

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

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

LONG-AWAITED GRADUATION

The awarding of diplomas to the graduates of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Maritime Law and Management of the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy" took place on 4th January at the Maritime Union Center. The event was supported by the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine.

The Director of the Educational and Scientific Institute, Natalia Savinova, highlighted the importance of the support the MTWTU provides to students, especially during wartime.

Congratulations to the graduates once again! We wish them strength and inspiration in their future professional endeavors!



MTWTU EMPOWERS MEMBERS THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition, this year MTWTU has continued to support its members in their professional and personal development. We organize informational seminars, meetings with thought leaders, and consultations with leading specialists. We also facilitate our members' participation in educational projects.

Each week, we invite cadets of the Odesa Maritime Academy to informational meetings where we collaborate in jointly studying and discussing issues relevant to their future careers.



FROM KHERSON TO LITHUANIA: CADETS EARN DIPLOMAS AND EPAULETS

The middle of February at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy was filled with events that inspired the young generation to reach new heights.

First-year cadets of the Kherson State Maritime Academy (KSMA), studying at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy (LMA) with the support of the MTWTU and the ITF Seafarers' Trust, received their first cadet epaulets. These young people now face exciting opportunities for professional growth, where each step brings discoveries and challenges.

Additionally, Ukrainian cadets who were concurrently enrolled at both KSMA and LMA finally received two educational diplomas: Ukrainian and Lithuanian.

As a reminder, the MTWTU and the ITF Seafarers' Trust are already implementing the second project. This initiative provides 10 sponsored places at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy for Ukrainian cadets enrolled in the Kherson State Maritime Academy this academic year.



SEAFARERS' WELFARE

SEAFARERS SUPPORTED IN CHALLENGING TIMES

The Welfare Fund “MORTRANS”, in collaboration with the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Seafarers' Charity, organized a charitable event to support seafarers and their families. The food packages were distributed to help them during this difficult period.

Even during the war, we didn't cease our efforts. Instead, we expanded them to assist all those in need. Moreover, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine handed over reflective vests to the employees of the Izmail Port. At night, work in the port becomes particularly difficult, so it is important that workers can feel safe.



HELPING CREWS ONBOARD

CREW IN TROUBLE: TRADE UNION HELPS THE CREW OF VYSSOS

In December 2023, the dry cargo ship VYSSOS (IMO 9385790, Panama) struck a mine at the Bystre mouth, causing substantial hull damage while en route to Izmail. The engine room flooded, leading to a power outage, and one crew member required medical attention. The Ukrainian Navy deployed rescue boats, towing the vessel to Izmail for repairs. The ship's captain complained to Nataliya Yefrimenko, ITF Inspector in Ukraine, and the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, about delayed wages and inadequate living conditions. MTWTU confirmed the crew's grievances.

With support from MTWTU and the Welfare Fund “MORTTRANS”, essential facilities were delivered to the crew, including first-aid kits, dry showers, and disposable heating pads. This assistance helped the crew while efforts to resolve outstanding issues continued. The ITF Inspector successfully contacted the P&I Club on behalf of the crew, leading to the prompt repatriation and payment of wages for eight crew members.

However, complications arose for the remaining nine Egyptian crew members, as their repatriation was hindered by visa and entry permit restrictions. Efforts from the Embassy of Ukraine to Egypt, the ship’s agent, and the local P&I Club correspondent in Odesa facilitated their repatriation.

Through collaborative efforts, including the ITF Inspector, MTWTU, the P&I Club, the Embassy, and the ship’s agent, all crew members received their wages and war zone bonus, were signed off, and safely repatriated. This case demonstrates the power of solidarity in the maritime community, highlighting the importance of cooperative efforts in safeguarding seafarers’ rights and welfare.



SEAFARERS' EDUCATION

MTWTU & 3F UNION COLLABORATE ON MARITIME AWARENESS

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Danish 3F Union have implemented several joint projects to raise awareness during martial law and improve the level of information.

At the first event, participants were informed about the state of social dialogue in Ukraine and the role of trade unions at various levels. An analysis of the consequences of military aggression on the economy was presented, along with information about the Ukrainian Act “On Collective Agreements and Contracts”.

Participants also learned about the prospects for changes in the field of labor protection and the procedure for investigating accidents, occupational diseases, and accidents at work.

The second event of the project was a training session on the topic “Motivation System in the Managerial Activities of a Trade Union Leader”. Participants learned how to create an attractive environment for union members using methods of interaction and encouragement, as well as how to effectively communicate with different generations.

The final seminar aimed to discuss modern approaches to motivating workers in modern maritime transport, key aspects of creating a positive social and psychological climate, the role of union membership in supporting and developing professional interests, and effective interactions between local leaders and trade union committees to create a successful union environment.

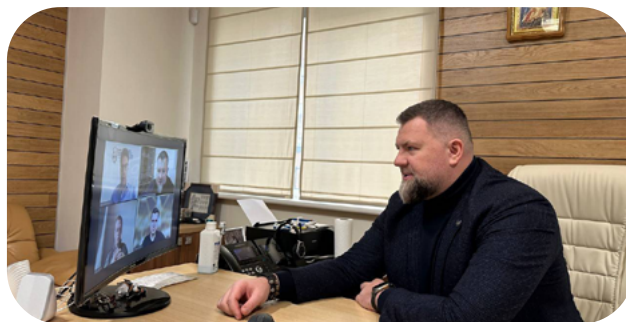


EXPLORING NEW EDUCATION & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

On the 6th of February, Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, held an online meeting with Harris Daskalakis, CEO of Athens Business College (BCA College).

BCA College is a leading maritime educational institution in Greece that specializes in modern education in ship management, maritime cybersecurity, and other shore-based specialties. Their training programs allow seafarers to obtain an education remotely, even while they are on board a ship.

Cooperation with BCA College can open up opportunities for MTWTU members to receive a modern education and find shore-based employment after completing their active seafaring career.



SEAFARERS EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES WITH DANUBE SHIPPING COMPANY

At the Maritime Union Center, a meeting was held with seafarers, during which the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company was presented. The UDSC is one of the Danube's largest companies, with sea and river fleets. Seafarers were able to receive detailed information about vacancies, working conditions, and career growth opportunities. The meeting thus became an important platform for communication and information exchange between the company and maritime professionals.



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