



ON STATION

The Newsletter of the American Pilots' Association

June 8, 2020

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Captain Jorge Viso
APA President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past few months have been extremely difficult for our country. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it unprecedented changes. The daily routines of our families, friends and neighbors have been dramatically disrupted. For most Americans, their lives simply are not the same.

Pilots, however, have continued to carry out the vital duties of keeping our stores stocked, our hospitals equipped, and fuel supplies replenished. As people have correctly been abiding by “stay at home orders,” pilots continue to board ships and work around the clock to protect the marine environment and keep commerce safely moving. In short, pilots, along with other essential services, have helped to sustain our communities while the country works to recover from the effects of COVID-19.

I cannot say enough about the leaders of APA-pilot groups. These professionals have worked tirelessly with captains of the port, federal agencies, state and local governments, port authorities, and the shipping industry to ensure the health and safety of pilots and others working in and around U.S. ports.

Many of us have worked through some demanding times in our careers, including terrorism, war and recession. It is during these pressing moments in our country's history that pilots have been counted on by the American people and have never failed to rise to meet the challenges of the day.

During the Revolutionary War, pilots aided colonists' efforts by purposely guiding British vessels into harm. Pilots kept critical wartime supplies moving during World War I and were commissioned into the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II to assist with coastal security efforts. During the Gulf Wars, many pilots led efforts to set up and provide pilotage services for friendly forces in the Gulf region. In the

aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, pilots were instrumental in the water evacuations of people in New York City, and throughout the country pilots worked tirelessly to keep maritime commerce moving.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented dramatic change, overcoming such adversity is not new for pilots. Pilots' work during this pandemic is just another chapter in our history of service.

I've never been prouder to be APA President. The way pilots and pilots' associations have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic has been inspiring. It is not, however, just the pilotage work that has inspired. The camaraderie and the unity shown by pilots around the Nation have been on full display. In the midst of this crisis, pilot associations have exchanged ideas on how best to carry out pilotage operations in the age of the coronavirus, shared sources for personal protective equipment, and continually checked in with the APA to learn how fellow pilot groups were faring during the pandemic.

As the U.S. continues to recover from the COVID-19 impacts, APA will remain fully engaged with federal partners at the national level to support pilots and pilotage and we will continue to work with and share information with member associations.

While the important work pilots do every day may not make the front pages, it does make a difference. Pilotage has never been more relevant or more important as our country works to regain its footing. Be safe and be proud in the knowledge that your work is truly “essential.”

BIENNIAL CONVENTION CANCELLED

The APA Biennial Convention originally scheduled for October 19-23 in New York City has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the uncertainties surrounding conditions in New York, as well as the financial impacts of the pandemic on many APA groups, cancellation was considered the most sensible response.

For more on the cancellation, visit:

www.americanpilots.org/cancellation%20notice.pdf



IMO MEETINGS CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Beginning in March, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) began to cancel or postpone various meetings of its committees and subcommittees due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meetings most relevant to pilots that have been cancelled/postponed include:

- 124th session of the Council scheduled to take place from June 29 to July 3, 2020;
- 7th session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) scheduled to take place from June 1-5, 2020; and
- 102nd session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) scheduled to take place from May 13-22.

Work is currently underway to prepare a revised IMO meeting program for the remainder of 2020. A priority list of meetings is being drawn up and will be considered by the Council at its 32nd extraordinary session (to be held by correspondence from May to July). This follows the 31st session of the Council that took place, also by correspondence, from March to April.

According to IMO, the proposal for rescheduling meetings gives priority to a regular session of the IMO Council, followed by meetings of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of Green House Gas Emissions from Ships, and the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC).

According to IMO, resuming physical meetings will depend on guidance from the World Health Organization and the United Kingdom Government, as

well as the situation in various IMO Member Countries. In the meantime, the IMO Secretariat announced that it is exploring the practicalities of holding virtual meetings.

