

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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January 2018

www.wapgh.org

January Highlights

A total of (27) twenty-seven members and guests were registered for the January 10, 2018 luncheon meeting at Bella Sera. First-time attendees included: Tony Darkowski, City of Pittsburgh/EMS and Adam Ameel, Critical Infrastructure Manager who serves as a liaison between River Rescue and Public Safety.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

- Ice has hampered navigation on the Mon, Allegheny and Ohio since January 4, 2018. Vessels have run into problems at all major lock with ice buildup and tows required to do ice lockings.
- Area's that have caused the most problems are Ohio Mile 16 and 49 with multiple vessels running into packed ice that stalled them in place for up to 48 hours.
- The Hydro-Committee conference calls occurred on 12/18, 1/3,8,10...on line were NWS, Navigation Committee members, USACE, and Coast Guard. Updates from calls were sent out to industry.
- WPXI Meteorologist Valerie Smock has reached out to me this past week asking for updates on how the ice is affecting river traffic, I have provided accurate information and photos sent in by vessel crews of multiple WAP member companies and she has reported the facts as given without sensationalizing the story. She has credited the WAP in ever story which I feel is great exposure for the organization.
- John Dilla has requested a meeting for January 24th to discuss the upcoming closures at Dashields/Emsworth Locks. The meeting will focus on any changes to the NTNI, self-help program, sit-reps and queue reports, and coordination between locks. A discussion on the Charleroi outage focusing on the schedule that will work best for industry and the Corp will be introduced.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin provided the following report:

- The annual Washington visit in conjunction with the WCI Annual Conference has been scheduled for February 13-15, 2018 at the Watergate Hotel. Waterways representatives have been identified and room reservations have been confirmed at the Rosslyn Holiday Inn. Tickets will be purchased for the Wednesday evening Leadership Award Reception and Dinner.
- An invitation was sent out from the Port of Pittsburgh to participate in a round-table discussion with Representative Rick

Saccone this Friday, January 12, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 11:15 at the Port of Pittsburgh Commission Offices.

- Tax reform legislation was recently passed. It did keep the tax-exempt status for private activity bonds (funding ports and infrastructure).
- The current continuing resolution expires January 19th and there is a possibility of prolonged debate on hot-button issues such as the Dreamer legislation, CHIP, etc.
- Trump's top objective for 2018 is an infrastructure plan totaling \$1.2 trillion in funding that will require a \$200 billion down-payment. This would require cuts to domestic programs which will create a large stumbling block in the legislature.
- Representative Shuster will be leaving Congress at the end of this year. The Transportation Committee Chair position will be vacant, and it is unclear of the new leadership directives. Representative Shuster plans on spending his last year working out an infrastructure with President Trump.
- At the EPW Hearing (the Senate's Environmental and Public Works Committee) William Friedman speaking on behalf of the American Association of Port Authorities will be recommending that the next WRDA bill include provisions that Harbor Maintenance Tax revenues be directly given to the USACE (versus the general fund), that there be authorization of navigation improvements of projects recommended by the ASACE's Chief of Engineer, and that there be implementation of additional streamlining of the Corps' study process for navigation channel improvements. Although all points are not directly affecting the Port of Pittsburgh - it is a positive indication of the wider attempts to facilitate USACE operations.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Mary Ann Bucci presented the following:

- A meeting has been held with the Pittsburgh Pirates to discuss a potential special promotional event to highlight Safe Boating Week on May 25, 2018 prior to the baseball game. The estimated cost associated with this event would be around \$35,000. This proposal will be discussed at the Port's board meeting to address funding needs. Any company that wishes to contribute to funding this proposal should contact Mary Ann or Matt directly to discuss. Everyone must understand that without industry who pays for the lock and dam maintenance, there will be no recreational boating on our rivers.
- A round-table discussion with Representative Rick Saccone has been scheduled for Friday, January 12th at the Port of Pittsburgh offices. An invitation has been forwarded to all Waterways Association members. The Port is working on holding another discussion with the Democratic Party's nominee, Conor Lamb.
- It is extremely important that every effort is made to educate the new representatives on the infrastructure deficiencies within our region.

Coast Guard News

LCDR Fran Smith presented the **attached** report.

Army Corp of Engineers

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

National Weather Service

Alicia Miller covered the **attached** report.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham has identified the date for the first "Who Works the Rivers" as Thursday, April 19, 2018 with the "Future is Mine" group that yields between 40 to 60 students. Any company interested in participating in this program should contact Mike directly.

Dates and locations for the annual seminars, Man Overboard and Barge Breakaway, will be finalized within the next several months.

Other Comments

Adam Ameel provided information on the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) meetings that are held quarterly rotating between Pittsburgh and West Virginia. In March, a AMSC "101" workshop will be held to discuss the basics about the committee and highlight available security funding and resources. CDR McClain confirmed that a meeting is scheduled for January 16th at the Norfolk Southern Offices beginning at 10 a.m. Anyone wishing to attend can contact CDR McClain directly.

February Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 2018 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 Thursday, February 8, 2018 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club
February 14, 2018 @ Noon

Menu:

Mixed Field Greens with Chartiers Crouton and Balsamic Dressing
Penne pasta with marinara w/garlic toast & fresh grated Parmesan cheese
Sauteed Zucchini
Cherry Crisp w/vanilla ice cream
Coffee, tea and ice 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, February 8, 2018** to:

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