



July 2020

Greetings All:

The following is a Wardroom Club “Event and COVID-19” Update:

Usually after the Club breaks in May for its summer recess, the next communique the membership would receive is the October Newsletter. I am writing this special update because of the exceptional circumstances we are in due to the ongoing pandemic and how it may impact us meeting again in October.

As you know, reports of the COVID-19 outbreak in the Commonwealth seem to be, at the moment, ebbing. No doubt this positive trend is somewhat the result of a three-month quarantine and other mitigating efforts that we have all participated in at the onset, back in March. With that said, it is my belief that we still have an arduous row ahead through some tricky waters, as recently witnessed in many southern and south-western states where the virus is now blooming like a spring tide. This fact is especially critical since in the Commonwealth, Phase III just began on 7 July; travel restrictions have been relaxed; and there have been continued nation-wide protests over the last several weeks. All of these factors may halt or even reverse our progress. Presently, it is still too soon to tell.

Over the months, the Board of Governor’s (BOG) has continued to meet via Conference Calls. We have also stayed in contact with the Coast Guard Base and our caterer. Presently, there is no change to the base status which allows “only mission essential personnel” onboard, or the Commonwealth’s position that large gatherings (especially indoors) should be avoided and masks should be worn.

This is still a very fluid situation with many variables, including the complexity of the virus, ease of its spread, and the lack of a vaccine. While the re-opening Phase dates are published, they are also subject to change with little advance warning. It is too soon to definitively say that we will be able to reconvene in October. Accordingly, the BOG is entertaining options such as: limiting the social hour and having individual wrapped snacks; changing our dinner seating arrangements; and reducing the number of total attendees, to name a few. IF we do get the “green light” to meet, we want to be ready even if that means our meetings may not be structured as we were accustomed to over the past years.

If we cannot meet due to the gathering size (which is presently 25 indoor seats) or other safety restrictions, the BOG has researched having a Zoom Conference to possibly: 1) Have a vote on admitting the New Members ; 2) Elect the new slate of officers; and 3) Enjoy our speaker’s series from the comfort of one’s living room. These certainly are not BOG preferences but we believe the worse-case scenario options must be explored. With regard to voting in the new slate of officers, our Secretary, Colonel Donaghue, has contacted the Commonwealth’s Secretary of State and advised them that due to COVID-19 we did not hold our Annual Meeting in May and that our voting in of a new slate of Club Officers would occur later in the year. Many thanks, Bob!

The BOG will continue to provide updates via special email and letter distributions, and the newsletter. Also please stay in contact with the other members of the club. The BOG will continually reassess virus trends and meeting options weighed against the intent that our actions keep our membership and guests healthy and safe, while helping to minimize the spread of the virus. To this point, I ask each and every one of you to assess your own individual risk criteria. If you now suffer or have suffered or may be in contact with family members who suffer or have suffered from repeated cases of pneumonia or other respiratory /pulmonary conditions, diabetes, cancer, or heart / cardio issues, you must weigh the risk of attending a meeting. Of great importance is a recent report from high-ranking disease researchers that studies of indoor virus droplets can spread beyond 35 feet!

Additionally, please continue to do your part! I ask all members to practice the following recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for your personal health:

- **Maintain “social distancing” of 6 -10 ft. and wear a mask in public to help prevent the “community spread” of the virus.**
- **Avoid shaking hands, hugging or kissing when greeting friends.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw it in the trash. If you do not have a tissue available, sneeze or cough into your arm or clothing, not your hand.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, including money.**
- **Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.**
- **Stay home if you are sick unless it is necessary to seek medical attention.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick, isolate their plates, tableware and clothes.**

For continuous COVID-19 updates, google [CDC COVID-19 Updates](#).

Please keep checking your email and the club website for updates. I also welcome your feedback regarding topics discussed in this letter, as well as any club interests that you may wish to discuss.

Best regards,

**Michael Cicalese, CAPT, USCGR (Ret)
President – The Wardroom Club
(781) 452-7367
Michaelacicalese@gmail.com**