



STATEMENT OF JOHN NARDI, PRESIDENT

Press Conference

March 25, 2014

In 2013 the New York Shipping Association reached a collectively bargained landmark agreement with the ILA. This agreement specifically addressed the following issues:

- Productivity improvements, with specific targets overseen by joint management and union committees.
- A recruiting and hiring process that includes enhanced screening also by a joint union/management committee and also calls for the hiring of veterans, ILA referrals and NYSA referrals. Before this agreement, 100% of the jobs were filled through ILA referrals.
- An agreement on how to deal with the compensation of high paying staff jobs through attrition as well as those who cascade into new positions.

Our agreement represents the most revolutionary changes in the hiring practices in the history of the port. By implementing this agreement NYSA is trying to modernize the port in anticipation of the larger vessels expected to call after the Bayonne Bridge raising and the Panama Canal expansion.

However, to implement the key provisions of our contract we need to be able to hire the number of people as determined by the needs of the employer as would any other employer, in every other port in the US.

NYSA fully supports the background check and policing functions of the Waterfront Commission. However, in this modern era we do not support its control over when the register to hire is opened, or its control over how many employees an employer may require along with constantly changing rules and regulations to accomplish the same.

In 2007, legislation was passed in New Jersey, which gave the industry the ability to do just that; and we've been waiting ever since for New York to do the same. We need to move the hiring process in the port of NY&NJ forward into the modern era.

Thank you.