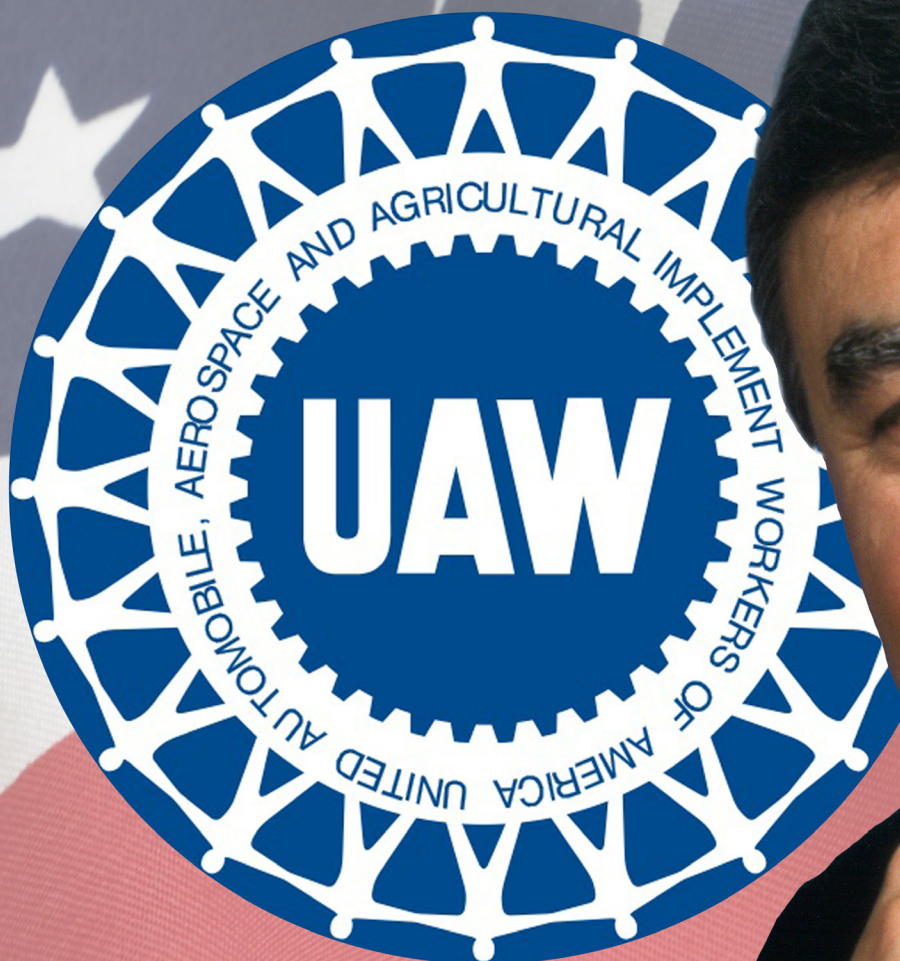


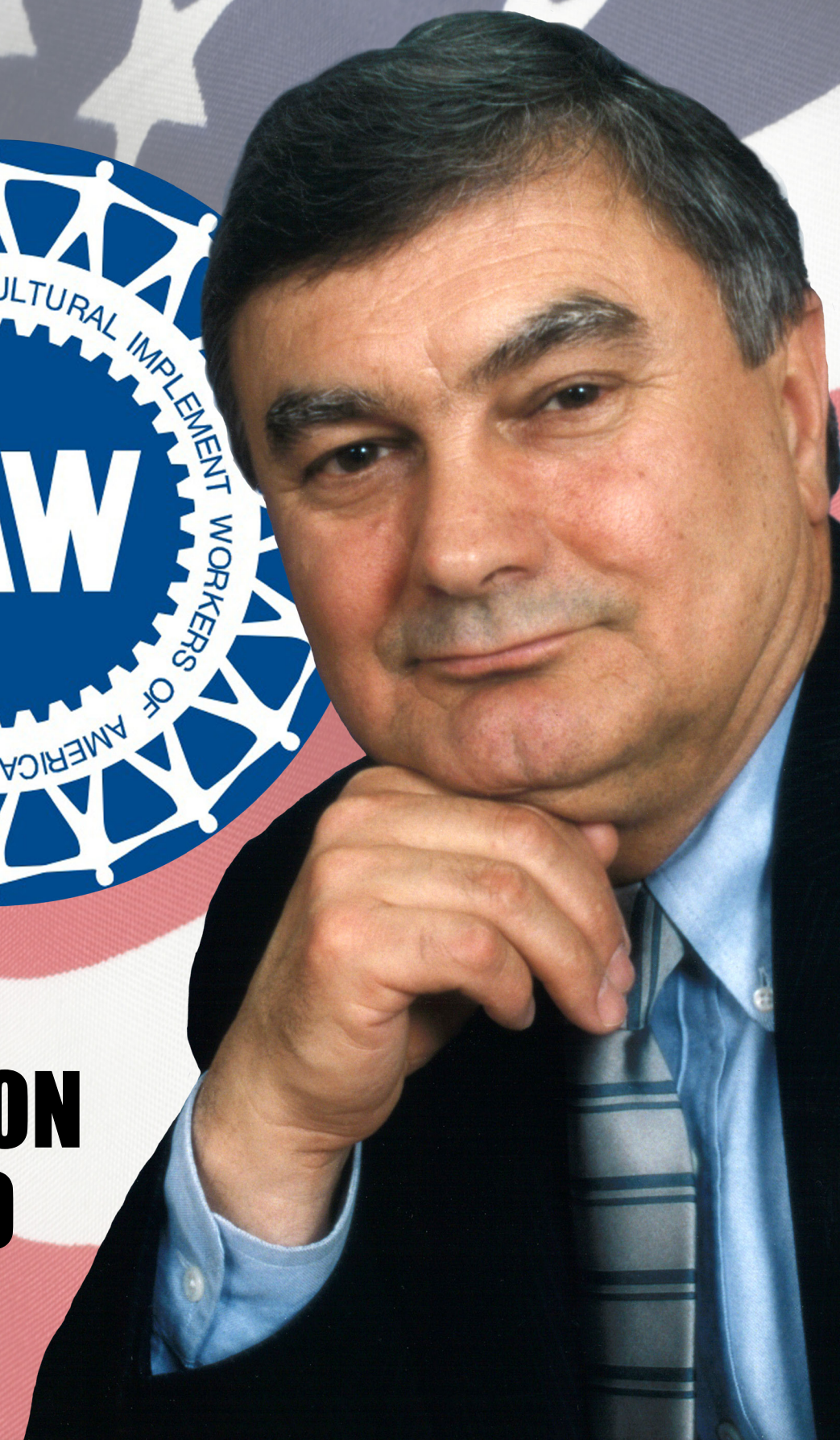


SOUNDINGS

September - December 2019



MEL OLSSON
1941-2019





FROM THE OFFICERS



**MDA-UAW
LOCAL 571**

**Soundings
Newsletter**

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submissions are the end
of the 2nd week of April,
August and December.

