



MEBA welcomed a pair of members from our Panamanian affiliate ABIM recently when they came to town for a series of meetings with D.C. bigwigs. Left to right are ABIM Co-Secretario General Luis Yau Chaw, MEBA Secretary-Treasurer Cecil McIntyre and ABIM's Gabriel Ayú Prado.

## Ship's Telegraph

### POID KEEPS CLOSE THROUGH QUARTERLY CONFERENCE CALLS

MEBA members serving in our Professional, Office and Industrial Division have opened the book on a new way for our POID people to get on the same page. With their offices scattered all across the country, it has been historically hard for the clerical workers of the American President Lines to discuss issues and remain unified. MEBA-POID members come from eleven separate office environments, in eight different states.

But in late 2005, after a great suggestion from delegate April Wright, our POID Representative Jennifer Novinger began setting up quarterly nationwide conference calls for delegates and alternates. Representatives from each region are donating their Saturday mornings to the cause for these lengthy sessions which touch on every POID topic of interest. Members have discussed such things as APL off-shoring office jobs, how POID unemployment compensation works, management doing POID work, how members can build solidarity, benefit and retirement issues, reports on the morale of members at each location, overtime and vacation issues and election procedures for POID delegates at the 11 APL offices.

Following the sessions, Jennifer types notes relating to every item discussed and sends the report to delegates for distribution to the local offices. Sister Novinger noted that, "This POID version of MEBA Union hall meetings will only continue to improve POID power and POID spirit – right up through our next contract negotiations (2008) and beyond."

### MEBA/MM&P MEET ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT

MEBA President Ron Davis and Atlantic Coast V.P. Don Keefe met with MM&P President Tim Brown and V.P. Bob Groh recently at MEBA Headquarters to discuss a more cooperative relationship between the organizations. At the meeting, the unions discussed cost sharing items such as combining legislative resources of the American

Maritime Congress (AMC) and MM&P's Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID). In addition, they discussed sharing of union halls in ports that would be mutually beneficial to both organizations.

Both unions agreed to continue discussions of mutual co-operation and to even explore the possibility of merging sometime in the future subject to the will of their respective memberships.

### MEMBERS RATIFY E-SHIPS CONTRACT

Members made a new contract with E-Ships, Inc. official after successful ratification votes at the MEBA membership meetings. Negotiated by MEBA Atlantic Coast V.P. Don Keefe, the agreement covers port engineers as well as members aboard three Maritime Security Program vessels. Those vessels include the ENDURANCE, ENDEAVOR and ENTERPRISE. The contract runs through September 30, 2015 – which coincides with the expiration date of the Maritime Security Program.

In addition, job preservation language inserted into the contract locks up an MEBA presence aboard the ships including any replacement vessel. The Port Engineers' contract mirrors the deep-sea agreement and will also be applicable through Sept, 30, 2015. MEBA Port Engineers serving under the agreement service the three E-Class vessels along with the CHESAPEAKE BAY, DELAWARE BAY and the ARGONAUT.

V.P. Keefe also negotiated an agreement that recently went into effect covering our engineers serving on the E-Ships vessel ARGONAUT.

### ATC, LIBERTY CONTRACTS RATIFIED

Contracts covering members on a new Liberty Maritime MSP ship and on vessels operated by Alaska Tanker Company were passed handily in recent ratification votes. The Liberty contract governs the MEBA engine and deck officers aboard the newbuild car carrier M/V ALLIANCE NEW YORK which operates under the Maritime Security Program. It would also cover any potential MSP vessels that



MEBA and MM&P are exploring a closer relationship. MM&P President Tim Brown (left) recently visited our Baltimore Union hall for a function on behalf of Rep. Ben Cardin (D-MD) (right). Member Mark Anderson and Baltimore Branch Agent Bill Van Loo are in between.

Liberty brings into the Program. The MEBA negotiating team for the contract led by Gulf Coast V.P. John McCurdy included N.O. Patrolman Moose Mallini, HQ Contracts Rep. Mark Gallagher, Legal Rep. William Doyle and rank and file input.

The ATC contracts cover both Alaskan-class vessels and the non-Alaskan class vessels. The Alaskan-class ships include the three newbuild BP tankers that have been constructed at NASSCO over the last several years as well as another one due this year. Those ships are the ALASKAN FRONTIER, ALASKAN EXPLORER and the newly-delivered ALASKAN NAVIGATOR. Shipyard workers are readying the ALASKAN LEGEND for her debut this spring. An early reopener in the contract allowed negotiators to work out economic terms and conditions for the four vessels. The contract runs through 2024. The contract approved for the non-Alaskan class vessels was reopener language that added a six-year extension to the contract. That agreement is good until June 2016.

The ATC negotiating team was led by Executive V.P. and included contributions from Gulf Coast V.P. John McCurdy, L.A. Branch Agent Al Camelio, L.A. Patrolman Mike Nizetich, Seattle Branch Agent Jon Anderson, S.F. Patrolman Ed MacCormack, Seattle Patrolman Karol Kingery, S.F. Rep. Jim Anderson, rank and file member Ray Schwartz, HQ Contracts Rep. Mark Gallagher and Legal Rep. William Doyle.

