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## International organization of masters mates

MM&P Plans, located at 700 Maritime Boulevard, Suite A, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1996, provides employer-funded, trust-administered benefit funds for eligible members and applicants of the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots (IOMM&P). The organization offers various plans, including Health & Benefit Plan, Pension Plan, Individual Retirement Account Plan (IRAP), Vacation Plan, Adjustable Pension Plan, and MATES Program. Additionally, the Joint Employment Committee (JEC) provides benefits to eligible participants. The Plan Office is responsible for administering the plans, with a Board of Trustees comprising Union representatives and Employer representatives ensuring equal voting strength. Members seeking information on their benefits and rights under the plan should contact the Plan Office. The International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots (MM&P) represents various groups within the maritime industry, including commercial vessel crew members, state pilots, marine engineers, and shore-side workers. The union is a strong advocate for its members in Washington D.C., as well as a voice for the domestic maritime industry and America's Merchant Marine. MM&P has partnered with four other unions through the Maritime Labor Alliance. Membership in MM&P comes with numerous benefits, such as representation in contract negotiations, access to top-notch health benefits, and opportunities to attend training institutes. Members also receive political representation through MIRAID, access to financial services, and publications like The Master, Mate & Pilot and The Wheelhouse Weekly. Additionally, members can access the MM&P Federal Credit Union and the Union Plus program. The Offshore Membership Group is responsible for vessels operating in the coastal trade between continental U.S. ports, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories, as well as international routes. This group holds regular meetings, which are announced in The Wheelhouse Weekly. The Offshore Advisory Committee oversees the group's operations. The MM&P Associate Membership Group is open to individuals who are not represented by MM&P for collective bargaining purposes. Most associate members are students at U.S. maritime academies, but others may be approved by the General Executive Board. Members get The Master, Mate & Pilot magazine. Associate members can use all Union Plus benefits but don't get health or pension help and can't vote or be elected officials. Click here for more on Associate Membership. Cadets: fill out this form to join. Non-Cadets do the same. Need more info? Contact Patrice Wooten at 410-950-8700 ext. 1111 or membership@bridgedeck.org. Offshore jobs are bid through a hiring hall process. You register and bid on jobs with your national shipping card, which shows your skills level. Certain jobs need special training or licenses. Check with your Area Vice President for details. The oldest, highest-level card gets the job first. If no Class A/I member bids, others can try if they're qualified. To sail on U.S.-flag vessels, you must have a valid TWIC card from the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration. Apply online at their website. Remember to meet training needs for every job. Even members transferring to Offshore Group need STCW-95 training. An older card with outdated skills can be beaten by someone more qualified. Check your shipping rules (posted on www.bridgedeck.org) for exact call times in each port. Your national shipping card is good anywhere, but Port Relief Officer cards are only valid in that specific port. You can't register in multiple ports at once. MM&P's United Inland Group includes Pacific Maritime Region and Great Lakes & Gulf Maritime Region members. They work on tugboats, passenger ferries, and other vessels along the West Coast from Alaska to California. MM&P's licensed deck officers captain ferries in the Alaska Marine Highway System. The Great Lakes & Gulf Maritime Region, based in Cleveland, encompasses mariners with limited licenses and unlicensed personnel, as well as an office in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where members crew tugboats for McAllister Towing and Transportation Co. At MM&P's Maritime Institute training facility in Linthicum Heights, Md., you'll find Great Lakes & Gulf Maritime Region members doing shore-side duty. The United Inland Membership Group is represented by the UIG Vice President and Regional Representatives at five union halls. MM&P's Federal Employees Membership Group sails on vessels operated by Military Sealift Command, US Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA. The Chief of Naval Operations employs MM&P civil service pilots at naval bases worldwide. FEMG members are represented by the FEMG Vice President and the MM&P Government Fleet Representative. The MM&P Pilot Membership Group represents 98% of state-licensed pilots on international trade ships entering US ports. Pilots participate in the MM&P health plan, utilizing world-class training facilities at MITAGS. Members are licensed as pilots by a state authority and the US Coast Guard. All MM&P members vote to elect the International President and Secretary-Treasurer. Each Membership Group elects its own Vice Presidents, serving four-year terms. The elected officers form the Union's governing body, the General Executive Board, which meets at least four times a year. Members also elect delegates to represent them at union conventions every two years. Regular membership meetings are held monthly in at least one port on each coast and quarterly in all other ports. The MM&P Plan Office is located at Headquarters in Linthicum Heights, providing benefits such as medical coverage, prescription drugs, annual physicals, vision care, dental care, death insurance, and long-term disability. Retirement plans may include defined contribution, 401(k), and pension benefits, and/or Adjustable pension plan. For more information, please visit the MM&P Plans page. MIRAID: Your Voice in Washington, D.C. The survival and growth of the U.S.-flag merchant marine and the future economic well-being of our members depend on actions taken in Washington, D.C. Our advocacy organization, Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID), is based there and represents every MM&P member and U.S.