GET INVOLVED
If you would like to
volunteer or get involved
in any of our committees,
events or volunteer
efforts contact, the Union
Hall at 860-448-0552.



YOUR UNION OFFICERS

Left to Right: Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher, Treasurer Robert Faraci, Financial Secretary Bill May, President William E. Louis, 2nd Vice President David M. Reagan and 1st Vice President Kenneth Rowland



WEARING RED ON MONDAYS FOR SOLIDARITY

Union members across the country wear red shirts on various days of the week to show solidarity and to make their voices heard by management in a small way. The practice was started by the Communication Workers of America who wear red on Thursdays in order to honor Gerry Hogan, a member who was killed while on the picket line.

Red shirt Monday brings together all of the MDA members one day a week. It's a day when we can all unify to send a message that we stand together, in solidarity, to defend worker rights. "We wear our red shirts on Monday to honor those who have sacrificed so much so we can have our rights today" said President William E. Louis.

But the day also shows everyone that we are united and in this fight together. When you see a sea of red shirts, you know that you are part of something larger than yourself."

As we head into 2020, we start the process of ratifying a new contract for all MDA members, let us make a loud visual stand to management that we are united! I encourage you to wear red on Mondays and to organize your fellow workers to do the same.

In solidarity, President William E. Louis

OUR UNION: THE EARLY YEARS

MDA-UAW Local 571 has had a long history as a labor organization. It was founded as the Marine Draftsmen's Association, Port of New London, on December 18, 1939 as the collective bargaining agent for the designers, draftsmen, technical aides and engineering support clerical personnel at the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut.

The Electric Boat Company subsequently became the cornerstone of General Dynamics Corporation with the advent of the nuclear submarine in the early 1950s and has since been the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation.

The "Port of New London" designation was significant throughout the 1940s to distinguish between a number of MDA's which were member unions of the "National Council of Marine Draftsmen" which was later changed to the "National Council of Engineers, Draftsmen and Associates" in 1945. This small national union had member groups from Seattle, Washington on the West Coast; Beaumont, Texas and Tampa, Florida on the Gulf Coast; shipyards on the East Coast from Savannah, Georgia to Bath, Maine (including Newport News, Virginia; Sunship in Chester, Pennsylvania; New York Ship in Camden, New Jersey; Fore River Shipyard in Quincy, Massachusetts; Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York and Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut) and major marine architectural firms in the New York City area including Gibbs and Cox and George Sharp.

After World War II, shipbuilding declined and all of the marine design units experienced major layoffs. One by one the member unions withdrew from all National Council (MDA Port of New London withdrew in April of 1948 with the recommendation that the National Council be "put in mothballs" until there was an upswing in the shipbuilding industry). On July 1, 1948 with only MDA Bath, Maine and MDA New York Ship remaining as member unions, the recommendation to discontinue the National Council was adopted.

The size of MDA, Port of New London bargaining unit had grown dramatically throughout the first 25 years of its existence. From fewer than 100 members in its early years it had grown to a peak of more than 2,600 members in the late 1960s. In more recent years the bargaining unit had remained relatively stable at approximately 1,600 to 1,800 members. On August 3, 1982 the MDA, Port of New London voted to affiliate with the International Union, United Auto Workers to become MDA-UAW Local 571. The significance of the number 571 is that it is also most known as being the hull number of the world's first nuclear powered submarine, SSN571 Nautilus (or the "571 boat" as it is affectionately known) which was designed by members of Local 571.



MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 2020 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Executive Board	Mar 2	3:00PM	Ocean Beach
General Membership	Mar 2	4:30PM	Ocean Beach
Executive Board	Apr 6	3:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Council	Apr 6	4:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Board	May 4	3:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Council	May 4	4:30PM	Groton Inn & Suites
Executive Board	Jun 1	3:00PM	Ocean Beach
General Membership	Jun 1	4:30PM	Ocean Beach
Executive Board	Jul 6	3:00PM	Union Hall
Executive Board	Aug 3	3:00PM	Union Hall
Executive Board	Sep 14	3:00PM	Union Hall
General Membership	Sep 14	3:00PM	Union Hall

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

- JAN 27 ANNUAL UAW REGION 9A CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS RECOGNITION DINNER, HARTFORD, CT
- FEB 02 UAW NATIONAL CAP CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, DC
- FEB 07 REGION 9A NH PRIMARY MEMBER EDUCATION PROGRAM, NASHUA, NH
- FEB 13 RETIREE LUNCHEON, GROTON INN & SUITES
- FEB 25 STANDING COMMITTEE TRAINING, UNION HALL
- MAR 24 FOOD COLLECTION FOR GEMMA E. MORAN LABOR FOOD BANK AT MOHEGAN SUN CASINO
- MAR 08 UAW FINANCIAL OFFICER'S CONFERENCE, SAN ANTONIO, TX
- MAR 12 RETIREE LUNCHEON, OCEAN BEACH, NEW LONDON, CT
- APR 28 WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY AT WASHINGTON PARK, GROTON, CT
- APR 09 RETIREE LUNCHEON, RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB, RI



Bill Louis celebrating with Sharon Peccini at the Spinnaker recognition event at Mohegan Sun.

The MDA would like to personally thank Sharon Peccini of the United Way of South Eastern CT.

Sharon has been a dedicated advocate for our community, our Union, and employees of Electric Boat.

She has been a champion of those in need for many years and we would like to wish her a long happy retirement as she starts a new chapter in life. Sharon was also a Community Engagement Labor Liason.

President Louis presented Sharon with an MDA retirement watch at the Spinnaker recognition event at Mohegan Sun on November 20, 2019.

Thank you Sharon!