## NEW FACES AT MARITIME-RELATED AGENCIES

There will be a change at the top at a slew of maritime-related government agencies of interest to the MEBA. Recently former Northrup Grumman Corp. executive Donald C. Winter was sworn in as the new Navy Secretary after Gordon England announced his resignation. England, who served in the post for the last four years is also the Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense and will continue in that capacity.

The 57-year old Winter, has already been confirmed by the Senate. He had served as president of the Northrup Grumman's Mission Systems sector and as an adviser to the president and CEO of the company.

President Bush has nominated Vice Admiral Thad W. Allen to be the new Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. Current Commandant Adm. Thomas H. Collins plans to relinquish his post at a change of command ceremony in May.

Vice Admiral Allen currently serves as Coast Guard Chief of Staff. He also served as the Principal Federal Official overseeing Hurricane Katrina response and recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast region.

Rear Admiral Robert D. Reilly, Jr. has been tapped as the next Commander of the Military Sealift Command succeeding Vice Admiral David Brewer III who steps down in March.

Rear Adm. Reilly currently serves as deputy for C4 (Command, Control, Communications and Computers) integration and policy on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. VAdm. Brewer had guided MSC since August 2001. Brewer's time at MSC would have wrapped up sooner but his term was extended because of the ongoing war on terror.

President Bush has nominated W. Ralph Basham, the director of the U.S. Secret Service, to be the next commissioner of Customs and Border Protection. Upon confirmation, he will replace the outgoing Robert Bonner who retired from the post in November. Basham joined the Secret Service in 1970 as a special agent and led the agency beginning in January 2003.

Finally, President Bush nominated David C. Sanborn to be the next Maritime Administrator. The top spot at MarAd has been vacant for nearly a year after the retirement of Capt. William Schubert in February 2005. Since then, Deputy Administrator John Jamian has led the agency.

Sanborn has been serving as Director of Operations for Europe and Latin America at DP World, a Dubai, UAE-owned group that focuses on international port operations. However, his nomination has become tangled up over Capitol Hill concern with DP World's recent purchase of P&O Steam Navigation. The deal would allow DP to operate six major U.S. seaports: New York, New Jersey, Miami, Baltimore, New Orleans and Philadelphia.

President Bush disagrees with apprehensions that the firm's oversight could weaken ports against terrorism. Still, the Senate has held up Sanborn's nomination until concerns about DP World are adequately explored.

### CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE MEBA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION!

The MEBA Merchant Marine Memorial Foundation is still accepting donations for our Memorial Park that was recently opened at the School. The price for Memorial Bricks has returned to an extremely reasonable \$100 each, and you may also order an identical miniature size brick for \$10 each. Take advantage and put your mark on this beautiful new tribute to merchant mariners past and present! Memorial benches can be purchased for \$1,000 each, which includes a memorial plaque. Lastly, any donations of \$2,500 or more will allow you to have your name engraved on a donor plaque:

- \$2,500 - \$5,000                      Bronze Donor
- Over \$5,000 to \$10,000           Silver Donor
- Over \$10,000 to \$25,000        Gold Donor
- Over \$25,000                        Platinum Donor

For more information or for any questions, please contact Jessica Milligan at (410) 822-9600 ext. 306 or email her at [memorial@mebaschool.org](mailto:memorial@mebaschool.org).

### MEBA INKS NEW DEAL WITH CHEVRON SHIPPING

MEBA members sailing aboard three Chevron tankers have ratified a new three-year deal with the company. Our agreement with Chevron covers members aboard the WASHINGTON VOYAGER, COLORADO VOYAGER and ARIZONA VOYAGER.

MEBA's San Francisco Representative Jim Anderson closed the deal along with rank and file members Dave Cash, Valerie Scott, Eric Brady and John Cleveland providing valuable assistance. S.F. Patrolman Ed MacCormack also participated in talks and retired member Duncan Ballenger delivered key input. Chevron Shipping Manager Jim DeCruz and Human Resources Manager Audrey Lamastro represented the company. Among other things, the negotiating team won wage increases during each year of the contract as well as supplements to vacation time.

## Meeting Schedule

Port	March	April	May
Baltimore	Tues. 7	Tues. 4	Tues. 9
Boston	Mon. 6	Mon. 3	Mon. 8
Calhoun School	Wed. 8	Wed. 5	Wed. 10
Charleston	Wed. 8	Wed. 5	Wed. 10
Honolulu	Fri. 10	Fri. 7	Fri. 12
Houston	Tues. 7	Tues. 4	Tues. 9
Jacksonville	Tues. 7	Tues. 4	Tues. 9
Los Angeles	Thurs. 9	Thurs. 6	Thurs. 11
New Orleans	Wed. 8	Wed. 5	Wed. 10
New York	Thurs. 9	Thurs. 6	Thurs. 11
Norfolk	Thurs. 9	Thurs. 6	Thurs. 11
Portland	Wed. 8	Wed. 5	Wed. 10
San Francisco	Tues. 7	Tues. 4	Tues. 9
Seattle	Mon. 6	Mon. 3	Mon. 8
Tampa	Thurs. 9	Thurs. 6	Thurs. 11