-flag shipping company with collective bargaining agreements. MIRAID drafts legislation, testifies before Congressional committees and works to encourage Congress to support the U.S.-flagged, U.S.-crewed Merchant Marine. The MM&P Political Contribution Fund allows members to contribute voluntarily to support the election of legislators who champion a strong American Merchant Marine. Offshore Membership Point System Time spent working on MM&P Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) vessels determines your membership book status. To advance to the next level, we tabulate points and days at sea on MM&P Offshore-contracted vessels. For more information about the point system, contact your Area Vice President. Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS)/ Pacific Maritime Institute (PMI) Eligibility Under each specific CBA, companies make contributions to the MATES Program so you can attend classes at MITAGS/PMI. You're eligible if you've been covered for six months or more after your last day of covered eligibility. You can take up to four weeks of courses within this timeframe, as long as you start before health benefit eligibility expires. Transportation to and from MITAGS/PMI is also dependent on the CBA between the union and your company. Membership Dues To be in good standing, you must have paid current quarter dues, assessments, and any other indebtedness due to the organization. If you're at sea, you must pay all indebtedness within 72 hours of returning to a U.S. port (except on weekends, holidays), and he/she shall not be entitled to any benefits of the organization. A late fee of \$5 per day shall be levied for each day a member or applicant on any shipping list is in arrears in dues, assessments or any other indebtedness. This late fee shall be payable before the member or applicant can bid, ship or clear for an assignment and shall be payable regardless, whether the individual re-registers or not. Members or applicants who become more than 30 days in arrears in dues, assessments or other indebtedness to the union, shall have the option of: paying an unlimited late fee of \$5/day and having their Shipping Card advanced 30 days or re-registering for shipping as a new registrant and paying \$150 in late fees. An applicant or book member, upon completion of an assignment of employment, must register within 15 days on one of the Offshore shipping lists. A late fee of \$5 per day shall be levied for each day an applicant or book member is late registering after 15 days, up to a maximum of \$75. An applicant or book member who is in arrears for 12 months or more in dues, assessments, or other indebtedness shall automatically be suspended from MM&P. A check or money order for current quarter's dues, plus an amount equal to 10% of the current initiation fee, is payable at the time application to MM&P is made. If an applicant elects to pay 10% of the initiation fee in lieu of paying the initiation fee in full, authorization will be made by completing the appropriate form allowing the union to deduct 25% or more, if the applicant so chooses, from his/her vacation pay to pay off the remaining balance of the initiation fee. An applicant will not be considered for membership until the remaining initiation fee balance is paid in full. It is required that the entire initiation fee be paid within 360 days of working (shipping aboard MM&P contracted vessels and PRO work). At the time application is made, a copy of the organization's International Constitution, Work Rules, and Shipping Rules will be made available to the applicant. Upon completion of all forms, payment of quarterly dues, and payment of 10% of initiation fee, the applicant may register for shipping. Applicants and book members are eligible for employment as a PRO through the organization's hiring halls between periods of offshore seagoing employment. You must be registered on the Offshore list in order to register on the PRO List. Your PRO card is valid only for the port registered in. Employer-operated vessels outside this Health & Benefit Plan require approval from the trustees before contributing to the plan. Exceptions apply for employment obtained through the organization's offices or when benefit contributions are received directly or indirectly. Initial Eligibility To be eligible, you must have 30 days of shipboard employment on an MM&P contracted vessel. Coverage begins after completing 30 days of covered employment within six consecutive calendar months with one or more contributing employers. However, if you sign up for a vessel before becoming eligible and go to sea on a foreign voyage lasting over 30 days, eligibility starts the day you set sail. Once you meet initial eligibility requirements, coverage continues as long as you complete at least 30 days of covered employment during any six-month period with one or more contributing employers. You must also continue making your co-pay contributions. Covered Employment includes shipboard employment, vacation, and PRO time. PRO time can be used to extend health eligibility up to six months (40 hours = one month extension) once 30 days of shipboard employment have been established and the PRO time is earned during the Health Eligibility Period. Definitions: \* Covered Employment: Employment where an employer contributes to the benefit plans specified in the CBA. \* Collective Bargaining Agreement: An agreement between MM&P and a company, ratified by members, covering wages, benefits, and working conditions. \* General Executive Board: The GEB is composed of two international officers (President and Secretary-Treasurer) and Vice Presidents from various membership groups. It makes decisions affecting all membership groups. MM&P programs include: \* MATES: A trust fund for the Maritime Advancement Training Education and Safety program, operating MITAGS/PMI training facilities. \* MIRAID: The Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development, MM&P's lobbying group in Washington D.C. \* MITAGS: The Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies, an MM&P simulation and training facility in Linthicum Heights, MD. \* Offshore Advisory Committee: A committee governing the course of the Membership with GEB approval; MM&P PCF supports Senate & House reps favorable to maritime legislation benefiting members. Voluntary donations to MM&P PCF not tax-deductible. PMI: West Coast MITAGS branch in Seattle. PRO: Eases watch officer duties, 8 hours on shore, cargo ops, vessel care & security.