CONFERENCES & EVENTS YOUR LOCAL ATTENDED

- SEP ROCKY HILL STAND DOWN, VETERANS HOME ROCKY HILL, CT
ANNUAL MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT, EAST LYME, CT
UAW REGION 9A CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT, PORTLAND, CT
- OCT VETERANS CONFERENCE, BLACK LAKE, MI
CONNECTICOSH HEALTH & SAFETY CONVENTION, MERIDEN, CT
GEMMA E. MORAN UNITED WAY LABOR FOOD BANK COLLECTION EVENT AT MOHEGAN SUN, UNCASVILLE, CT
GD JOINT COUNCIL MEETING, ST PETE BEACH, FL
LABOR LAW & ARBITRATION COURSE, BOSTON, MA
MDA WOMEN'S COMMITTEE HALLOWEEN COSTUME DRIVE TO SUPPORT SAFE FUTURES
FOOD COLLECTION DRIVE AT LOCAL STOP & SHOPS FOR GEMMA E. MORAN UNITED LABOR WAY FOOD BANK
GEMMA E. MORAN UNITED WAY LABOR FOOD BANK COLLECTION EVENT AT MOHEGAN SUN, UNCASVILLE, CT
SAFE FUTURE'S 4K WALK FUNDRAISER, WATERFORD, CT
MDA ANNUAL CAMP OUTING, VOLUNTOWN, CT
AFL-CIO 13TH BIENNIAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, FOXWOODS, CT
- NOV PRE KICK-OFF MEETING FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, UNION HALL
22ND ANNUAL REGION 9A UAW VETERANS DINNER, BRISTOL, CT
NEW HIRE CLASS 55, GROTON INN & SUITES
- DEC CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, GROTON, CT
WINTER WEAR CLOTHING DRIVE FOR UNITED WAY, NL TOWERS
THE GIVING TREE, GROTON, NL, & KING'S HWY LOCATIONS
TOMMY TOY FUND DRIVE, NL TOWERS
REGION 9A WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MEETING, FARMINGTON, CT
FAMILY CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PHOTO EVENT, UNION HALL, GROTON, CT
ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE, FOXWOODS CASINO

Please call the Union Office to confirm within the deadlines!

CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ACCEPTED. *NO CASH*
We will strive to make sure we can properly accommodate everyone.

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WOMEN'S COMMITTEE *By Pam Gonski*

CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY CARD EVENT

The MDA LUCA & Women's Committee held a Family Photo Event at the Union Hall on December 7th, 2019. This was the first year for this event where members and their families, some came with pets, had photos taken with Santa and other festive



backgrounds. Refreshments were served and children enjoyed decorating stockings and coloring.

Participants were given their photos on cards with envelopes.



REGION 9A WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MEETING

On December 16, 2019 a Women's Committee meeting was held at the regional office in Farmington, CT. Attendees discussed topics including sexual harassment and the "Me Too" movement, opioid addiction, the lack of availability for women seeking in-patient addiction treatment and ways to get more members involved.

Beverly Brakeman, Region 9A Director, updated members on the latest events and happenings and regional elections were held while new delegates were elected. Pam Gonski was elected Chairperson to the Region's Area 1 (CT, RI, & NH).

RECREATION COMMITTEE *By Officer David Reagan*

6TH ANNUAL MDA CAMPING EVENT

Campers this year enjoyed a festive fall weekend at the Natures Campsites in Voluntown October 11th - 14th, 2019.



Campers enjoyed a Halloween theme and decorated their campsites before trick or treaters visit from site to site. The union provided a pig roast dinner for all attendees.



CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE

The Recreation Committee closed out the year in style with the MDA holiday dinner dance. The event was held at the Foxwoods Casino Grand Ballroom. The dinner and live band "Sugar" was attended by 1099 members and guests. See pages 8 & 9 for event photos.

25TH ANNUAL GOLF DAY

On September 14, 2019 20 teams hit the course to partake in a day of fun and fellowship at par three Cedar Ridge Golf Course in East Lyme, CT. This event always provides golfers a day of camaraderie and this year provided the same.

The MDA golf event entertains all skill levels and encourages diversified teams on the playing field.

See pages 12 & 13 for event photos.



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE *By Don Miller*

POP-UP MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Due to an earlier weather cancellation, the Community Services Committee was asked to participate in a local pop-up Food Pantry. President William E. Louis, 1st Vice-President Ken Rowland, Recording Secretary Martha Fletcher along with members Kim Deschamps and Brad Lamphere helped with this urgent request which fed approximately 200 needy families.

EBECSA SPRING FOOD COLLECTION LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

On March 24, 2020, one of the largest food shows of the year comes to New London County. This event is the Spring C&S Food Show held yearly at the Earth Expo Center at Mohegan Sun. All food collected benefits the local United Way Gemma E. Moran Labor Food Bank.

The EBECSA is looking for 75 volunteers to help at this meaningful event. Bring your entire family, even the kids can lend a hand. The event starts at 3:45 and ends when all the food has been collected. The sign-in table will close at 5:30 PM. RSVP Preferred. Please contact:

Kim Deschamps 3-7552 or Jim Newman 3-2558
Don Kniss 3-5439 or Don Miller 3-8676
Suzanne Niforos 3-9340
Angel Macdougall at the Electrical Shop
Charlie Witt 2nd shift at the B260 tool crib

Please come and make a difference in your community. Any help will be appreciated. Please see the [EBECSA website](#) for more details.

2020 RETIREE LUNCHEONS

JAN 9	Great Neck Country Club, Waterford CT
FEB 13	Groton Inn & Suites, Groton CT
MAR 12	Ocean Beach, New London CT
APR 9	Richmond Country Club, Richmond RI
MAY 14	Meadow Brook Inn, Charlestown RI
JUN 11	Venice Westerly RI

Go to <https://region9a.uaw.org/uaw-local-571/mda-uaw-retirees> website under "Retirees Corner" for addresses to each venue

RETIREES

September	Bottone, Salvatore Freeman, Edward Preston, Robert Zapatka Jr, John
October	Chisholm, Stephen Gallogly Jr, Patrick "Bud" Gilmore Jr, Arthur Valliere, Thomas
November	Cote, Daniel Forbes III, Earle Keener, Steve McNeil, Deborah



Patrick "Bud" Gallogly Jr. enjoyed friends at the Spot restaurant for his retirement party. President William Louis presented him with his MDA watch.

IN MEMORIAM

*We are deeply saddened by the loss of our Union brothers and sister.
Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Families*



DEAN JUDE PICA

Dean Jude Pica, 54, of Pawcatuck CT entered eternal life Oct. 7, 2019. He was born March 21, 1965 in New London, CT. Dean graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University, and worked as a senior design specialist at Electric Boat. Rest in peace brother, you will be missed.



MARK JAMES ROY

Mark James Roy, 63, of Groton, CT passed away at his home Dec. 3, 2019. He was born Oct. 14, 1956 in Norwich, CT. Mark worked for Electric Boat for 39 years as a Material Tech Aide Design Tech. Mark was an excellent gardener and loved cooking for his family. Rest in peace brother, you will be missed.



ROY HANS MOLT

Roy (Hans) Molt, 59, passed away from cancer on Dec. 30, 2019 surrounded by his family and friends. Roy was born June 27, 1960 in Farmington, CT. He will be missed by so many and remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Rest in peace brother, you will be missed.

Please contact Martha Fletcher at the Union Hall

to have someone you know remembered or want to pay a special tribute to a member you know



President William E. Louis and member John Jarvis visited John Zapatka Jr. at his home and were able to present him with his MDA retirement watch.



Member Steve Keener celebrating at his retirement party.

