

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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August 2016

www.wapgh.org

August Highlights

A total of (26) twenty-six members and guests were registered for the August 10, 2016 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Richard Lockwood introduced the new commander COL John Lloyd to members. COL Lloyd assumed command of the Pittsburgh District on July 29, 2016.

Coast Guard News

LT Shawn Simeral presented the **attached** report.

- AWO will be holding their summer meeting at the Fairmont Hotel in Pittsburgh. On Wednesday, August 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a Subchapter M Information Session which is open to the public and all members of the towing vessel industry are encouraged to attend. There is no fee for attending. To register, please contact Anne Fazzini at afazzini@americanwaterways.com or (703)841-9300 ext. 291.

Army Corp of Engineers

Brian Luprek covered the **attached** lock closure report. Due to issues approaching Allegheny Lock 5, the Corp will reissue the Navigation Notice that had been issued early in the year. This notice confirms the approach route that is needed to avoid shoaling.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report. Due to extensive deterioration of the existing Parsons gauge structure, a new gauge shelter has been installed 1700 feet upstream of the current location on the Holly Meadows Bridge. A variation between both gauges is occurring and will be monitored for several months before the old gauge is removed.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci reported on the following items:

- The Upper Ohio Navigation Study is at the State and Agency Review. This is the last phase before the final document is prepared and sent to the Chief of Engineers for his Chief's report. The anticipated date to have this report to the Chief of Engineers is late September. This expedited schedule is a direct result of all our public out-reach, stakeholder support and the political pressure of our elected officials in regards to the importance of completing this study. Early indications are that the report still does not meet the OMB minimum Cost-to-Benefit ratio of 2.5. It does increase the project from 1.0 to 1.6, but there is a lot of

work to do after we get the project authorized and get the project appropriated.

- Senator Casey is holding a press event on Thursday, August 18, 2016 at the Charleroi Lock and Dam beginning at 10:30 AM. Mary Ann thanked all those that have registered and encouraged anyone else to contact her immediately if they wish to attend.
- The Port will be hosting a luncheon on August 23rd to provide outreach to the PA Department of Transportation Rail Transit.
- On September 7th, there will a legislative reception in Washington, DC.
- RADM Chris Sadler will be participating in a roundtable discussion on September 20th in conjunction with the Allegheny Conference.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported that planning for the October 13th Barge Breakaway Seminar is underway. The "Who Works the Rivers" program date **has changed** and will now be held on **Thursday, October 20th**.

Navigation Committee Report

Eunice Ratcliff was unable to attend the meeting. David Podurgiel provided the following information:

- There have been very few navigational issues during the Emsworth closure. The delay sheet has been distributed through the Navigational Committee.
- Brayman Construction has contacted the Navigation Committee in regards to work on the 7th Street Bridge. The committee is in the process of confirming parameters of the closure work.
- Members are encouraged to attend the AWO Subchapter M Session as stated earlier in the meeting notes.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider provided the following information:

- The LRD Stakeholder group met in Cincinnati on July 20th to review the 3-year lock repair schedule. Industry also provided an educational presentation ("Barge 101") regarding the basic economic and operational factors of barge and towboat operations. Notes from the meeting are expected soon and will be distributed to the group upon receipt.
- A RIETF (River Industry Executive Task Force) meeting was recently held. Key attendees included: MG Wehr and several folks from MVD, Dave Dale and Bill Chapman from LRD, D8 Capt. Dittman and several industry members of the task force. Much of the meeting centered around issues on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers; however, a significant amount of time was spent discussing the work that has been done with LRD to improve communications between industry and the Corp. and the need to establish a similar progress on a system wide basis with LRD, MVD and Industry folks. The LRD Stakeholder Engagement group will meet in October with MVD to discuss the process and then present the concept to a broader audience during the upcoming WCI Symposium in November.

- The 2016 WCI Waterways Symposium is scheduled for November 15-17, 2017 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati, OH. The symposium topic is: "Increasing Investment for the Nation's Waterways".
- The appropriation process along with WRDA appear to be stalled at this time. Little progress is expected prior to the election this fall. As a result, a continuing resolution is expected this fall and appropriations then likely depend on an Omnibus Appropriations bill later this fall. The delay in WRDA 2016 could allow time for the EDM project to be included in the WRDA as the USACE has indicated that the Chief's report should be completed by the end of September.

September Membership Meeting

The *next* membership meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2016 at the Chartiers Country Club. Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch served promptly at noon. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, September 8, 2016 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

September 14, 2016

Menu:

Mixed Field Greens w/Balsamic Vinaigrette
Broiled Filet of Boston Scrod w/Lemon Herb Butter
Baked Stuffed Potato
Blueberry Pie w/vanilla ice cream
Iced Tea, coffee and tea

Cost: *\$30/per member*

_____ YES, I will be attending

_____ No, I will not be attending

****Special Dietary Requirements:** _____

NAME: _____
(Please print)

COMPANY: _____

Please respond **by Thursday, September 8, 2016** to:

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