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August 2020

I hope August finds you all well. With COVID-19 still raging on around the world, it doesn't appear that life will be back to normal soon. As of this letter, my Cancun trip is still on. The Mexican State of Quintana Roo, where Cancun is located, isn't in an area that is considered a hot spot, but to help keep it that way, the state is designated "red" between July 27 and August 2, meaning on essential activities are allowed. No in restaurant dining, only takeout and delivery. Hotels are limited to 25 percent occupancy. Hopefully, after August 2, they will relax and move to "orange" which means pretty much everything can open at 50 percent capacity. We are keeping our fingers crossed for a safe, healthy vacation.

Soon we will send out the final Slate of Officers for 2021. The deadline for submission of additional nominees has not quite arrived as of the writing of this letter, so I can't report any changes from the earlier announced Slate of Officers at this time. As a reminder, the first week of August, we will send a final Slate of Officers for club presidents to send to their members. The Nominating Committee will host a Candidate's Caucus, scheduling a call with each nominee to give them a question, and get their response. The questions and answers will be sent out as well as being posted on the website. The Registrar Committee will prepare the numbered, trackable, mail-in ballots and send them to the club presidents. Clubs will have approximately one month to complete and return the completed ballots to the Registrar Committee, postmarked by Friday, September 18, 2020. The election results will be sent out around October 1.

The Q2 financials should soon be reviewed by the Finance Review Committee and ready to distribute to our members. There is no change in membership total, so we still stand at 932 members.

For several years, we've been discussing a desire to expand the courses of our Certification Program to include other energy industry related topics such as Renewable Energy and Transportation, to expand the program. We also want to create standardized training materials and tests. Standardized training material and testing will make it easier for any subject matter expert to know exactly what to cover, making it easier to find someone to teach the course. That, along with standard tests will also ensure that everyone taking the courses at different times will have the same experience, same method of testing, etc. Additionally, we would possibly have a new revenue stream by developing an option for offering the program online, which might help in getting our Program accredited. With

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accreditation, we may be able to offer an online Program outside our membership. In a step forward towards that goal, Judi Adams approached the Board for permission to provide an online offering of the Accounting portion of the Certification Program to the members who had registered to take the course in New Orleans in April during the Southeast Region Meeting. Seeing this as an opportunity to test how a non-traditional class would work, the Board approved the request. On Saturday, June 27, Sheryl Minear taught the Accounting portion of the Certification Program to Judi, Evelyn Green, and me via a Zoom video conference. The training materials were sent by email prior to the class. During the class, Sheryl covered the materials, answering questions from the attendees as they came up. After the course materials were covered, Sheryl emailed the test to each attendee and one hour was given to complete the open book test and email it back. The meeting ended and we completed our tests and returned to Sheryl. The class went smoothly, and we all enjoyed the experience. This gives us a good start in moving forward with our long-term goal for the Program.

Please take care in August and try to stay cool in this terrible heat!

"Well done is better than well said." Benjamin Franklin

Keith