on MEBA and MM&P websites. Your input has been helpful in shaping the original document signed in December into a working roadmap for future cooperation between MEBA and MM&P, and for that I thank you. Importantly, additional safeguards were suggested and added to the document that provide the membership a "veto" over future amendments and actions. This Alliance document was finalized on March 1st of this year.

At one time there was a side letter to the Merchant Officers Labor Alliance agreement. However, as a result of reworking the document, this side letter was eliminated and incorporated in this final Merchant Officers Labor Alliance agreement.

I want to emphasize that the MEBA and MM&P will remain separate and distinct organizations under the Merchant Officers Labor Alliance. The document does not allow for a merger, a merger of pension or medical plans, or salary increases for union officials. Rather, the Merchant Officers Labor Alliance is a roadmap for our two officers unions to strengthen ties and improve our position in the labor movement and the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Thank you for your careful consideration on this important issue. I ask that you vote YES in support of the Merchant Officers Labor Alliance.

Fraternally,

Ron Davis  
President