

**Membership Meeting**

**December 8, 2021**

**Navigation Report**

**Provided by David Podurgiel, Vice President**

Sadly before Thanksgiving we had a fatality in our industry. Its times like this that river folks show their true colors and pull together in support of one another and that is something we should all be proud of. Another vessel had a crew member suffer a heart attack and the quick action by the crew and lock personnel to get medical treatment made all the difference and hopefully this individual will continue their career on the river.

This past month has seen delays up to 8 days at Montgomery Lock as the work in the Primary Chamber continues. Although this is a hardship on industry and the end users the communication between us and the USACE personnel at Montgomery Lock has been exceptional. There has been much give and take by all and as one of the Lock man recently commented; we are running like a well-oiled machine. The Corp reached out with a suggestion to tweak the NTNI on how we were doing our lockages as the up bound/down bound queues were extremely unbalanced, industry agreed and this has helped move commerce a little more efficiently.

As we close out 2021 where we had multiple outages both planned and unplanned, I must say there has been a great improvement in communication and transparency from the USACE/Pittsburgh District from Vince Decarlo on down. The key is to keep this going as we enter future O&M projects and unprecedented funding for years to come. 2022 will see major delays during the concurrent Emsworth/Dashiels Locks outage along with Montgomery Lock again in the fourth quarter.