



Canadian Merchant Service Guild

Eastern Branch NEWSLETTER



Algoma Engineers Ask The Guild To Become Their Official Representatives

Last year around this time the Guild put an application before the CIRB to represent the Engineers at Algoma. This application came as a result of requests from the Engineers. Unfortunately, the Board did not grant a vote. The engineers have come back to the Guild in even greater numbers asking us to put another application before the federal Industrial Relations Board.

The Guild has filed another application and this time we feel the Board will grant the vote we expected last year. We believe the Algoma Engineers will elect the Guild as their official representatives.

Trial Leave System For Upper Lakes Engineers Implemented

An Arbitrators award in 2008 provided for the implementation of a trial leave system 6 weeks on – 6 weeks off for Engineers and Electricians on two vessels in the Upper Lakes fleet. This trial was delayed last year by the general economic climate but it was felt that we could not delay the implementation any further. We view this trial as a breakthrough for Engineers in a traditional Lakes fleet and the system comes about because of the members' continued requests to try to get an equal time on/off system on large Lakes vessels. We are hopeful that the trial will work well and become a work system option for Engineer Officers at Upper Lakes.

First Collective Agreement Out For Ratification For Captains And Chief Engineers At Cancrew

The first Collective Agreement for the Captains and Chief Engineers on the Cancrew (Knutsen) tankers working the oilfields off the East Coast is now out for ratification. The first Agreement for any group is important because it sets the stage for things to come and starts the group off on the "right foot" for their terms and conditions of employment as captured in a proper contract. We expect to count that ballot close to the end of April and we look forward to the results.

Bulletin For GSO Members

A number of Members have contacted their Regional Guild office to notify us that Coast Guard Headquarters recently informed Management at the Regional Level that the payment of the \$5000.00 annual allowance for eligible Officers assigned to Appendix-H Vessels (the Lay-day System) would be delayed until at least July 2010. You will recall that this allowance was awarded by an arbitrator in June of 2008 to be paid April 1st each year for 5 years for Officers who are eligible. The Guild's position is that the Employer had sufficient advance notice to take steps to prevent any unnecessary delays. As soon as the Guild became aware of the directive that had been issued by the Employer, the Guild submitted a Policy Grievance directly to the Assistant Deputy-Minister of Treasury Board. The Guild is no stranger to using this type of formal recourse procedure and will take all steps to prevent delays in the payment of this annual allowance. The Guild has also been notified of delays in the payment of the monthly Armed Boarding Allowance for eligible Coast Guard Officers on Offshore Patrol Vessels. A grievance has been initiated on that matter as well. The Guild will continue to pursue these matters through grievances as well with interventions at the Employer's most senior management levels to expedite the payments for these allowances.

New Guild Eastern Branch Executive Board

The recent Eastern Branch Executive Board meetings held in Niagara Falls, Ontario culminated with the counting of ballots in the Board Elections. The new Eastern Branch Board members are:

Capt. Alex MacIntyre – President	Allan Keeping - Mates Representative, Maritimes
Capt. Roger Gregoire – Past President, Trustee	Ed Roper - Mates Representative, Newfoundland
Bruce Carter - Secretary Treasurer	Ted Perrin - Mates Representative, Newfoundland
Arthur Coughtry - VP Ontario	Ed Day - Engineers Representative
Duncan Moffat - VP Maritimes	Tom Marsh - Engineers Representative
William Derragh - VP Newfoundland	Richard Jones - Engineers Representative
Quebec VP position - to be filled according to the Guild By-Laws	Don Macphee - Engineers Representative
Capt. Martial Racine - Masters Representative	Derrick Powell - Engineers Representative
Capt. Richard Whyte - Pilots Representative	Greg Colbeck - GSO Representative Ontario
Capt. Pierre Gregoire - Pilots Representative	Michel Morin - GSO Representative, Quebec
Capt. Bernard Boissoneault – Pilots Representative	Dwayne Symes - GSO Representative, Maritimes
Robert Stavenow - Mates Representative, Ontario	Peter Corbett - GSO Representative, Newfoundland
Sarah Graham - Mates Representative, Ontario	Geoff Legge - GSO Representative Newfoundland
Wilbrod Parent - Mates Representative, Quebec	Herbert Reid - Branch Trustee
	Capt. Moe Boissoneault - Branch Trustee

The Guild wishes to thank all of the new Board members and past Board members for their service; and also those members who were candidates in the various elections. There remain some vacant positions that will be filled by the President, as per the By-Laws.

Meetings

District meetings were held throughout the Branch as indicated:

January 12 th - St. John's, NL	January 27 th – Montreal, QC
January 19 th – North Sydney, NS	February 9 th – St. Catharines, ON (Engineers)
January 20 th – Dartmouth, NS	February 10 th – St. Catharines, ON (District meeting)
January 26 th – Quebec City, QC	

The Eastern Branch Board meetings took place in Niagara Falls ON, from February 24th to 27th.