Despite the lack of in-person meetings, APA remains fully engaged with the Coast Guard, IMO committee and subcommittee representatives and International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPACT) staff to keep abreast of ongoing IMO issues.

IMO ISSUES CIRCULAR ON MARINER CERTIFICATIONS

IMO has issued a Circular titled, "Coronavirus – Guidance relating to the certification of seafarers." This Circular noted that COVID-19 poses "a serious challenge for Administrations to revalidate [mariner] certificates, including medical certificates..." IMO went on to encourage countries "to take a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of certificates and endorsements." The U.S. Coast Guard heeded this IMO advice (see page 4). The IMO circular can be found at: www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/CL.4204-Add.5.pdf

IMO SECRETARY GENERAL DISCUSSES COVID-19 IMPACT ON SHIPPING

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Kitack Lim issued a statement addressing the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the shipping industry, seafarers and the global supply chain. His address, which was titled, "Tackling COVID-19 – a voyage together", is available at: www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/08-IMO-SG-message.aspx



IMPACT CONGRESS POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Twenty-Fifth IMPACT Congress, originally scheduled for May 24-29, 2020 and subsequently postponed to September 20-26, 2020, has now been postponed to May 16-21, 2021.

In its announcement of the postponement, IMPACT Secretary-General, Mr. Nick Cutmore, said "there are too many doubts about the practicality of the September 2020 dates when the prospects for air travel will be questionable, quarantining will likely still be in place in many countries and the resulting possibility of a low turnout will lessen the validity and the viability of the event."

For more on the IMPACT Congress, see: www.impamexico2020.com/

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BILLS SUPPORTING TRANSPORT WORKERS DURING COVID-19 OFFERED BY SENATE

A tandem of bills aimed at protecting and supporting workers in all sectors of the transportation industry have been introduced in the Senate.

On May 13th, S. 3728 was introduced by Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS), and its bipartisan co-sponsors, Sen. Marie Cantwell (D-WA), Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK). The bill would give priority COVID-19 testing to essential critical infrastructure workers (including pilots). Under this bill, the testing of essential transportation workers would be behind only patients, healthcare workers and first responders. S.3728 would also give “priority access to personal protective equipment, sanitizers, nonmedical-grade facial coverings, and other health-related or protective supplies necessary to safely perform essential critical infrastructure work.”

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced a similar bill, S.3884, on June 3rd. In addition to requiring “priority testing” of transportation workers for COVID-19, S.3884 would require “owners and operators of equipment and facilities used by passenger or freight transportation employers to clean, disinfect, and sanitize that equipment and provide personal protective equipment to certain employees.” This bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA).

No Senate hearings on S.3728 and S.3884 have been announced yet, but APA will continue to work with Senate staffs and monitor this and other legislation that may impact or support APA-member pilots.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING TO EXAMINE COVID-19 IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee’s Ranking Member, Sen. Marie Cantwell (D-WA), oversaw a June 3rd hearing titled, “The State of Transportation and Critical Infrastructure: Examining the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The hearing, which APA observed, examined the impact of COVID-19 on surface transportation and the supply chain.

A recording of the hearing can be viewed at: www.commerce.senate.gov/2020/6/the-state-of-transportation-and-critical-infrastructure-examining-the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic



KEY HOUSE MARITIME SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS “VIRTUAL HEARINGS”

Like the Senate, the House has also been conducting hearings on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the maritime industry, mariners and the supply chain. Unlike the Senate, however, the House has conducted most of its hearings via teleconferencing technology.

