

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

MAY 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*



INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION

SCOCEEN COMMITTEE. NEW ARRANGEMENTS

On 31 May, the SCOCEEN Committee, which brings together Norwegian trade unions and Unions of labour-supplying countries of Eastern and Central Europe, took place in Oslo, Norway.

The countries reported negotiations with the Norwegian Shipowners' Association (NSA) for the coming period and the participants also considered the prospects for the Norwegian shipping market and the maritime industry as a whole.

One of the key items on the agenda was the decision on a more democratic and transparent election of the Chair of Committee: from the next year representatives of each country will chair the Committee in alphabetical order.

MTWTU has represented the interests of Ukrainian seafarers, working on the ships of Norwegian shipowners, which are NSA members, in the Committee since 2002. And today, despite the current situation in our country, Ukrainian seafarers continue to hold leading positions among Central and Eastern European countries on the ships of Norwegian companies.



UKRAINIAN PARTNERS. SETTING NEW GOALS

On 10 May, the MTWTU office hosted a meeting of the leadership of the Federation of Transport Workers' Trade Unions of Ukraine (FTWTU). Back in February 2022, Oleksii Semerun', Chairman of the Trade Union of Railway Workers and Transport Constructors of Ukraine, became the Chairman of the Federation, and Oleg Grygoriuk, Chairman of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, became his Vice.

The parties exchanged the experience of both unions, discussed their vision of the Federation's development, which should rely on the expertise and support of the International and European Transport Workers' Federations.



YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

REGULAR MEETINGS WITH FUTURE SEAFARERS

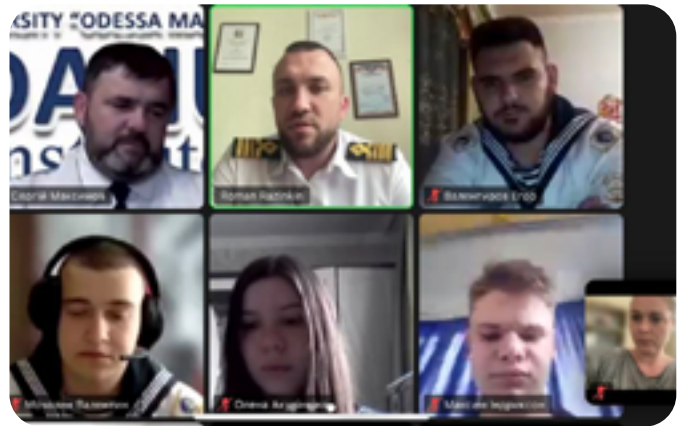
The MTWTU held an online meeting with the representatives of the administration of the Kherson State Maritime Academy. The meeting focused on the project with the Lithuanian Maritime Academy and the achievements of 50 young cadets in their first academic year there. In addition, the issue of continuing the initiative for junior students was raised. The participants assessed the prospects for the restoration and development of the maritime education system in Ukraine after the Victory.

Later, the MTWTU Chairman, IMO Maritime Ambassador Oleg Grygoriuk met with cadets of the Kherson State Maritime Academy in Odesa. The future seafarers learned about maritime workers' rights, which are protected by the MTWTU, and received useful information aimed at helping them in their future careers.

One more online meeting was organized with the cadets of the Danube maritime educational institutions. More than 100 participants joined the session. From May 15 to 19, the maritime schools are holding a week of professional growth, so we are confident that the advice from the Trade Union will benefit future seafarers.



Also, in May, there were several meetings with the NU "OMA" cadets from different faculties. During such events, the MTWTU representatives shared about Trade Union work aimed at defending MTWTU members' labour interests and providing for their welfare. Such activities allow future seafarers to become aware of their rights, which opens more opportunities for them to build successful careers and protect themselves from trouble.



SEAFARERS' WELFARE

SUPPORTING TRADE UNION MEMBERS

In the framework of the campaign organized jointly by MTWTU and the WF "MORTTRANS", employees of the Mykolaiv branch of the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority and SE "Mykolaiv Commercial Sea Port" received food packages. Such assistance is extremely important in these challenging times for maintaining a decent standard of living for our members of local trade union organizations and their families.

Also, during a similar campaign in Odesa, more than 200 food sets have been distributed, and dozens of sets were sent to different regions of the country from where we received calls for support.



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