

# MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 2019



Dear seafarers!

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine takes care of you and your families not only when you are ashore, but when you are at sea. In order to keep you informed about our activities, we designed this monthly E-BULLETIN which guides you through all our achievements and events arranged by our Union.

We are open for any new ideas and suggestions.

Stay connected!

Yours sincerely,

Oleg Grygoriuk

MTWTU First Vice Chairman

## TARIFF ESCALATION: ROUNDTABLE TO DISCUSS HIGH PRICED MARITIME TRAINING



On February 7, 2019 the Maritime Union Center hosted the MTWTU-organized roundtable meeting to discuss one of the most pressing maritime issues of today.

Since January 1, 2019, the number of maritime centers providing seafarers' training and certification services has quintupled their prices. Therefore, the initial price of 800 UAH (as of December 2018) for the STCW Safety Familiarization, Basic Training for all Seafarers has shot up to about 4,200 UAH. Such tariff escalation has triggered a wave of resentment among the Ukrainian seafarers.

To clarify the situation the Union has gathered together the Inspectorate for Training and Certification of Seafarers, Ukrainian Maritime Administration,

maritime training centers, leading crewing agencies and seafarers to discuss the issue, to exchange disturbances, comments and suggestions.

The Inspectorate for Training and Certification of Seafarers and the Maritime Administration tried their best to answer all the seafarers' questions, however unfortunately the vast majority of them remained unanswered.

"Our mission is to voice the issue and jointly alter the situation concerning those issues, determined today both by seafarers and training centers' representatives. Additionally, we consider it crucial to establish a constructive dialogue with the Maritime Administration of Ukraine in order to set up a system to simplify seafarers' certification," said Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU First Vice Chairman.

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# CADETS LEARNT OF SEAFARERS' CRIMINALIZATION

On February 18, 2019 there was held a meeting with the cadets of the National University "Odessa Maritime Academy" and the Maritime College of Technical Fleet of the NU "OMA", initiated by the MTWTU and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

The event gathered together about 150 future seafarers and was dedicated to prevention of seafarers' involvement into crimes at sea. The cadets received recommendations on how to avoid and how to defend themselves in such a distress.

In addition, they have been given specially-developed Union's pre-employment checklists that hopefully would help them secure their

employment onboard a foreign vessel.

Vasyl Kyrylych, Head of Department of Consular Support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine also contributed to the meeting: he familiarized the cadets with the functions of the MFA's Consular Service Department and the area of its competence – how the Department can help protecting Ukrainian seafarers in distress.

At the meeting, the joint MTWTU&MFA Project was also presented. Launched in 2018, the Project is aimed at preventing seafarers' involvement in maritime crimes and securing their right to fair treatment during criminal proceedings, pre-trial detention and in penitentiary institutions.



# ANOTHER YEAR OF UNION'S MOVIE PREMIERES

For many years in a row the MTWTU invites seafarers and their families to attend premiere movie shows, and the number of such events increases annually.

During February 2019, about 1,000 guests were the first to watch The Lego Movie 2:

The Second Part and How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World.

Precious is the time spent with family, but our seafarers also appreciate the opportunity to meet up with colleagues, that they meet rather rarely due to their work specifics.





## FEAST OF SAVVY AND ERUDITION

For the second time, the MTWTU organized an intellectual and entertaining game for the families of seafarers, members of the Union, provided by City Quiz Project.

Eleven teams tested their knowledge and savvy: they answered questions, solved puzzles and guessed

melodies – all related to maritime and trade union topics.

At the end of the game, all the participants received certificates and gifts from the MTWTU. But as the seafarers said, the main gift was an opportunity to escape from the everyday hustle and bustle, change the scenery and meet new people and old friends



## STUDY WELL – RELAX WELL



The Trade Union Committee of the National University “Odessa Maritime Academy” supported by the MTWTU, organized a festive evening for the cadets. The event gathered about 500 cadets of NU “OMA”, its Danube Institute and Kherson State Maritime Academy.

The party kept the spirit of 90-00s and was timed to the most romantic holiday of the year – St. Valentine’s Day with the main theme – “Love is ...” chewing gum. There, a new game was introduced: at the entrance each cadet received a bracelet with a special sign on it – matching signs helped

facilitate communication and could lead to new romantic relationship.

Prior to the dances specially developed concert program took place: dance, singing and stand-up comedy performances of the talented cadets. And traditionally, the organizers have prepared interesting contests, where each participant received nice gifts from the Trade Union Committee and the MTWTU.

After the concert and contests a good old disco started, smoothly transiting to karaoke. Therefore, it is safe to say that our cadets not only study well, but know how to have fun with their Union!