

MARITIME LABOR ALLIANCE



August 25, 2017

The Maritime Labor Alliance (“MLA”) consists of six leading maritime labor unions: American Radio Association (ARA), Inland Boatmen’s Union (IBU), International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA), International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association (MEBA), and International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots (MM&P).

The MLA is compelled to express our extreme disapproval of the actions of Liberty Maritime / Liberty Global Logistics (“Liberty”) in the manning of a new Liberty vessel, the M/V Liberty Peace, with Licensed Deck and Engineering Officers that are not M.E.B.A. The M.E.B.A has jurisdiction over the Licensed Deck and Engineering Officers onboard any vessel manned by Liberty Maritime and their affiliates. Liberty has violated the M.E.B.A. contract and chosen to man the Liberty Peace, a new ship to be operated under U.S. flag, with officers not affiliated with M.E.B.A.

We know that M.E.B.A. and Liberty have had a collective bargaining relationship dating back nearly 30 years. During these three decades, every vessel, regardless of the type of vessel, operated under the U.S. flag by Liberty has fallen under the exclusive jurisdiction of the M.E.B.A. This includes in 2014 when Liberty operated 3 PCTC vessels (Liberty Pride, Promise and Prestige New York) with only 1 of the 3 vessels operating with an MSP contract, while the other 2 vessels were operating Non-MSP. Additionally just earlier this year Liberty Global Logistics, LLC reflagged to U.S. registry the M/V Liberty Passion, the sister ship to the vessel M/V Liberty Peace and crewed the M/V Liberty Passion top to bottom with M.E.B.A. represented licensed personnel.

We are also more than aware that in 2011, Liberty removed 5 vessels to another labor union while the existing labor contract remained in effect between the M.E.B.A. and Liberty as confirmed by an arbitration decision issued on December 2, 2015. We find it more than coincidental that the supplemental award for damages stemming from that 2011 breach is expected from the arbitrator in the immediate future.

The MLA will stand behind and support the M.E.B.A. in any action we deem necessary and consider this shopping of labor unions while a legitimate and longstanding collective bargaining agreement is in effect an affront to all true labor unions.

The MLA demands that Liberty cease and desist immediately from violating the valid collective bargaining agreement in place with the M.E.B.A. and take the corrective actions necessary to right this injustice.