REMEMBERING OUR RETIREES

*"Lives are like rivers: Eventually they go where they must.
Not where we want them to."*

— Richard Russo

Evelyn Bryant (Retiree)
01/22/42 — 09/21/19

George Robbins Jr. (Retiree)
12/09/47 — 10/01/19

Vincent Farnsworth
07/07/44 — 10/18/19

Richard Greika(Retiree)
06/18/50 - 11/06/19

Melvin Olssen (Retiree)
04/18/41 — 11/12/19

Malcolm "Bob" Platt (Retiree)
7/5/55 — 12/10/19

Patricia McNeil(Retiree)
02/15/44 — 12/25/19



VETERANS COMMITTEE

22ND ANNUAL REGION 9A VETERANS COUNCIL DINNER DANCE

On November 9, 2019 the annual UAW Region 9A Veterans Council Dinner was held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Bristol, CT. Region 9A Director Bev Brakeman delivered the appreciation speech to dinner guests and Veterans. The event included guest speakers that shared stories of what it means to them to be a Veteran.



Color guard Roger Levesque and UAW Local 2179 President & Veterans Advocate Vilma Torres-Mulholland performing the "Missing Man" remembrance service at the MDA Region 9A Veterans Council Dinner



Honorary recipient Pat Mulholland receives award for his 27 years of dedicated service on the UAW Region 9A Veterans Council.

MDA-UAW officers attending included First Vice-President Ken Rowland (USAF), and Financial Secretary Bill May (USMC).

Union members attending included Joselyn Conley (Navy), Melvin Hicks (USAF), Don Buell (Army), Ray Costa (Army), Larry Maskell (USAF), Tom Montgomery (Army), Carol Mauro, Rob Guardiano, Kristen Kvist-Morrow, Janet Heck, Kelly Costa, Jennifer Vincent, Rob and Donna Allen. Retiree's Judi Page and Wayne Burgess (Navy) and Don Digidio also attended.

The evening commenced with a Missing Man Table ceremony for active military members who have not returned home from tours of duty. This ceremony is held to honor and recognize the fallen.



UAW Region 9A Veterans Council Color Guard Presentation of Colors Roger Levesque, Tom Montgomery, Cristhian Moya, Ray Costa, Ken Rowland & Nick Rodriquez

VETERANS COMMITTEE - OUR PURPOSE

The Veterans Committee seeks members who are willing to represent the interest of all active and retired UAW veterans and their families. This committee is dedicated to advocating for the political and social concerns of Veterans.

This is accomplished through leadership, guidance and education on matters of concern, such as:

- The Agent Orange Act of 1991
- The Persian Gulf Conflict
- Dependent care
- Disabilities
- Benefits

The men and women who came to the aid of our nation when they were called upon, are a valuable resource to the entire labor movement. If you want to build and enhance the dignity that all Veterans have earned by serving their country, the Veterans Committee encourages you to participate.

UAW VETERANS COUNCIL



In 1944, at the UAW 9th Constitutional Convention by action of the delegates, the UAW Veterans Department was created. Since this time, the UAW has continually reaffirmed its commitment to the veterans, through the passage of pro-veterans resolutions and creation of the Standing Veterans Committee in our local union. In 1994, the National UAW Veterans Advisory Committee was created, and in 1995 the first UAW National Veterans Conference was held.

The UAW appreciates the great service offered to our nation by our veteran members of the United States Armed Forces and those who in active duty still serving our country, protecting our freedom and keeping us safe at every cost.

The UAW is the first organization, other than the VFW since 1966, to finance and build a \$300,000 VFW Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, MI.

The home was built in 2005 and named after UAW President Stephen P. Yokich. This home was entirely union built and funded by donations from UAW members across the country.

MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 SUPPORTS OUR VETS SHIRTS

Long Sleeve T-Shirt
Black with white lettering

Only sizes
medium & large available

Cost is \$15.00 per T-Shirt
\$10.00 from each sale goes
To help a local Veteran Facility

Contact Karen at Union Hall
860-448-0552



VETERANS COMMITTEE



2019 CT VETERANS STAND DOWN EVENT

By Kristen Kvist-Morrow

Each year in September, hundreds of homeless veterans are provided with everyday necessities including food, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling and referral, and most importantly, companionship and camaraderie at the Stand Down event held at the CT Department of Veterans Affairs in Rocky Hill, CT. It is a chance for the MDA Local 571 to reach out to our veterans and address a crisis that affects this country.

In times of war a "Stand Down" is when exhausted combat units after removal from the battlefields are offered a place of relative security and safety. At secure base camp areas, troops were able to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, mail and receive letters, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends in a safe environment.



From left to right: Region 9A members Ray Costa, Larry Maskell and President William E. Louis

Today, Stand Down refers to an event that brings together various agencies and service providers to provide a comprehensive system that encourages and assists homeless veterans to overcome their distrust and feelings of isolation with the knowledge that this event promises to address multiple problems at one time and place. It provides a safe environment in which they can connect with people who have shared similar experiences and cultivate hope that they can rebuild their lives. Many homeless veterans have suffered hardship due to relocation at the end of



Region 9A attendees at Stand Down 2019

their military service. Services designed to support these veterans once released from active service have numerous exhaustive layers for them to navigate to get assistance. This navigation forces veterans to aimlessly visit multiple agencies before getting to the right resource. Unfortunately, tedious navigation promotes distrust with the very government whom once was their lifeline.



President William E. Louis, Region 9A Director Bev Brakeman & member John Jarvis

These agencies that have been created to help the veterans are no longer considered user friendly. This is why hundreds of caring volunteers and professionals give their time and expertise to address the unique needs of our homeless veterans. Veteran service organizations, National Guard and Reserve units, homeless shelter programs, health care providers, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Labor staffs, and veteran-helping-veteran programs organize and stage the events.

Stand Down is a community based program designed to help the nation's estimated 107,000 homeless veterans who try to survive living on our streets nightly. Homeless veterans are brought together to gain valuable access to the community resources that can help them overcome setbacks. Stand Down is an avenue to renew their spirit, health and sense of well-being.

This year MDA Local 571 was one of 90 agencies and organizations' that participated in this one day annual event. The union handed out free food to the veteran attendees that was donated by the Gemma E. Moran Labor Food Bank.

