

Fellow Mariners:

Opening Remarks

If you turn on the news, mention of the COVID-19/coronavirus cannot be missed. The news organizations are not missing any opportunity to push this story line. Our medical department is well aware of the issue and are keeping themselves fully informed from the CDC and information sources other than the media. They have been in communication with the MMT on this issue in order for them to make the best decisions and take necessary precautions to minimize risk to company employees. If you have a concern, our medical personnel are the best, most informed people to help you minimize your own personal risk.

Polar News

TMSA and Corporate Audit – The office will be undergoing a Corporate HSE audit starting Monday, March 2nd. Immediately on the heels of the HSE audit is a TMSA (Tanker Management Self-Assessment Audit).

Purchasing – Rob Noyer has been doing some interesting work with developing some analytical and reporting tools that query the NS-5 database. Recently, he has been working with purchasing to optimize the procurement process. We were discussing some potential reports that could improve the efficiency and reliability of the engine and deck storing cycles. Please give this some thought on what information and reports would make it helpful to make the storing process more efficient.

Industry News

China-US Initial Trade Deal - Last month, the U.S. and China signed an initial trade deal. This deal was an indicator of a de-escalation in the trade war. Although there were no specific timelines for the agreement, China agreed to significantly increase purchases from the U.S. oil and gas industry. The LNG export market would see the largest increase in trade. The Chinese LNG trade with the U.S. has been significantly hit due to a 25 percent tariff on imports from the U.S. The largest increase in projected purchases is supposed to occur in 2021. In my opinion, this agreement is presently being overshadowed by the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In a separate article, reports are that tanker charter rates have fallen by 80 percent due the coronavirus crisis. Once this issue has passed us, there could potentially be an increased demand for ANS export cargoes.

American Pilots' Association (APA) Letter: GCaptain reported that the APA sent a letter to state pilotage authorities across the U.S. calling for the improvement in pilot safety regarding the combination of pilot ladders and accommodation ladders. IMO guidelines recommend that when this configuration is used, the pilot ladder shall extend up through the accommodation ladder platform up to the level of the platform's handrail. This letter was in the wake of the fatality of a Sandy Hook pilot. It is my opinion that this discussion is best had with inclusion of the accommodation ladder manufacturers. Our folks are aware of the APA concern and are actively discussing it.

Fleet Council News

2021 Calendar – The fleet council discussed producing a calendar this year. We will be developing a plan in the coming months, but if you happen to capture a unique moment on camera that would be “calendar-worthy,” please feel free to forward it to me.

Web Site Development – The process has been initiated to get an estimate for what it would cost to re-establish and maintain a web presence for AMOA members. Based on feedback from members, potential features in a web site that were requested are listed below. The final determination of the web site and its features will be based on several factors including price, information management and intellectual property/confidentiality issues with COP, etc. Based on our feedback, there was not unanimous support for a web site, but the majority opinion was in favor of the concept. Please feel free to provide additional input to myself or a fleet council member concerning web site development.

Some Web Site Suggestions/Thoughts from individual members:

- 1 - A secured site available only to our members
- 2 - A FAQ page for issues we typically run into with our employer
- 3 - A Seniority List and the current Officer Assignment Lists
- 4 - Our present contract and bylaws
- 5 - Meeting Minutes
- 6 - A ship tracker display
- 7- A place for pictures from the vessels and personnel
- 8 - Employer forms that are typically used - need to clear this with COP
- 9 – Company Phone list
- 10 - Dock Directions
- 11 - Open topic discussion blog
- 12 - Company Benefits Guidance
- 13 - New Hire Packets
- 14 - An on-line store was requested (this could get complicated)
- 15- Polling and voting (we have been doing survey monkey and have another goal of moving our elections to an on-line format. There are external sites for this, but it might be interesting if we could integrate this all into one web site)
- 16 - Industry Links, training links, commonly used sites

Closing Remarks

The second week of March I will be headed back out to the west coast to spend some time on vessels. On my return from the west coast, I will be spending a week in Houston to participate in oil spill response training as well as work on some engineering project work.

Best regards,

Pete Feeney

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