On May 29th, the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation (CG&MT) held a virtual hearing titled, “The Status of the U.S. Maritime Supply Chain During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The witnesses for this hearing included shipping and maritime worker representatives. This hearing can be viewed at:

<https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/the-status-of-the-us-maritime-supply-chain-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

On June 9th, the House’s full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will hold a hearing titled, “On the Front Lines: The Impacts of COVID-19 on Transportation Workers.” At this hearing, representatives of workers in the various transportation modes will provide testimony on the experiences workers have had during the COVID-19 pandemic. This hearing can be viewed at:

<https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/on-the-front-lines-the-impacts-of-covid-19-on-transportation-workers>

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY OBSERVED

Each year on May 22nd our country celebrates National Maritime Day. In 1933, Congress declared National Maritime Day to commemorate the American steamship Savannah’s voyage from the United States to England, marking the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean with steam propulsion.

As noted on the Maritime Administration’s website, “the United States has always been and will always be a great maritime nation. National Maritime Day honors the U.S. Merchant Marine, which powers the world’s largest economy and strengthens our ties with trading partners around the world, all while supporting our military forces by shipping troops and supplies wherever they need to go.”

President Trump’s annual Presidential Proclamation commemorating the observance of National Maritime Day is available at:

www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-maritime-day-2020/



USCG FURTHER EXTENDS EXPIRATION DATES OF MARINER DOCUMENTS

On June 3rd, the National Maritime Center (NMC) issued MSIB Number: 08-20, Change 2, titled "COVID19: Mariner Credentials - Extension of Merchant Mariner Credentials, Endorsements, Medical Certificates and Course Approvals." This Bulletin is available on the NMC's website (under "Announcements") and ON STATION readers are encouraged to read it in its entirety. Below are some key excerpts:

- Regional Exam Centers and Monitoring Units: Regional Examination Centers and Monitoring Units will remain closed until further notice. Mariners with questions may contact the National Maritime Center (NMC) by calling the Customer Service Center at 1-888-IASKNMC, emailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or through the NMC online chat system.
- "National Endorsements: Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) and Medical Certificates (for National Endorsements only) that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 are extended until December 31, 2020. Mariners who are actively working on expired credentials that meet the expiration criteria must carry the expired credential with a copy of this notice. This measure relaxes the requirement to carry an unexpired medical certificate and not the actual medical standards. It is important that mariners with disqualifying medical conditions do not sail."
- "Pilot Annual Physical examinations: 46 USC 7101(e)(3) requires that pilots undergo an annual physical examination each year while holding a credential. The Coast Guard does not intend to enforce this requirement given the current national emergency and the lack of medical care. This measure ONLY relaxes the requirement for an annual physical and not the actual medical standards. This posture applies until December 31, 2020 irrespective of when the medical certificate expires. It is important that pilots with disqualifying medical conditions do not sail."

The NMC Bulletin stressed that the extension of expiration dates "may cause a backlog in the processing of credentials." As such, APA joins the NMC in strongly encouraging pilots to submit renewal applications for credentials and medical certificates on the same timeframe as used in the past.



TSA AND COAST GUARD PROVIDE TWIC FLEXIBILITY

Even though to date the process of submitting Transportation Worker Identification Credentials (TWIC) enrollment renewals has not been impacted by COVID-19, the Coast Guard announced it is providing flexibility with regard to requirements to have a TWIC when applying for renewal of a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) or when serving under the authority of a MMC. On April 3, the Coast Guard issued MSIB 13-20, "COVID-19 and TWIC Operations." This MSIB can also be found on the NMC's website in the "Announcement" section.

Even though the failure to hold a valid TWIC may serve as grounds for suspension or revocation of a MMC, the Coast Guard has announced it will not pursue any suspension and revocation actions based on expired TWICs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coast Guard will make an announcement prior to reinstating enforcement of this requirement.

For mariners already holding a MMC, if their TWIC expires, and their MMC remains valid, then no action needs to be taken and the credential remains valid. Mariners applying for renewal of their MMC while their TWIC is expired may apply without a valid TWIC if they demonstrate that they have enrolled and applied for a TWIC renewal.