A check for \$500.00 was presented by the Region 9A Veterans Committee to the CT Department of Veterans Affairs at a presentation attended by State dignitaries including US Senator Richard Blumenthal and State Senator Cathy Osten.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS VETERANS

- 11% of the homeless adult population are veterans
- 20% of the male homeless population are veterans
- 68% reside in principal cities
- 32% reside in suburban/rural areas
- 51% of individual homeless veterans have disabilities
- 50% have serious mental illness
- 70% have substance abuse problems
- 57% are white males, compared to 38% of non-veterans
- 50% are age 51 or older, compared to 19% non-veterans

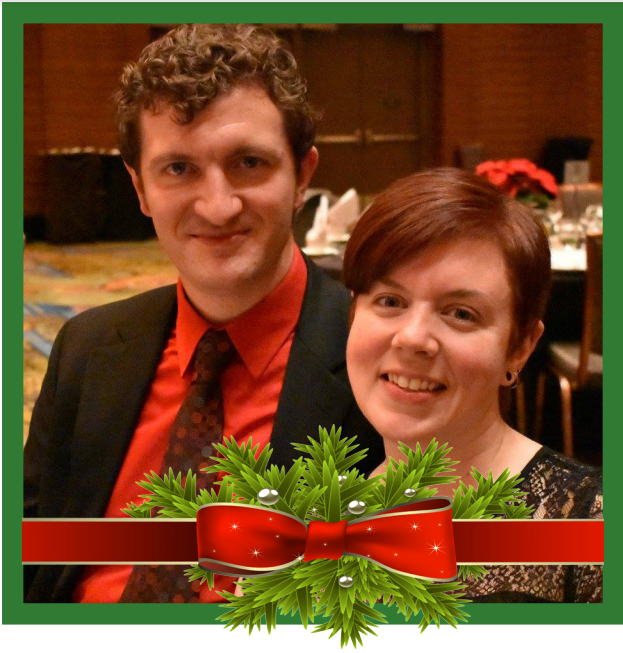
Information obtained from 2016 Annual Homeless Veterans Assessment Report





HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE







REMEMBERING MEL OLSSON



December 5, 2019

*Officers & Members of
MDA/UAW Local 571*

*Thank you for the lovely
arrangement for Mel's
service. He would have
been so proud to have so
many Union members at
his funeral.*

*He was a true & proud
union person.*

Thank you,

Dorothy Olsson

FORMER MDA-UAW LOCAL 571 PRESIDENT MELVIN E. OLSSON APRIL 18, 1941 — DECEMBER 12, 2019

Mel was born in New London, CT on April 18, 1941. He grew up on Maple Avenue in New London and graduated from New London High School in 1959. Following High School, he served in the Connecticut Army National Guard from October 1959 until August 1967.

Mel then started on a 47-year career in 1960 at EB, building and designing the world's most capable submarines. After his start as a pipe fitter apprentice, he migrated to design as a piping designer. Design was responsible for the flawless conception, execution, and production of the Los Angeles, Seawolf, Ohio, and Virginia class submarines that have made America's "silent service" such an effective deterrent in keeping the peace for the last 75 years.

Mel was a strong advocate for Electric Boat's unionized workers, and over time he emerged as the MDA-UAW Local 571 Union President. From 1990 to 2003, Mel held the position of president of the Marine Draftsmen's UAW Local 571 and successfully negotiated contracts in tandem with his brothers and sisters in the Metal Trades Council to ensure their skilled work was adequately compensated with good salaries and benefits. As MDA-UAW Local 571 Union President, Mel was known as a tireless advocate for EB workers and as a champion for the rights of all working people.

He was a staunch proponent of a registered apprenticeship program at EB and also played a leading role in envisioning and establishing a paid summer student internship/union mentoring program for high school students; a cutting edge and highly successful labor-management partnership initiative at EB that still exists today.

As president in the early 2000s, Mel was presiding at a time of great change at the shipyard which went from a workforce of around 30,000 down to just 8,500 in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union. Mel worked tirelessly to assist the people he represented, making sure they were given transitional help as downsizing occurred. All the while, he continued to advocate for the Navy's investment in a new class of Seawolf and Virginia submarines, which in hindsight we know kept the shipyard alive.

Once retired from EB, Mel embarked on what amounted to a second career as a voice for unions and workers on matters of workforce and

economic development, especially in eastern CT. He served for almost two decades as a labor representative on the Eastern (CT) Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), including service as Chair of the Youth Council, Treasurer of the Executive Committee member and Manufacturing Pipeline Committee member. At EWIB, he foresaw a need to recapitalize the submarine force and the local tech schools, community colleges and apprenticeship programs needed to adjust to fast.

With his help, EWIB's innovative Manufacturing Pipeline Program received \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2014, establishing an accelerated "pre-apprenticeship" program. The program far outperformed Labor's targets and has become a national model used all over Connecticut and the U.S. to generate new job-ready workers. He was a dedicated and active member of the EWIB until his death.



Region 9A Charity Golf Tournament attendees from left to right: Doug Witt, Pam Gronski, President William E. Louis & Mel Olsson at a golfing event

Mel also was a strong worker voice on the Southeastern CT Central Labor Council, the Southeastern CT Enterprise Region, the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Directors Committee of Connecticut, and the CT State Apprenticeship Council where he was a gubernatorial appointee. He formerly served as a Board member of the Charter Oak Federal Credit Union and as a member of the Town of Stonington Police Commission as



President William E. Louis, Mel Olsson, 2nd Vice President David Reagan and member Kim Deschamps attending an award event.



FORMER LOCAL 571 PRESIDENT



well as on many other boards and commissions over the years.

In addition until his death, Mel was also a union consultant to the state-wide John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency where he worked on initiatives such as green jobs training, community beneficial contracting standards, providing labor history education, expanding the student internship/union mentoring model in unionized workplaces beyond EB, and promoting registered apprenticeships and nontraditional job training and careers for women.

As a labor leader and UAW retiree, Mel was widely respected as a fervent believer in the importance and value of unions, and he served as a mentor to countless workers and union members.

In his personal life, Mel also had a passion for horse racing and bred and trained his own thoroughbreds in New York State. Mel had a deep love for his home and family. He shared this love with his daughter and enjoyed their summer trips to the Saratoga Race Course. He was a father like figure to his grandsons whom were the love of his life.

He attended every sporting activity, and musical event, and supported them in any endeavor their hearts desired and he cherished their daily visits to his farm in Mystic. Mel took pride in teaching his daughter and grandsons life lessons and always doing the right thing. He instilled in his family the same sense of humbleness, and pride and integrity, and all the qualities that made Mel such a well-respected man.

The MDA-UAW will forever remember Mel Olsson for his dedicated and passionate service while representing our Union and its members. Mel Olssons legacy will forever live in our hearts and let his inspiration be what we should all strive for in our lifetime.

Rest in peace brother, you will be missed by all.

Excerpts from this article were taken from "In Memory of Mel Olsson" a floor speech by Joe Courtney to the house of representatives on Dec 3, 2019.

TRIBUTES TO MEL

First Vice President Ken Rowland recounted how Mel, in the mid '90's achieved one of his greatest accomplishments by providing an avenue for people who were getting laid off in the MTC. Between 400 and 500 people were going to lose their jobs. Led by Mel, the Company and Union Leadership met to propose moving all the MTC members with Design/Drafting experience over to the MDA.

