

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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August 2017

www.wapgh.org

August Highlights

A total of (35) thirty-five members and guests were registered for the August 9, 2017 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. New members, Sam Lansberry and Shane Gaines were introduced and provided some information on their company Armstrong Terminals, Inc.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

- Today's Congested Waterways Committee's meeting highlights:
 - WPXI reporter Gabriella DeLuca spent a day on the M/V Grant Wesley Murray discussing the challenges the Towboat operators experience on the Pittsburgh waterways. This story aired the day before the Regatta and throughout the weekend. IMO it was a success if we reached ½ the rec boat community.
 - WPXI has been airing river conditions during its weather segments. During the high Water/Flooding event on the weekend of July 29 they included the river stages at all the Monongahela locks and Emsworth. This was a goal of the navigation Committee from our 24May17 meeting with WPXI.
 - Our hope is to do another segment on infrastructure
- Due to a storm that stalled over the Monongahela River Basin we had an uncharacteristic river rise in July, this brought major flooding to the upper Mon putting Point Marion, Grays landing, Maxwell and Locks 4,3,2 out of service for a couple days. The California boat Club superstructure broke loose from its moorings and ended up in outside chamber of Lock 4. As of today, 7August they feel it broke up in pieces and not all of it has been removed, there is still a challenging debris field on the down bound approach. Clean up has been contracted out to River salvage at Lock 4 Charleroi.
- On Thursday, 3 August 2017 we had a Stakeholders meeting with the PGH District USACE discussing the upcoming Level of Service for the Allegheny Locks. A proposal to change the LES at Lock 4 from Level 2 (two shifts per day) to Level 3 (one shift per day) was discussed. The Corp has extended its comment period to 31 August, Freeport Terminals, Murray Energy and myself speaking for industry oppose this reduction in service.

- o Last year the Corp was hoping to get an increase in the level of manning for Locks 2, 3 Allegheny and this will start FY 18 (October 17). Currently Locks 2,3 are Level 1 (24/7,365) but only for singles after 10PM till 8AM. In March manning levels should increase whereas they will be able to do 'doubles' 24/7. This is great news for shipping.
- We will be having our annual Congressional visit on Sept. 7 hosting representatives from PA, OH and WV. CTC will be providing the vessel this year.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report/Legislative Report

Mary Ann Bucci provided the following report:

- Linda and Marty Hemmes of the Allegheny River Development Corporation were introduced and recognized for all their hard work in securing funds to maintain the level of service on the Allegheny River.
- The General Accounting Office will in Pittsburgh September to review and discuss Lock & Dam expenditures through the Army Corp of Engineers. This visit is in reaction to hard questions raised at the User Board Meeting.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - o The Port of Pittsburgh Commission will be the sponsor for the Allegheny Conference's program, **On the Boat to Water Quality & Infrastructure Investment on August 16, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM** on the River of Steel river cruises. The program will focus on improving water quality and waterways infrastructure.
 - o The **American Society of Civil Engineers' Ports and Harbors Committee** will be holding their meeting in Pittsburgh at the **Grand Wyndham September 14-15, 2017**
 - o The American Society of Civil Engineers is hosting its Ports' 19 Conference in Pittsburgh September 15-19, 2019 at the Grand Wyndham. This conference usually has approximately 1000 attendees and this will be the first year they are having their conference in a city with an inland port.
 - o I will be meeting with Elizabeth Burkhart on September 13, 2017 to learn more about the conference and what their needs will be to make this conference successful.
 - o **Smart Rivers** will be in Pittsburgh **September 18-20, 2017** at the **Sheraton Station Square**
 - o **Platts 40th Annual Coal Marketing Days Conference** will be in Pittsburgh **September 26-27, 2017** at the **Omni William Penn Hotel**.
 - o The Port of Pittsburgh Commission will be hosting an opening reception for the **Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour (ORBIT)** that will be in Pittsburgh **October 17-19, 2017**. The conference is being hosted by BG Mark Toy and the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division. Pittsburgh is the first city to host this conference. The attendees of this conference will be visiting various sites and projects that the USACE is currently working.

Coast Guard News

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

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham provided the following information:

- The Barge Breakaway is scheduled for October 12, 2017 at the Floreffe Fire Hall and the Red Lion has been confirmed for catering needs. Dick Ehringer has provided materials for this seminar that will illustrate the consequences of a breakaway.
- The October 19th Who Works the River already has South Park and Blackhawk schools committed.

Dick Ehringer expressed sincere concern over the decline of lock and dam infrastructure spending. Without a navigational river, the city will lose current businesses and future commerce. The Waterways Association needs to begin putting pressure on governmental agencies (Coast Guard, Army Corp of Engineers, City of Pittsburgh, Senators and Representatives). All efforts should be made to educate all governmental agencies to what an unnavigable river system will yield.

Bob Shema discussed his interview with Richard Cole, the last surviving U.S. servicemember who participated in the Doolittle Raid against Japan following the Pearl Harbor attack. In retaliation for the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, 16 U.S. bombers carrying 80 men took off from the USS Hornet aircraft carrier to bomb Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Nagoya, Kobe and Nagoya on April 18, 1942. In the attack, dubbed the Doolittle Raid after the group's leader, renowned aviator Lt. Col. James Doolittle, all but three of the 80 U.S. servicemembers survived the mission. Most returned to the United States. One of the B-25 Mitchell medium bombers survived. Most crashed in Chinese territory or were ditched at sea. Bob was working on bringing COL Richard Cole to Pittsburgh in October but due to travel concerns this has been cancelled.

September Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at the Chartiers Country Club. Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. and lunch served promptly at noon. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Wednesday, September 6, 2017 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

September 13, 2017 @ Noon

Luncheon Menu:

Fruit Cup with Honey Cream
Chicken Romano/lightly egg-battered w/lemon butter sauce
Broccoli w/lemon butter
Chocolate Parfait

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 Wednesday, September 6, 2017** to:

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