For the most part meetings were pretty well attended this year. District meetings are an opportunity for members to meet Guild staff and Executive Board members and voice their opinions, questions and comments. Meetings are often lively, with strong opinions expressed, and that is as it should be. We encourage members to attend their district meeting and become involved.



Recently Dalhousie University School of Public Administration invited the Guild as a guest panelist for their graduate studies program. LRO Tom Spindler was the keynote speaker on Employee/Union rights.

From left to right, Professor Florence Tarrant, LRO Tom Spindler, Federal Public Servant-In-Residence Jim Stewart and Don Gibson from Canada Revenue Agency.

Negotiations

The following is the status of negotiations being addressed by the Eastern Branch staff and negotiating committees:

Marine Atlantic – Mates Engineers and Electricians – have been in numerous sessions of direct bargaining. The last set of negotiations in March was held after the members turned down a tentative Agreement. The Guild canvassed members for information on improvements needed to the tentative settlement. When the Company was unable to provide improvements in those areas, we ended the sessions and have scheduled the Arbitration – it will be held in June.

Marine Atlantic Captains, Chief Engineers and Chief Electrical Officers – three negotiating sessions have been held and we are determining our next steps in the process.

Cancrew – Captains and Chief Engineers – the first Agreement for the Captains and Chief Engineers is out for ratification at the time of this newsletter. We expect to know the results of that ratification ballot by the end of April.

Cancrew – Umiak 1 – these negotiations have been on hold due to the 8 month strike by the USW at the mine in Voisey's Bay. The Guild is reviewing the situation there and we may look at commencing the negotiations soon.

Desgagnés Marine and Petro – both contracts are still in negotiations and we have received an offer from the Company. However, the situation is now complicated by an attempted raid of our members by the CMOU-USW.

Grievances

Each Guild office has various grievances being worked on by staff: There are many grievance issues at Marine Atlantic; a discipline grievance at CSL/V-ships; an outstanding matter at Algoma on ATO days; a grievance at Upper Lakes on pay for safety meetings; travel grievances at Cancrew; CCG grievances in the Central and Maritimes, and Newfoundland regions; and a grievance going to arbitration for the launchmasters in Les Escoumins.

We try to have discussions with the Employers to mitigate situations that might result in grievances; or if we are aware of the circumstances early enough, try to have the circumstances corrected or at least better understood.

The Guild tries very hard to discuss and ameliorate grievances however we use the processes provided in our collective Agreements, as required.

A New Season Is Upon Us

Some members on the Lakes are beginning yet another sailing season and most members of the Eastern Branch of the Guild are saying a happy good bye to another winter at sea. We have contracts opening this spring and summer that will set the tone for members on the Lakes for the next few years and many opportunities arising for the Branch and for Guild members. We look forward to those opportunities and for the challenge of making a difference on behalf of our members.

Staffing Changes In Our Quebec Office

The Guild is pleased to announce that Mr. Bernard Talbot has joined the Guild as a Labour Relations Officer working out of our Quebec office. Mr. Talbot is a deck Officer and has worked in Officer positions with a shipping company, in Quebec. In addition, Mr. Talbot has industrial relations experience in the marine industry and we believe this combination of experience will be a valuable asset to the members in Quebec. We welcome Bernard on board and wish him every success in his future with the Guild.

For the information of Guild members in Quebec, Mr. Michaud is no longer working as a Guild LRO. We wish him the best in his future endeavours.

Reminders For Guild Members

Guild members are reminded once again of the cards given to members containing emergency numbers to be used in the case of a marine incident. Please keep those cards available and use them if an incident occurs. All emergency calls are monitored, and should be made as soon as possible after the incident.

Please keep us informed if your work status changes so that your file can be kept up to date, especially regarding dues amounts. Sometimes complications over membership could be avoided with a phone call or an email letting us know your current work status.

We also remind Guild members to keep us informed of address changes and we also ask members to provide us with an email address, if possible, to help speed up your receipt of any information the Guild may need to get to you.

Stay Connected!



Members can connect with Branch publications on the "Eastern Branch Updates" section of the National Office website at www.CMSG-CMMC.ca

First Guild Bursary Awarded For Members Upgrading Marine Certificates



Two years ago the Eastern Branch Board decided that the Guild should offer a \$1000 bursary each year to a deserving Guild member working to upgrade their certification. We are pleased to announce that the first recipient of the Guild Eastern Branch bursary is Mr. Philippe Goudreault. Mr. Goudreault is an Engineer at Upper Lakes Shipping and is working on an upgrade of his current engineering certification. Congratulations Philippe. Photo (left to right): Mr. Bruce Carter (Guild), Mr. Philippe Goudreault and Mr. Bernard Talbot (Guild's new LRO, Quebec).

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