This was something the Company resisted, but through negotiating and perseverance, he helped save hundreds of jobs - and lives. What he did for the union, and the love of the job.

Mel Olsson probably affected more people in South Eastern CT than anyone else in this State in the last 25 years or more. He even gave then a rather shy, up and coming newcomer Joe Courtney tips on speaking and organizing. Mel helped Joe by organizing at the Union Hall so he could practice to becoming what he is now - Congressman Joe Courtney.

Joe Courtney came to Mels funeral to speak and paid tribute to him for helping him become a better candidate. In his floor speech to the house of representatives, Joe said "Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing one of Southeastern Connecticut's most accomplished and revered citizens, Mr. Melvin E. Olsson..." he went on to say "Madam Speaker, Mel is truly an example of "a life well lived." His funeral



In his younger years: Mel Olsson presenting a sub plaque.

service in New London where he was born was packed with family, co-workers, and friends who shared a deep awareness of what a special person he was. Please join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Mel's family for their loss and our highest respect and regards for his inspiring legacy".

On her first day at Electric Boat back on August 25 2003, Velma Williams first met Mel Olsson. "That morning I had to sit in HR for the arrival of my supervisor I was appointed to. Seeing me sitting there after an hour of waiting, Mel approach me and introduced himself.

Conversation ensued and he invited me in his office, where he preceded to tell me the history of the Union in the company and why the need for one.

I informed him I had never worked in a union before coming to Electric Boat and would need more information on the subject, especially after I told him about my previous Job that was working with the State of CT who administered laws and guidelines on Connecticut's workforce.

Needless to say after two hours, I walked away fully convinced on the importance of Union Jobs, not only here at EB, but all across the United States. Because of those two hours spent with Mel along with the many years to follow, a relationship of mentoring from him followed that enabled me to not only become knowledgeable on the history of the Union, but also allowed me to be a graduate apprentice.

With his guidance and encouragement, he also helped me to get involved in community work, helped me to sit alongside Congressmen and State Representatives. With his help, I also went on to work with the CT Commission of Education and have even gone all the way to the Pentagon to sit in the former Labor Secretary office discussing the importance of the Apprenticeship programs and why Grants are important to teach and retool manufacturing for the future.

This is just one small step to explain the impact that Melvin Olsson had on me and the impact of others, I am sure, he has left behind.

Mel Olsson has no doubt had more impact on more peoples lives than anyone I know. Thank you Mel. You will be sorely missed.

On a final note: as a tribute to him, this year the MDA voted to honor Mel Olsson's name in our MDA Golf Outing in September.





MDA GOLF OUTING 2019



MDA ANNUAL
GOLF DAY WINNERS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2019
CEDAR RIDGE GOLF COURSE,
EAST LYME, CT

1ST PLACE TEAM
ALAN PHANEUF, ERIC RATELLE
JOE RATELLE, RYAN KAHL

2ND PLACE TEAM
LARRY SILVA, MARC KONRAD
JIMMY FLETCHER, DANNY LAMBERT

3RD PLACE TEAM
BILL DWYER, BOB HARTLEY
BILL CAPALBO, TIM HALLORAN

CLOSEST TO THE PIN WINNERS
HOLE #4 WAYNE SCOTT
HOLE #7 WIL ITURRINO
HOLE #11 SEAN RYAN
HOLE #18 KEVIN FONTAINE



CT OFFSHORE WIND MAY FACE SOME ROUGH SEAS AN UPDATE TO THE OFFSHORE WINFARMING

By Jan Ellen Spiegel, CT Mirror

As Connecticut races to get its first offshore wind projects on track for construction, a collision of factors appear to be working against them. To start with, the timing couldn't be worse.

The state and its offshore-wind-loving neighbors all face a year-end expiration of a federal tax credit that helps finance these projects – the first major attempts in the U.S. But in Connecticut some problems – including at least one self-inflicted one – could mean forgoing that money.

Most critical are two issues. The first is the controversy at the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA), which has placed the quasi-public agency under audit and so far sent three people to the exits. The CPA runs the state-owned Pier in New London – now angling to be the premier staging area for offshore wind construction in the state, if not the region.

But a contract between the state and the offshore wind partnership of the Danish powerhouse Orsted and Eversource to pour tens of millions of dollars into a \$93-million infrastructure upgrade at the port is yet to be completed.

The second issue involves a potentially ominous signal to all offshore wind projects, as well as the states supporting them, sent from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM – pronounced bome) in the U.S. Department of Interior.

Earlier this month, BOEM delayed approval of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Massachusetts-backed 800-megawatt project by Vineyard Wind, slated to be the first major grid-based offshore wind project in the U.S.

The new environmental impact statement, which could take well

into 2020 to complete, is supposed to look at the cumulative impact of the many offshore wind projects now being planned off the east coast – some of which involve Connecticut. But there are no details of the study beyond that and it's unclear whether the study would be specific to the Vineyard Wind project.

There's a lot at stake given the number and size of the offshore wind projects in development around the region, Pullaro said.

Caitlin Peale Sloan, senior attorney in the Boston office of the Conservation Law Foundation, the environmental legal advocacy group that worked with Vineyard Wind to ensure endangered right whales were protected, pointed out that a cumulative impact analysis was submitted – albeit before several other large offshore wind projects in New York and New Jersey were approved.

"I am concerned that the fact that BOEM didn't include these big projects has given them an opening to slow down all projects," she said. "The Vineyard Wind federal process is really a bellwether to see if the federal government will follow through on its promise for offshore wind.

"It's the first large-scale project in a brand new industry in the U.S. We're going to see some bumps in the road," said Nancy Sopko, co-director of the Special Initiative on Offshore Wind, an independent project at the University of Delaware. Sopko pointed out that while offshore wind has been operating in Europe for 20 years, it's new to U.S. regulators and the agencies that have to permit the projects and consult on the applications.

"Cue the thunder," she said. "I actually don't see this as the doomsday prediction for the industry that

some do." Neither does Laura Morton, senior director of policy and regulatory affairs for offshore wind at the American Wind Energy Association, where Sopko used to work. "The big question is regulatory certainty," she said. "I do believe BOEM is trying to be justifiably balanced."

One part of that balancing act involves the fishing industry, which seems to have driven the delay after the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a division of NOAA, refused to sign off on the Vineyard Wind environmental impact statement. Indeed, the fishing industry is among the few cheering the government's protracted analysis of the plan.

"It sent a subtle shock wave through the whole industry," said Ben Goetsch, fisheries liaison for Briarpatch Enterprises in Milford. Goetsch, a lawyer who represents fisheries with legislative advocacy, also operates his own shellfishing business. "It's a litmus test for the whole huge development for the eastern seaboard. We stand with NOAA on this."

