

Fellow Mariners:

Opening Remarks

Several AMOA members have called me within the last week either asking about or providing information regarding the impact of the present COVID-19 pandemic. If the virus wasn't enough, Saudi Arabia's decision to increase oil production and further depress the price of oil is one more challenge we are facing. I wished I had all the answers. Unfortunately, events are happening quickly. The COVID-19 projections over the next couple of weeks will, in my opinion, determine if we quickly rebound from this crisis or if this ordeal ends up being more protracted. Some reliable information resources to keep an eye on are the John Hopkins site (www.coronavirus.jhu.edu) and the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/coronavir/2019-ncov/index.html).

ConocoPhillips and Polar Tanker News

The corporation has tasked the individual business units to review, update, and implement business continuity plans. The Houston office is being closed temporarily starting Tuesday, March 17th. Employees will be working remotely from their homes and only personnel deemed as business critical per the Global Marine Business Continuity Plan (GMBCP) will go to the office as required. The Bellingham office does not have such a directive, but they were advised to take precautions.

The Houston marine management team (MMT) held a conference call with Captains and Chief Engineers presently in the fleet in order to discuss actions that the MMT plans to put in place in response to this pandemic. These actions will be evolving as conditions change and include the following:

- Reducing contractor attendance to the vessels to critical repairs and operations
- Introducing a pre-screening process for all personnel attending the vessels.
- Having an officer act as a pre-screening individual that will greet personnel at the gangway to verify pre-screening requirements and conduct infrared temperature monitoring.
- Not allowing any visitors on board including family members
- Limit the number of crew changes to once per port stay
- Daily temperature screenings will take place for crewmembers
- Having stores landed on the vessel and then handled by vessel personnel
- Not having contractors eat in the mess hall
- Shipyard support personnel will be traveling to the shipyard early for self-quarantine
- COVID-19 questions should start with Connie so she can direct you to the right resource.

The company is not restricting crew to the vessel at this point, but they strongly advise against going ashore for both your personal safety and the safety of your fellow crewmembers. That said, terminals and ports are quickly developing their own set of rules, so the entire situation is quite fluid.

Plans continue to be developed. Some of the discussion revolved around the contingencies in the event personnel on board start to demonstrate cold or flu-like symptoms. The immediate response is to quarantine that/those individual(s) but further guidance will be forthcoming.

The elevated risk associated with attending clinics for annual medical monitoring was raised. The office acknowledged this concern and planned to make a decision on it soon.

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)

The Endeavour has commenced her voyage to Singapore. Our engineering and purchasing teams are working hard to ensure that impact to the upcoming shipyard will be minimized. The present focus is on ensuring availability of materials and technicians. There are a couple of jobs that will likely be impacted, but engineering is working on mitigation strategies. The purchasing department is confident that purchased items for the Endeavour's shipyard will be delivered without significant delays. That said, the supply chain for the Polar Discovery will see more impact. Discussions are ongoing for delaying this vessel's shipyard. No decisions have been made yet, but it is likely there will be some delay of the Polar Discovery shipyard.

Industry News

Tanker charter rates have increased dramatically in a short amount of time. This is in part due to efforts to create floating storage until oil prices recover.

Not surprisingly and this is certainly no news flash, but oil majors and independents have seen large drops in stock prices. It is impossible to predict the direction this is going, but the Department of Energy is aware of the situation. The DOE announced March 12th that it was cancelling its planned sale of 12 million barrels from the strategic petroleum reserve which would further depress markets. Reported by a Kallanish Energy article, the National Economic Council has been considering low-interest loans, federal oil purchases, and possible trade barriers to shore up the oil and gas industry. The approximate US daily production is around twelve million barrels per day so strategic reserve purchases will unlikely introduce any significant changes in market conditions.

Fleet Council News

A fleet council conference call was conducted last week. A few of the items discussed were:

- A 2020 operating budget for AMOA was approved. Actual costs were collected and analyzed over the last two years. The proposed 2020 budget is in the median range of the last two years.
- The web site development proposal was discussed. The council approved the proposal and the contractor has been notified. The chairman will be working with the contractor, generating content, starting this week. If members have any content or pictures they would like added to the site, please contact the chairman.
- An on-line balloting service (electionbuddy.com) was successfully tested with the council members. The majority opinion of the council is to proceed with requesting a change to our bylaws that will enable electronic voting as an option. We may precede a bylaw change ballot with an electronic survey to the fleet. If receptive, we will have one paper ballot proposing the bylaw change to allow on-line voting. If approved, the upcoming delegate elections and other proposed bylaw changes will be done by electronic ballot.

Closing Remarks

As mariners it can be stressful feeling isolated from events and the world around us. As a company and a group, we have been through stressful times before. One maritime consultant we had on board in past years, summarized it well. He said that there are many things as mariners that are outside of our area of influence, but the one thing we can do is to take care of the ship and each other and to not focus

on things beyond our control, only focus on the things you can. I thought this was good advice at the time and I think it is also fitting now.

I was checked in at the gate at Boston Logan last week on my way to visit the vessels when I received an email advising us to cancel all non-critical business travel. Consequently, I returned to Maine. Once this crisis passes us, I will come out to the west coast for an extended trip to make sure that I ride all the vessels in service. If any of you have an emerging need, please do not hesitate to reach out and I will do my very best to assist you or your family.

As more information is available, I will try my best to keep everyone, afloat and ashore, up to date.

Best regards,

Pete Feeney

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