According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), some TWIC Enrollment Centers have closed and may remain closed for a period of time "to ensure the safety, health and wellness of staff and the public." For any applicant planning to visit an enrollment center, TSA encourages individuals to use the "Find an Enrollment Center" feature at the bottom of the Universal Enrollment Services webpage to determine if the center is open and its operating hours. See:

<https://universalenroll.dhs.gov/locator>.

Separately, TSA is granting a temporary exemption from requirements in 49 CFR §1572 regarding the expiration of TWICs. For the duration of this exemption, TSA will extend the expiration date of TWICs that expired on or after March 1, 2020, by 180 days. The Federal Register Notice announcing the TWIC extension is available at:

www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/15/2020-07923/exemption-to-extend-the-expiration-date-of-certain-transportation-worker-identification-credentials



CDC SEEKS APA ADVICE IN DRAFTING COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR MARINE PILOTS

On April 20, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) contacted APA for assistance in formulating COVID-19 guidance to maritime pilots. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, APA has been collecting the practices put in place by member pilot groups to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infections. APA used these pilot groups' "common practices" as a basis for our suggestions to CDC - nearly all of which were accepted by the agency.

The CDC guidance ("What Maritime Pilots Need to Know About COVID-19.") is available at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/maritime-pilots.html

Even though this CDC document is based largely on practices already in place at pilot groups around the country, APA encourages member-associations to consider this COVID-19 guidance in ongoing efforts to protect employees, pilots and pilot operations during the pandemic.



"ABOVE NORMAL" HURRICANE SEASON?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a press release predicting an "above-normal" 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, with 13-19 named storms, 6-10 hurricanes, and 3-6 major hurricanes. To read the complete press release, see:

www.noaa.gov/media-release/busy-atlantic-hurricane-season-predicted-for-2020.

NOAA RELEASES 2020 HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY PLAN

NOAA hydrographic survey ships and contractors are preparing for the 2020 hydrographic survey season. These ships collect bathymetric data to support nautical charting, modeling, and research. According to its press release, "NOAA considers hydrographic survey requests from stakeholders such as marine pilots, local port authorities, the Coast Guard, and the boating community, and also considers other hydrographic and NOAA science priorities in determining where to survey and when."

Highlights of the 2020 Survey Plan include:

Great Lakes

Chicago, Illinois – This project area, which hasn't been surveyed since the 1940s, includes the Chicago Harbor and portions of the Indiana and Michigan shorelines.

Atlantic Coast

Central Chesapeake Bay, Virginia – This area hasn't been surveyed since 1950, so this will close a critical gap in existing modern hydrographic data between the entrance to Chesapeake Bay up to Baltimore.

Long Island Sound, New York – This project encompasses a large area of shoreline, including the highly trafficked lower Hudson River and Green River.

Canaveral, Florida – This project is located approximately six nautical miles southeast of Cape Canaveral and hasn't been surveyed since 1930.

Gulf of Mexico

Approaches to Houston, Texas – This survey covers approximately 163 square nautical miles of Trinity Bay, Galveston Bay, Houston Ship Channel, and Buffalo Bayou.

Approaches to Galveston, Texas – This survey covers approximately 610 square nautical miles between the Galveston Bay and Sabine Bank Channels in an area that has not been surveyed since 1963.

Alaska

Glacier Bay – Frequently visited by cruise ships and tourist vessels, modern surveys will increase maritime safety and address uncharted areas exposed by receding glaciers in this area.

Southeast Alaska – This project will provide modern bathymetric data for Whale Pass, Thomas Bay, and Endicott Arm at Dawes Glacier. Similar to Glacier Bay, this new data will identify hazards and changes to the seafloor, provide data for nautical charting products, and improve maritime safety.

The full NOAA Survey Plan is available at:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/706d954d05084d9a83e4ece52b99fac8>

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APA NEWS

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE HONORS THE CAREER OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM COFER



On March 7th, the Virginia House of Delegates passed Resolution No. 182 honoring the outstanding career of Captain William J. Cofer, the immediate past President of the Virginia Pilots Association. Captain Cofer retired in May after a distinguished career of more than 30 years.