One of the issues Goetsch and others, including non-fishing interests, point to is the need for coordinated transit lanes for fishing vessels from wind area to wind area so fisherman don't face unnecessarily long and disjointed trips. He also worries about the cabling from the turbines.

"Fishing gear certainly does not want to interact with these cables," he said.

Connecticut believes it is already addressing issues like these and others that could affect fishermen. Just before the Vineyard Wind delay and the CPA matter began unspooling, the state fielded a commission to rapidly pull together environmental considerations for offshore wind, especially those related to the fishing industry.

They were rushed to be included in an equally rushed request for proposals for a new round of offshore

wind procurement by the state before the tax credit deadline.

Hackett pointed to a section that specifically says eligible bidders must submit an adaptive plan "to avoid, minimize, and mitigate risks to Stakeholders," specifically mentioning "risk to commercial fisheries, risk to marine mammals and sea turtles with specific reference of underwater sound and collision, risk to birds and bats, and risk to other species."

All of this, however, is complicated by the problems at the Connecticut Port Authority, which have the potential to threaten the state's goal of long-term economic development related to the on-shore components of offshore wind, as well as its obvious benefits of transitioning to renewable power to limit the carbon emissions that are the biggest contributors to climate change worldwide.

While work on the New London port redevelopment plans is continuing, some privately concede that the port authority upheaval is an unnecessary distraction.

"It's clear the Port Authority issues need to be resolved immediately, if not sooner so that we can get down to business at hand," said Sen. Paul Formica, R-East Lyme, who is ranking member on the Energy and Technology Committee and whose district includes the port.

He said the authority was hastily crafted in 2015 and the vetting process on how it was going to operate was limited. "In fairness to everyone, I don't know that anybody could have foreseen the enormity of what would have been on their plate."

Formica is also well-aware of the danger that the current problems could chase away future investments like the kind committed by Orsted and Eversource. "We can't let that happen," he said. "We can't let another opportunity slip through the cracks."

Windfarm continued on Page 14

Windfarm continued from Page 13

For its part, Eversource said progress toward finalizing the redevelopment contract is on track.

"We haven't seen any slowdowns in what we're trying to accomplish," said Michael Ausere, vice president of business development. "We're very confident in the Lamont administration and leadership changes bringing this about. We have seen unwavering commitment."

"We're trying to demonstrate confidence that it is able to move forward with the biggest project probably ever done," he said. "I've been in nearly daily contact with Orsted and Eversource. The governor has spoken with them to convey how important this project is to the state and how committed we are to advancing it."

HOW A TURBINE IS MADE

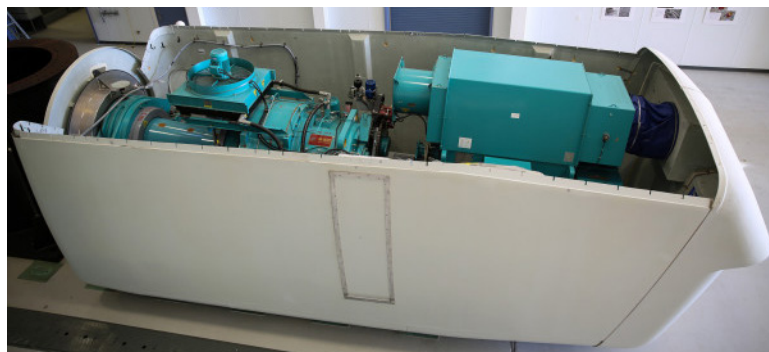
A wind turbine converts kinetic energy from wind into 'rotary mechanical energy' which is used for doing work. In sophisticated models, rotational energy is converted to electricity with the help of a generator.

The wind turbine itself is constructed on shore in a kit form. The turbine is constructed in separate sections, split into its main components which include: the base (seat), tower sections, nacelle (which holds the generator) and turbine blades. These components, like a model kit, can be assembled together out at sea to build the turbine.

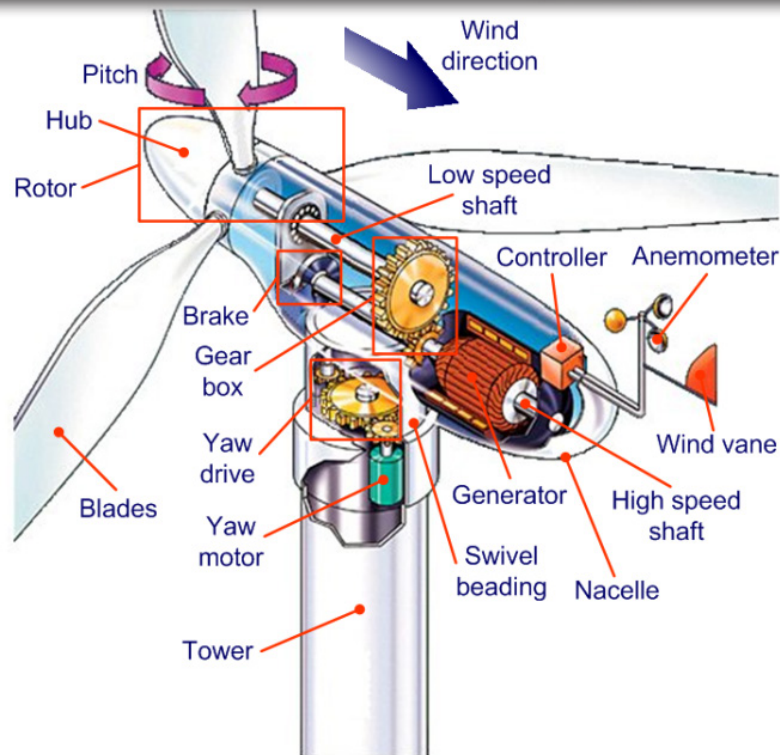
ROTOR

The rotor for a typical utility-scale wind turbine includes three high-tech blades, a hub, and a spinner. The blades are one of the most critical aspects for a wind turbine and are considered a strategic component by wind turbine OEMs. Most manufacturers create multiple blade types for a single wind turbine in order to enhance performance in different wind conditions. The blades range in size from about 34 to 55 meters and are made of laminated materials – such as composites, balsa wood, carbon fiber, and fiberglass – that have high strength-to-weight ratios. These materials are molded into airfoils to generate lift, which causes the rotor to turn. The blades also often include material to protect against lightning strikes. They are bolted onto the hub, with a pitch mechanism interposed to allow the blade to rotate about its axis to take advantage of varying wind speeds.

The hub – usually made of ductile cast iron – is one of a wind turbine's heaviest components, weighing 8 to 10 tons for a 2-MW turbine. The hub is designed to be rigid yet able to absorb a high level of vibration. The hub is covered by a nose cone. The nose cone is designed primarily with aesthetics in mind but can provide some protection from the environment for the hub. The nose cone is manufactured with composites similar to those used for the blades.



