

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

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023

## DEAR ALL!

Ruthless events have befallen our country, shattering the fate of its citizens. The unjustified war started by Russia inflicted a significant blow on all aspects of the nation's life, forcing many of our citizens to flee in search of a safe place and adapt to new realities.

Ukrainian seafarers also suffered significant damage, losing their jobs - due to the introduced martial law, they lost the opportunity to leave Ukraine and start working on foreignflagged ships.

Despite the constant threat of rocket attacks, power outages, and other infrastructure failures, the MTWTU team continues to work for the benefit of the Union members. We fight for the well-being of their families by providing them with financial assistance, humanitarian aid and legal support on various issues and organizing social events. Regularly, the leadership of the MTWTU takes part in conferences drawing attention to the need for providing seafarers with the right to leave the country during martial law and informing about the problems faced by our Trade Union members during these tough times.

We express huge gratitude to all those who support our organization and the people of Ukraine in word and deed. We will be glad to hear any feedback on our activities and are grateful for any help you are kindly willing to provide.

*Your sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk  
Chairman MTWTU  
Vice President IFSMA,  
Goodwill Maritime Ambassador*



# YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

## MEETING FRESHMEN

On September 15, the Black Sea Maritime Vocational College of Odesa National Maritime University held a solemn initiation into students. This year, MTWTU congratulated more than 300 freshmen.

On September 18 and October 9, the MTWTU met with future seafarers - freshmen of Odesa National Maritime University. We told them about our work with young people, the importance of maritime education, and professional development in this field. And most importantly, we shared the benefits of membership in the Union. It is important for us to be close to young people who choose the maritime profession.

On September 20, the MTWTU office hosted a meeting with representatives of maritime educational institutions. We summarized the first results of the university admission campaign, indicated the number

of freshmen who have already joined the Union, and shared experiences and ideas on how to more actively involve young people in the trade union movement.

On September 22, the MTWTU congratulated the first-year students of the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy" during the ceremonial initiation into cadets. This day has always been a tradition and a great holiday in the lives of all those who have chosen the maritime profession.

Since mid-October, the MTWTU has resumed weekly meetings with the first-year cadets of the NU "OMA". Every Wednesday, a new group of cadets receives information about their rights and opportunities that are opened through membership in the Union, learns interesting facts about the trade union movement in general, and learns about ITF, ETF, IMO, and ILO.





Also, in October, for several weeks in a row, a group of KSMA cadets visited the Maritime Union Center daily, where the MTWTU organized theoretical and practical training on a virtual reality simulator



especially for them. Thus, each of the cadets underwent a series of training on the study and practice of using life-saving equipment, as well as on performing some operations on tankers.



## CONTINUING SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, together with the ITF Seafarers' Trust, has launched a new project that provides ten sponsored places at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy for cadets who entered KSMA in the current academic year. The project covers the cost of the first year of study at both universities, as

well as accommodation at the Academy's campus in Klaipeda. On September 4, an online presentation of the project took place. Cadets who meet the criteria of the sponsors, including the average competitive score at admission, level of English knowledge, as well as additional skills and talents, were selected to participate.



## SHARING IDEAS

The exchange of experience between trade unions is an important tool for cooperation with a view to protecting the rights and interests of workers in various industries and helps to strengthen the trade union movement. To support young people and improve the efficiency of youth councils, the Youth Councils of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Trade Union of Railwaymen and Transport Construction Workers of Ukraine jointly shared their practices.



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## NEW COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT FOR UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS ON SHIPS UNDER DIS

Danish Shipping and the Ukrainian trade union Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine have put pen to paper on two collective agreements covering separately Ukrainian officers and ratings on DIS-ships. It is the result of several months of thorough negotiations between the parties.

Thus, the good conditions for more Ukrainian seafarers are now set within the solid framework of a collective agreement.





## "TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO LEARN INDEPENDENTLY"

Under this slogan, a regional conference took place in Chisinau on September 4-5 at the Institute of Labor. The event was organized by the National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Representatives of the MTWTU shared their experience in training trade union personnel in the maritime industry. They presented how the training process was organized at the MTWTU before the war and in the current circumstances.



## JOINT SUPPORT FROM RELIABLE PARTNERS

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, with the assistance of the Union Solidarity Fund established by ITF and ETF, where the Oleg Grygoriuk is a Chairman of the Union Solidarity Fund's Advisory Board, is making every effort to support the Union members and help them prepare for the winter. Thus, in September, the MTWTU

gathered its activists - port workers, maritime transport workers, cadets and employees of maritime educational institutions. In response to their requests, the MTWTU handed over heaters, flashlights, portable chargers, solar panels, first aid kits, reflective vests, sleeping bags and other necessary charitable assistance to the local trade union organizations.



# SEAFARERS' WELFARE

## HIV/AIDS MATTERS

For many years, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, together with the International Labour Organization, has been carrying out preventive informational activities for seafarers, shore-based organizations and cadets of maritime educational institutions united by the MTWTU. This

time, the MTWTU's Coordinating Centre of Seafarers' Assistance (CCSA) held meetings with students and teachers of the Odesa Vocational School of Maritime Transport. About 300 people received advice on the prevention of infectious diseases, among which are HIV and AIDS. Everyone could take anonymous HIV testing.



### FOR MORE DETAILS

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