

Eastern Branch NEWSLETTER*



We Hear You Loud and Clear

You live and work in the Eastern Branch and want to know more about what is happening in this Region of the CMSG. We couldn't agree more.

Welcome to the **Eastern Branch NEWSLETTER**, your connection to Events, District Updates and Issues affecting the Marine Industry. It's a great way to stay current and share success stories and other happenings across the miles.

Eastern Branch NEWSLETTER will be published periodically in both official languages and distributed by mail to members of the CMSG Eastern Branch. It will also be available electronically for officers who prefer to receive it as email.

We hope you will find it a useful tool and one that you look forward to receiving.

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Staffing Updates

Welcome Ms. Vivian Arenillas, Labour Relations Officer, St. John's Office

From a motion passed at the Eastern Branch Board Meeting, (March 2006)the Guild conducted a hiring process to find a suitable candidate for the Labour Relations Officer position for the St. John's office. We are pleased to report that Ms. Vivian Arenillas has been selected and commenced employment with the Guild in St. John's on May 29th. Ms. Arenillas has a professional background in law and has most recently worked as a Labour Relations Officer for another organization. We expect that her transition to the Guild will go smoothly.

Please note: As of June 12, 2006 The Guild's St. John's office has moved to the 8th floor of the same building we currently occupy.

Quebec LRO on Sick Leave

The Labour Relations Officer in Quebec, Mr. Richard Michaud, has recently been hospitalized, on an emergency basis. We are pleased to report that he is now out of the hospital and convalescing. At this time, we are unsure of the date of Mr. Michaud's return to work and are working on finding an interim replacement for the Quebec office.

The Eastern Branch staff and Committee members will participate extensively in the upcoming Government Ships Officers negotiations. The Guild's National Secretary Treasurer had dates scheduled for June which were cancelled by Treasury Board. We now expect to begin in late August.

* CONTEST *

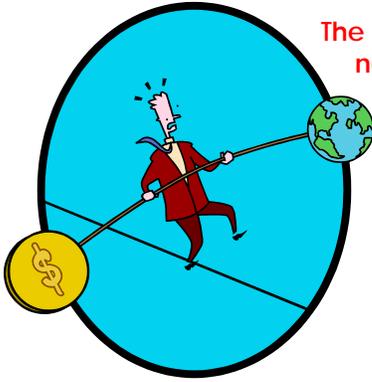
DO YOU KNOW A GREAT NAME FOR THIS NEWSLETTER?

Send your ideas to Bruce Carter at
cmsgnf@nf.aibn.com or mail.

IF WE AGREE YOU WILL WIN \$150.00

Entries must be received by August 30, 2006.

Negotiations and Grievances



The following sets of negotiations are currently being addressed by the Eastern Branch staff and negotiating Committees:

- ⇒ Great Lakes Towing, Fettes - contract has been ratified by the membership and signed with the Company.
- ⇒ Algoma Tankers - conciliation took place, an offer was ratified by the members and that contract has now been signed.
- ⇒ CSL (VShips) - 6 days of bargaining took place in April, in Toronto and 3 more days, in Montreal, in May. A tentative agreement was reached and the package is now out to the members for ratification.
- ⇒ Algoma Central Marine - proposals have been exchanged and dates for negotiations are currently being set.
- ⇒ Eastern Canada Towing - Company final offer was received at conciliation and a strike mandate was given by the members. The Guild negotiating Committee met with the Company and FMCS mediators and an agreement was reached and subsequently ratified by the members - the contract has now been signed.
- ⇒ Northumberland Ferries - negotiations were held, and the Guild applied for conciliation - that meeting was held in Charlottetown, in early June. A contract has now been ratified.
- ⇒ Marine Atlantic - conciliation meetings were held on May 24th and 25th, in Halifax. There was no agreement reached so the Guild conducted a strike vote and received an overwhelming strike mandate. However, because there was no agreement on essential services, the Minister referred the matter to the CIRB. The Guild is opposed in principle to the CIRB mandating that we be declared essential and therefore give up our right to strike. We are not opposed to the arbitration process, but feel it is better served by review on a case by case basis, while retaining our members' fundamental right. Following that referral, the Guild and the Company agreed to meet for more direct bargaining and the Guild is currently reviewing the results of that bargaining.
- ⇒ Nfld. Provincial Ferry Captains - the negotiating Committee is currently reviewing our proposals. Once finalized, we will be contacting the employer for dates to exchange proposals and begin negotiations.

- ⇒ Quebec Cartier Tug Masters - last direct bargaining session took place on March 16th & 17th. Conciliation was scheduled for May but was postponed when Mr. Michaud went on sick leave. the Guild is currently working on rescheduling those talks.
- ⇒ Launch Masters (LPA) - proposal exchange scheduled for April 28th, and the first bargaining session was scheduled for May 15th and 16th. That session did not take place however.
- ⇒ APA Pilots - this matter is being referred to binding arbitration

The following grievances are at various stages in the process and are being worked on by Guild staff:

- ⇒ In Nfld - grievances for Government Ship's Officers on medicals, jury duty, stand by pay, isolated posts, overtime, pay rates, are all in the local area. One concerning pro-rated lay days is scheduled for expedited adjudication in April or May. There are a number of grievances at various stages on behalf of the APA Pilots, mostly concerning recalls and leave.
- ⇒ In NS - a grievance concerning injury on duty leave is at the second level in the process. A grievance concerning the application of sick leave at Eastern Canada Towing is ongoing.
- ⇒ In Quebec - there is one outstanding grievance for the Pilots in District one concerning the AIS system.
- ⇒ In Ontario - there are grievances on seniority and promotion at V-ships, and two grievances for District 2&3 Pilots, one concerning OHIP levies and another concerning the length of season.

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR GUILD MEMBERS

The Guild is still talking to Officers at two recent Companies that have started on the Lakes. We are gathering information on the interests of the Officers there, should they wish to be represented. We have had written Guild information distributed to the Officers, and are awaiting feedback from them.

The merger between the bargaining units at ULS was agreed by the members, but the Company balked at the prospect of the Mates and Engineers negotiating together. Guild lawyers are currently pursuing the matter and it will probably end up before the Industrial Relations Board. As indicated in our winter meetings, we expect the matter to be resolved before the Guild negotiates their next agreement.