The drive shaft in the nacelle, connected to the utility box, spins and helps to create and capture mechanical energy. This mechanical energy is routed to a generator.



NACELLE

The nacelle of a wind turbine is the box-like component that sits atop the tower and is connected to the rotor. The nacelle contains the majority of the approximately 8,000 components of the wind turbine, such as the gearbox, generator, main frame, etc. The nacelle housing is made of fiberglass and protects the internal components from the environment. The nacelle cover is fastened to the main frame, which also supports all the other components inside the nacelle. The main frames are large metal structures that must be able to withstand large fatigue loads.

DRIVE TRAIN

The heart of the wind turbine is its electricity generating system. Inside the nacelle of a typical wind turbine, the rotor drives a large shaft into a gearbox, which steps up the revolutions per minute to a speed suitable for the electrical generator. A wind turbine gearbox must be robust enough to handle the frequent changes in torque caused by changes in the wind speed. The gearbox requires a lubrication system to minimize wear. Wind turbines being sold in the U.S. have either induction or permanent-magnet generators, depending on the model being sold. Induction generators are more common and require a gearbox. Some wind turbines avoid the gearbox completely and use a direct drive system. A direct drive system connects the rotor directly to a permanent-magnet generator. These turbines avoid the mechanical problems associated with a gearbox, but require extremely heavy and expensive generators that can produce electricity capable of supplying the grid.

YAW

All turbines have a yaw drive system to keep the rotor facing into the wind and to unwind the cables that travel down to the base of the tower. The yaw drive system usually consists of an electric or hydraulic motor mounted on the nacelle which drives a pinion mounted on a vertical shaft through a reducing gearbox. The yaw drive system also has a brake in order to be able to stop a turbine from turning and stabilize it during normal operation.



CONTROL SYSTEM

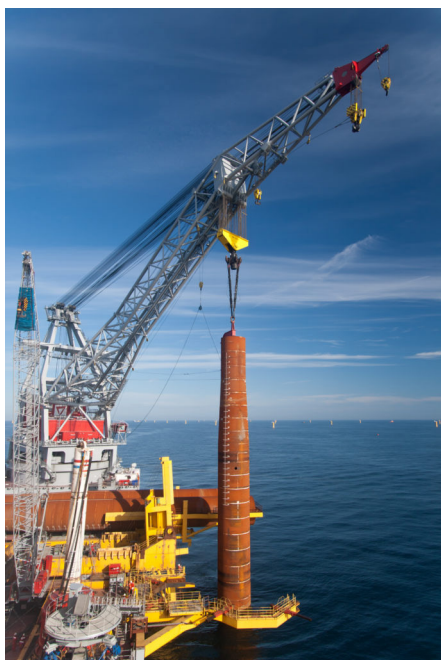
To control the functioning of the wind turbine, it is fitted with a number of sensors to read the speed and direction of the wind, the levels of electrical power generation, the rotor speed, the blades' pitch angle, vibration levels, the temperature of the lubricants and other variables. A computer processes the inputs to carry out the normal operation of the turbine, with a safety system which can override the controller in an emergency. The control system protects the turbine from operating in dangerous conditions and ensures that the power generated has the proper frequency, voltage, and current levels to be supplied to the grid.

TOWER

The nacelle and generator are mounted on top of a tall tower to allow the blades to take advantage of the best winds. The power available to a wind turbine is proportional to the cube of the wind speed. Therefore, a 10% increase in wind speed would result in a 33% increase in available power. Towers are typically made of three or four tubular steel sections coated with paints and sealants and joined by flanges and bolts. Today's wind turbine tower is usually about 80-100 meters tall. Most towers come with load lifting systems with load-bearing capacity of more than 400 pounds.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation of turbine components often involves road, rail, and water. Given the increasing size, weight, and length of components, innovative transportation, manufacturing and logistics solutions are necessary. With respect to trucking, only a fraction of the industry is capable of managing the heavy-load long-haul requirements of the wind turbine industry. One turbine can require up to eight hauls (one nacelle, three blades and four tower sections). A truck carrying a tower section must be able to support a load with a propensity to roll that is over 30 meters long and weighs over 150,000 pounds. Due to tunnel and overpass restrictions, rail transport can be even more dimensionally limited than over-the-road transportation, though innovations in rail transit have helped to increase the use of rail.



A monopile is used to secure the turbine to the sea bed. A monopile is a steel cylindrical tube with diameters ranging up to 6m and 150mm thick steel skin. Monopiles are one of the most common foundation designs in offshore wind construction due to their ease of installation in shallow to medium depths of water. The steel cylinder is piled into the sea floor by a specialist hydraulic ram. Once the monopile has been set in the sea bed, a transition piece (someone times called chairs) is then fitted on top. The transition piece is slowly lowered into position and secured carefully as it has the important job of connecting the turbine and

the monopile together. The transitional piece is usual brightly colored and includes a boat mooring stage, where a ladder takes technicians up to the work platform.



The next stage is assembling the turbine tower which is craned into position and bolted together. Once all the tower pieces are connected, the nacelle is attached to the top and the generator connected. The final step is attaching each turbine blade to the hub on the nacelle. When fully assembled, the blades pitch angle and yaw can be adjusted to optimize the performance of the turbine. Each wind turbine is then connected to the offshore substation which feeds in to the National Grid.

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In addition to the erection of each turbine, there is additional construction work needed to connect each turbine to the power grid, such as access road construction, laying electrical cable, and installation of an electrical substation.

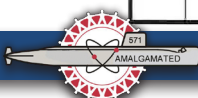
2		8			7	3		
	4		8					
	7					9	6	
	6	5						
	3	1				6		5
	2	9	6				7	
6	9						2	1
				5	1			6

Five girls participated in a race.

Maria finished before Sarah, but behind Ella. Marianne finished before Julia, but behind Sarah.

In what order did the girls finish the race?

For answers, see the Soundings website: <https://region9a.uaw.org/local571/soundings-magazine>





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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku Puzzle 1 Solution

2	5	8	9	6	7	3	1	4
9	4	6	8	1	3	7	5	2
1	7	3	5	4	2	9	6	8
7	6	5	1	3	4	2	8	9
8	3	1	7	2	9	6	4	5
4	2	9	6	8	5	1	7	3
6	9	4	3	7	8	5	2	1
5	1	2	4	9	6	8	3	7
3	8	7	2	5	1	4	9	6

Five girls participated in a race. Maria finished before Sarah, but behind Ella. Marianne finished before Julia, but behind Sarah. In what order did the girls finish the race?

1. Ella
2. Maria
3. Sarah
4. Marianne
5. Julia