

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKER'S TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E - BULLETIN



Dear All!

OCTOBER 2020

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine is always there to take care about its members – seafarers and their families. The Union extends its social coverage to seafarers, both when they are at sea and ashore. In order to keep you informed of our activities, we have developed this monthly E-BULLETIN, aimed to guide you through our most recent and significant achievements and activities, provided by our Union. Any suggestions and proposal are very welcome. Stay tuned for more information!

The MTWTU team works every day, striving to do its best for the Ukrainian seafarers and their families. Significant efforts are still focused on keeping them abreast of the most crucial industry developments concerning the Ukrainian seafarers and their employment onboard the foreign-flagged ships worldwide during COVID-19 crisis.

Furthermore, all Ukrainian seafarers-MTWTU members, are entitled to apply for financial assistance from the Union, if they are unable to get employment onboard the ship for more than 6 months from the end of last contract, as well as if they are facing employment delays due to COVID-19 quarantine measures and travel restrictions.

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



HIDDEN, VITAL AND STILL AT SEA



From vital raw materials to essential goods such as food, medicine and personal protective clothing, the global community is being kept afloat during an unprecedented, unforgiving pandemic by forgotten key workers - the brave seafarer.

These hidden but vital heroes have faced travel restrictions, quarantine requirements and a lack of flights, and some 400,000 seafarers are still stuck at sea, some for over 17 months now without a break. To highlight their plight, in August the ITF Seafarers' Trust invited the world's seafarers to share their stories by launching the "Still At Sea" photography competition. In a matter of weeks thousands of entries came flooding in from all over the globe telling stories of hardship, isolation, uncertainty, but also spoke of resilience, hope, family, love and solidarity.

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SUPPORTING MARITIME SCHOOLS

As part of the charity campaign, Oleg Grygoriuk, First Vice Chairman of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, and Antonina Shkamerda, Director of the Welfare Fund "MORTRANS", visited the National University "Odessa Maritime Academy" and the NU "OMA" Seafaring College of Technical Fleet, where they held a meeting with the cadets and handed over the necessary equipment: protective masks, antiseptics, non-contact thermometers and pulse oximeters.

Health is the greatest value in each person's life," said Antonina Shkamerda, addressing the cadets. "Take care of yourself and your loved ones, do not neglect the conduct and hygiene rules in public places, be attentive to yourself and people around. Our Fund, in turn, will continue to support everyone who needs it." At the meeting with the Seafaring College cadets, Oleg Grygoriuk spoke about the Union's support to Ukrainian seafarers and their families during the pandemic.



EQUIPMENT FOR MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

Representatives of the Welfare Fund of Maritime Transport "MORTRANS" visited the City Clinical Hospital of Infectious Diseases and Military Medical Clinical Center to hand over oxygen concentrators. These devices concentrate the oxygen from ambient air and are mainly used to prevent and cure respiratory diseases, as they help normalize the respiratory process and stabilize the heart. Taking into account that the number of COVID-infected people is growing every day, medical institutions are in urgent need for such equipment.

The WF «MORTRANS» hopes for the situation to get better and continues helping all its beneficiaries in distress or danger due to the spread of coronavirus infection.



TODAY'S YOUNG SEAFARERS ARE TOMORROW'S LEADERS

The MTWTU organized a workshop for young seafarers moderated by Dr. Binay Kumar Singh, who is a Founder & CEO of Singh Marine Management Ltd, BS Global Seafarer Recruitment Ltd and Selfless Fund and also Lloyd's Maritime Academy Crewing Recruitment Training Director.

Furthermore, Dr. Singh is an author of many books, a motivational speaker and a social worker.

During the workshop, he shared practical advice and spoke about the qualities one should possess to build a successful maritime career.

"I am pleased that the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine gave me an opportunity to conduct a session with the young seafarers who are tomorrow's leaders. And I am elated to see that these young seafarers are equipped and trained to give their best to the Maritime industry. The quality of their service will help emerge a new era in the maritime industry", Dr. Singh noted.



FOCUSING ON MENTAL WELLBEING

Seafarers' mental health has been a crucial topic for many years before COVID-19 pandemic, however, now, when over 400,000 seafarers are stranded onboard, while the same quantity are unable to join their vessels, it is the top priority. This month the MTWTU held two seminars with professional psychologists concerning conflicts and strategies of their resolution, and about the difficulties seafarers' families face.

In the situation that now exists in the world, and in today's realities that seafarers face at home, in Ukraine, the topic of conflict resolution is quite relevant. During the training, the participants asked questions, shared life stories and told how they came out of conflict situations. In fact, conflict resolution methods cannot be divided into 'bad' or 'good'. What is applicable for one situation may not fit in another. And the best thing that everyone can do for themselves is to take care of their health, first of all, mental.

