

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

JULY-NOVEMBER 2022

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 foreign-flagged 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



SEAFARERS' WELFARE

HELP FROM SOLIDARITY FUND

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) have initiated a joint project - UNION SOLIDARITY FUND. The project is aimed at the financial support of Ukrainian trade unions. The MTWTU members used the allocated funds to purchase 17 tons of essential goods for seafarers' families. Three types of sets with a total of 4.5 thousand boxes were formed, which included food, hygiene products, and stationery for seafarers' children. Thus, 1500 seafarers' families throughout Ukraine received humanitarian aid sets.



SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

The MTWTU together with the International Labour Organization organized a series of seminars. The project included 6 trainings, which were attended by about 180 participants: MTWTU seafarers, workers of shore-based organizations, and students of maritime schools. The participants found out about the current HIV and AIDS situation in the world and Ukraine, the risks of HIV infection, and personal preventive measures. A lively discussion was caused by the issues of discrimination in the context of HIV and AIDS, and its impact on people, including at the workplace.

In addition, the lecturers informed us about the options for free-of-charge HIV testing. All comers had an opportunity to get tested and consult a specialist.



VACCINATION IN PROGRESS

Following the numerous requests from the families of the Union members, MTWTU organized a vaccination with a booster dose against COVID-19 at the Maritime Union Center. Let us remind that last year, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine provided organizational assistance in getting vaccinations to the Trade Union members and their families. Thus, about 250 seafarers were vaccinated as part of the campaign with the support of MTWTU. Voluntary vaccination against coronavirus took place in Odesa and Izmail.



SEAFARERS' EDUCATION

3F & MTWTU PROJECT

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Danish trade union 3F are implementing a joint large-scale project. More than 20 trainings and seminars were held, attended by about 600 members of the MTWTU - seafarers, port workers, and cadets of maritime educational institutions. The events were

held in Odesa and Izmail. The program was aimed at raising the level of awareness among project participants during martial law in our country. Seminars were arranged both online and offline. Top high-skilled speakers delivered information on various topics: medicine, psychology, mental health, leadership, etc.



YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING FUTURE SEAFARERS FROM KSMA AND NU "OMA"

On September 1, MTWTU, ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST, KSMA, and the Lithuanian Maritime Academy signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. Project participants are cadets who successfully completed the third year at KSMA and were promoted to the fourth year to obtain the Bachelor's degree.

The cadets will be enrolled in the Lithuanian Maritime Academy in Klaipeda; with the main goal to ensure that they receive both theoretical and practical knowledge in a safe and fulfilling manner. The project provides for training in parallel in both educational institutions.



One more initiative to help Ukrainian cadets was announced for the students of the National University «Odesa Maritime Academy». As part of this joint project, the Trust will pay the cost of training for 32 NU «OMA cadets», MTWTU members, without the financial means to do it alone. The project includes debt repayment for the 2021-2022 academic year, as well as payment for the coming year. Orphans, children of conscripted seafarers, and children from low-income families are among the beneficiaries of the project.

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