

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



MAY 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

## FOCUS ON SEAFARERS' WELFARE



Seafarers' welfare is one of the primary tasks of the MTWTU, where the collective agreement is an important tool to perform this task. That is why the MTWTU is constantly expanding the range of social programs available to the Union members during the period between voyages.

On May 14-15, in Odessa, there was held a training organized by the MTWTU in the framework of cooperation with the International Labor Organization. The training was devoted to the welfare of seafarers: according to statistics, on average, a person spends at work from 6 to 10 years in a lifetime, let alone seafarers, actually living at work during the voyage.

The training, which was attended by about 30 seafarers from Odessa and Odessa region, Nikolayev, Kherson and Kherson region, covered a whole range of issues relating to personal HIV prevention, HIV stigma and discrimination, gender stereotypes and violence and stress at the workplace. The participants learnt how to identify forms of violence at the workplace and received recommendations on how to respond if

the violence is directed at them. They also learnt about effective strategies for preventing stress and learnt how to independently assess their psychological state.

"We are grateful to the Trade Union for their continuous work in this direction. Despite the huge layer of issues that the Union is obliged to deal with according to its mandate, it also addresses the other issues like HIV prevention, prevention of violence at work and occupational stress and gender equality," said Larisa Savchuk.

Ukraine has been a member of the ILO since 1954 and has ratified most of its fundamental conventions. Therefore, it is hoped that if the Convention on ending violence and harassment in the world of work is adopted at the upcoming conference, the Convention will become a priority for ratification by Ukraine. In this case, the ILO tripartite partners will possess all the necessary tools to ensure that working women and men are not subjected to various forms of discrimination at the workplace, for example on the basis of gender or HIV-positive status.

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## BEFORE AND AFTER PROMOTION

Regardless of how deep seafarer's theoretical knowledge is or how impressive his practical experience is, it happens that climbing the career ladder does not happen as fast as desirable. Indeed, in highly competitive international maritime labor market, knowledge is an imperative, but promotion involves much more than just knowledge alone.

What factors influence promotion and what are employer's expectations towards a young expert; how to build team relationships; how to finally get the coveted promotion and what to do with it – these were the issues highlighted in the author's course 'Before and after the promotion', written by the Yevgeny Bogachenko, Offshore Captain, head of the educational 'Key4Mate' project for seafarers. For the first time this course saw the light at a free training session for seafarers, members of the MTWTU, on May 31, 2019 at the Maritime Union Center.

"Ukrainian seafarers work in a highly competitive environment and, in fact, entered this

market rather late compared to other nationalities that comprise Top 5 of the maritime labor market. Therefore, the Union uses every opportunity to add another point to the advantages of Ukrainian seafarers. This training is a unique opportunity for young mariners to gain valuable practical experience, because despite the fairly high level of education provided by our maritime educational institutions, a lot has to be learned directly from our mistakes," said Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU First Vice Chairman.

Yevgeny Bogachenko has been running his educational 'Key4Mate' project for about 10 years, and his main goal is to share personal experience and give young professionals the opportunity to receive invaluable practical advice from an active seafarer. At the training for the Union members, Yevgeny together with seafarers discussed the importance of building relationships in a team, the ability to present themselves as experts, as well as the factors affecting promotion.



## UNION TOOK TO BOTANICAL GARDENS

How important it is sometimes to change the usual everyday life, to escape from the city rush to the beauty and greatness of nature. For this, the Union invited its members-seafarers and their families to the tour around the Botanical Gardens of Odesa I.I.Mechnikov National University.

The old territory of the Gardens is located at 87, French Boulevard. It is well known to many Odessa citizens, as it

has existed since 1867. However, not everyone has visited the Gardens, as access there is allowed to excursion groups exclusively.

During the tour, the seafarers' families have been told about the history of the place, about rare and amazing plants and ancient trees that are the true pride of the Botanical Gardens.





## FATHER, MOTHER AND I ARE SPORTING FAMILY!

The welfare of seafarers begins with a strong family that is why the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine from year to year organizes various family activities aimed at strengthening family relations.

On May 25, the MTWTU invited its members-seafarers with their families to the sport and entertainment event called 'Father, mother and I are sporting family'.

For families of seafarers, the Union has prepared many surprises, sports competitions to assess agility, accuracy and speed. Among the competitions were basketball and mini-football tournaments,

shooting contest, relay race, badminton, jenga, darts and much more.

The most striking part of the event was improvised battles between gladiators and sumo wrestlers, the sack race, rope pulling and other contests. The smallest competitors – seafarers' children – had a wonderful time in the company of superhero animators. And even the rain, which did pour at the end of the competition, has not spoiled the mood!

It was a real sports festival filled with bright and positive emotions.



## FEAST FOR THE CHILDREN

Traditionally, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine together with the Welfare Fund of Maritime Transport 'MORTRANS' congratulated the seafarers registered with the Union on the International Children's Day.

A real holiday was arranged for the seafarers' children and included the fantastic performance at the 'Beit Grand' Jewish Cultural Centre, soap bubble show, entertainment performed by animators and clowns, and soft toys as a gift.



## UNION TAKES TO THE MOVIES

Premiere film screenings for seafarers, registered with the MTWTU, and their families have been gathering the full hall of the 'Rodina' cinema for several years already.

Thus, thanks to the Union, seafarers and their families became one of the first viewers of such expected movie

premieres as 'Aladdin' – the animated musical fantasy film by Disney Studios, and the new part of the iconic sci-fi series 'Men in Black: International'.

For the members, the Union-organized cinema shows are among the most loved and awaited.

