

Fellow Mariners:

Happy New Year to all. Whether you are taking a break from pumping cargo, you just stepped into the MCR for coffee, or you're home enjoying well-earned paid leave, please take a moment to reflect that you are not alone. You are part of the AMOA and Polar family. Both our successes and failures are shared experiences and they present us with daily challenges. As your newly elected chairman, it will be both my responsibility and privilege to help you navigate some of these challenges. With this help, comes a promise. Confidentiality can be an important part of this process and it is my pledge to you that your right to privacy will be respected. I intend to earn your trust in this regard.

For some of us that claim to "know a thing or two because we've seen a thing or two," we have seen the ebb and flow of the AMOA throughout the history of Polar and, for some of our members, ARCO before that. When times have been good, there has appeared a diminished need for having an association. Conversely, we have experienced challenging times and the AMOA has been of critical importance. Some of you may question the need to have an association. An objective of mine is to prove the value of our association to any of our members that may feel this way. That stated, the association can be of most help to you when you engage us early. Preventative and proactive measures will often result in the best outcome.

### **Logistics**

As your chairman, I will be managing this position differently from what has been done in the recent past. I have prepared an office back in Maine in a facility I own that is approximately one mile from my residence. AMOA will only be responsible for the operating expenses associated with maintaining the office. My intention is to ride the vessels rather than daily visits while the vessels are in port. This will decrease the frequency of visits, but it will hopefully result in quality time spent on board. In addition to these visits, I will plan on coordinating with the other fleet council members and having conference call meetings on board to keep members engaged and informed.

It is important for the chairman to develop and nurture relationships with company employees in Houston. I will be spending time there as well to support this effort. One of the priorities for the company during our last negotiations was for the chairman to assist with projects. It was understood that these projects should not interfere with the chairman's primary responsibility of representing our membership and ensuring effectuation of our collective bargaining agreement. As part of this discussion, it was agreed that the best projects the chairman can pursue will be ones that benefit both the company and the Association's members. Part of my time on board the vessels will be spent working on these projects. If you have any input as to projects and work that fits this description, please reach out and let me know. I will be doing 2020 goal development in Houston within the next few weeks and having your ideas for this process would be very helpful.

### **Fleet Council Goal Development**

The fleet council holds regular conference call meetings and we will also be doing some goal setting in the near future. There are a number of issues that are candidates for 2020 goals. Among them include more frequent electronic surveys, an AMOA web site/internet-based platform, updating by-laws, etc. If you have any input as to goal development for the Association, please forward your thoughts to me or any of the council members.

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***Your Fleet Council***—Kent Anderson (D), Drew Brown (D), Adam Estabrooks (Vice Chairman), Pete Feeney (Chairman), Mark Middleton (D), Brian Ross (Secretary/Treasurer), Leiden Tochtermann (D)

### **Industry News**

Many of you may have already seen the recent announcement that OSG has bought out BP to become the sole owner of ATC. There continues to be developments and changes to our ANS trade industry. In my opinion, this latest development provides a degree of stability. ATC will continue in operations and continue supplying the BP refining capacity through long-term charters.

The new IMO2020 fuel regulations have taken effect as of January 1<sup>st</sup> which reduces bunker sulfur requirements from 3.5 to .5 percent. Alternatively, ships are to be fitted with exhaust scrubbing systems. Our vessels are already within compliance, but this is a big industry change and it is having immediate effects on the bunkering markets and international movement of oil. Any of our members involved with taking fuel in Korea or Singapore may want to increase their vigilance in scrutinizing the delivered bunkers.

### **Company News**

Marathon Oil and COP have signed a contract for delivery of 900 mb per month split between the Long Beach 121 and Martinez facilities. This should help optimize the loading of our vessels and give us more Long Beach/San Francisco splits.

### **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas**

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, the medical claims administrator is now Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX). Members should have already received a new medical identification card at home. ConocoPhillips now only offers a high deductible health plan (HDHP), however, BCBSTX has nation-wide preferred provider organizations (PPOs) that they have contracted with. You still have the freedom of choice in selecting medical care providers but using doctors and facilities that are in the PPO program will likely reduce your out-of-pocket costs. Doing some research ahead of time may be helpful. You can find medical providers near you using the provider finder link under “My Benefits” on the COP intranet page or externally at <https://public.hcsc.net>. If the provider finder does not list the doctor/facility you are looking for, try calling the health advocate line (800) 343-4709. Also, call the advocate line if you or a family member are presently receiving or have planned medical treatment for a health-related condition in order to discuss the transition of care and minimize any impact.

Other recommended actions with the transition to BCBSTX is to register with MDLIVE for virtual visits. This service complements your existing medical benefits and replaces the Teladoc feature that was offered under AETNA. Register at [www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com). Additionally, members can download the BCBSTX app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. This app facilitates finding providers, accessing claims, etc.

### **Fidelity Investments**

Everyone should have received information on the transfer of the ConocoPhillips Savings Plan from Vanguard to Fidelity Investments. The transfer is effective January 2<sup>nd</sup> and the blackout date for fund activity is supposed to end the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>. When the blackout ends, members can access your plan information at [www.netbenefits.com](http://www.netbenefits.com) or call a Fidelity representative at (833) 637-4015. A new username and password will be required unless you already have a Fidelity Investment account. An app for your phone can be downloaded at [Fidelity.com/go/NetBenefitapp](http://Fidelity.com/go/NetBenefitapp) to facilitate account access.

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## AMOA UPDATE 2020-01

As you gain experience with both the new medical and financial plan administrators, please forward any lessons learned so they can be shared with our shipmates.

### **Finished With Engines For Mr. Day**

As of January 1, I am now your shoreside representative. Please join me in wishing Brian well as he embarks on the next leg of his life's journey. Brian, thank you for your service and please don't take it personally that there are probably a few MCR-mounted seniority lists with fresh lines on the Chief Engineer's page.

I am presently on board the Polar Endeavour and will be relieved in the second week of January. My plan is to visit a couple of the sister vessels and then travel through Houston. After which, I will be headed back to Maine to get my office up and running. If any members are in the area and are available, I plan to have an open office reception on Friday afternoon, January 31st. The office location and mailing address is 25 Main Street, Bowdoinham Maine 04008. I will be getting a company cell phone and business line, but in the interim, you can contact me at a [pete.j.feeney@conocophillips.com](mailto:pete.j.feeney@conocophillips.com) or call/text directly on my personal cell phone at (207) 319-6324.

Best regards,

Pete Feeney