In addition to lauding Captain Cofer's service as the President of the Virginia Pilots Association for 22 years, the Resolution recognized his many contributions to the maritime industry and the community.

The Resolution noted Captain Cofer's "leadership and expertise" while serving as president and chair of the Virginia Maritime Association and the Port of Virginia's representative on the Area Homeland Security Executive Committee. The House of Delegates also recognized Captain Cofer for being appointed to the Virginia Port Authority Board of Commissioners.

The full text of the Resolution honoring Captain Cofer can be found at:

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+ful+HR182&201+ful+HR182>

Captain Cofer has been a Trustee for the APA for 22 years. During this time he served on numerous committees and has contributed greatly to the APA's mission of supporting and strengthening the State Pilot system. All of us at the APA wish Captain Cofer continued success in his future endeavors.



CRESCENT RIVER PILOTS DONATE CLOTH MASKS TO THE PUBLIC

The Crescent River Port Pilots Association worked with State Senator Troy Carter (D-New Orleans) in a large scale effort to donate cloth masks to members of underserved communities. Hundreds of people lined up for blocks as the cloth masks were distributed at a local charter school.

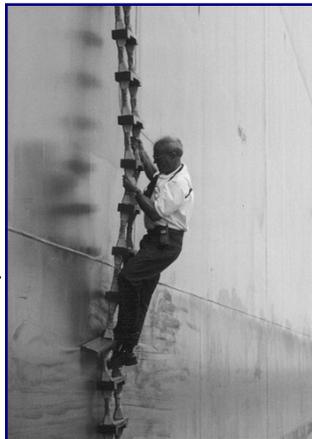
Captain Michael Bopp, President of the Crescent River Port Pilots said, "Initially, we had difficulties finding enough masks for our pilots, but once we had a sufficient supply we knew we needed to help the community."

BRUNSWICK PILOT RETIRES AFTER AN AMAZING 52 YEAR CAREER

Captain Lawrence Gray retired after 52 years of service with the Brunswick Pilots Association (BPA).

Captain Gray began as a Brunswick pilot in 1968, after working aboard tugs.

"Captain Gray has not only been an integral part of the Brunswick Pilots over these past 5 decades, he has been an integral part of this port," said Captain Bruce Fendig, BPA President. "All of us in the port valued his service and wish him well in his retirement."



In an undated photo, Captain Gray climbs a pilot ladder.



BOYCE APPOINTED TO JOINT COMMISSION

Captain John Boyce, St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots President, has been appointed to serve on the International Joint Commission (IJC).

The IJC resolves disputes between the U.S. and Canada under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. The IJC has two main responsibilities: (1) approving projects that affect water levels and flows across the U.S.-Canada boundary and (2) investigating transboundary disputes and recommending solutions.

ELECTIONS, SELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The following pilots' associations announced new officers:

♦ Pilots Association for the Bay & River Delaware: **Captain David K. Cuff** (President) and **Captain Kevin L. Barrow** (Secretary Treasurer). The following were elected as Board Members: **Captain Robert W. Bailey III**, **Captain Dennis F. Cluff**, **Captain Daniel E. MacElrevey**, and **Captain J. Troy Selph**.

♦ Virginia Pilot Association: **Captain J.W. Whiting Chisman** (President), **Captain Frank Rabena** (Vice President), and **Captain E. Waightstill Avery** (Treasurer). The following were elected as Board Members: **Captain Charles I. Boggs, Jr.**, **Captain David B. Ware**, **Captain Michael S. Eubanks**, and **Captain Jacob R. Johnson**.

♦ Canaveral Pilots Association: **Captain Ben Borgie** (Co-Chairman), **Captain Richard Grimison** (Co-Chairman), and **Captain Brendan McMillin** (Secretary).