

# Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

P.O. Box 178, Valencia, PA 16059

December 2020/January 2021

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## **PITTSBURGH MARITIME ASSOCIATION**

**IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

*FOUR \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GRANTED IN 2021*

*EMPLOYEES OF WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH MEMBERS MAY APPLY*

*APPLICATIONS MUST BE POST-MARKED BY MARCH 31, 2021 TO BE CONSIDERED*

**APPLICATION AND CRITERIA ATTACHED**

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### **December 2020/January 2021 Highlights**

Our scheduled December 9 and January 13 membership luncheons were cancelled. This has been due to rising Coronavirus infections and current employer restrictions in place or personal medical implications for many of our members.

Our year end Board of Directors meeting was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 via Zoom with all members in attendance. Budgets and financials were reviewed and approved going forward into 2021. To set up an appointment to view the financial reports, please contact Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director at [ckrelow@wapgh.org](mailto:ckrelow@wapgh.org).

In 2020 half of our membership meetings had been cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Three of our four Board of Directors meetings had been held virtually.

2020 has been a difficult year for many of our membership due to the Pandemic. This in turn has made it difficult to keep membership involved in our Association. One goal that has been achieved is the merge of the Pittsburgh Maritime Club into the WAP. Following is a letter from our President, Michael Graham regarding that transition.

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January 2021  
Greetings;

As a part of this month's news letter, I would like to inform everyone regarding the merger of the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Maritime Club. As most of you know, the Association has been talking for a while now about the declining number of participants at the PMC events, and the need to enhance both the experience and participation level of the membership. Due to the large number of overlapping memberships between the two organizations, it was thought that by merging the two groups it would simplify the process of planning and organizing more successful events.

With this in mind, we have merged the PMC into the Waterways Association, and have formed a new "Networking Committee" to handle the events previously organized by the PMC.

We have asked several key members who hold both PMC and WAP membership to head up the new committee, with the goal of keeping the favorite events of the PMC intact. We feel with the vision of Daria Schwartz, Gretchen Chamberlain, Shane Checkan, and others, that the events being planned by our new committee will continue to be a great way to socialize, network, and just have some fun within the association and industry!

If you are a member of the PMC but not the WAP, we've put in place a plan for you to continue to participate in the networking events in 2021. Details of this interim plan will be sent to you individually.

The merger became a reality on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and the new Networking Committee is in place. The committee has already begun planning events for 2021; the Clay Shoot, Golf Outing and Holiday party. I look forward to seeing all of you (hopefully in person) as this year's events are announced.

Stay tuned, more details regarding this change to come in 2021!!!

**Michael Graham**

**President, Waterways Association of Pittsburgh**

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Our next membership luncheon meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at Chartiers Country Club. Please be sure to respond as attending or not attending, as this meeting too could possibly be cancelled if responses for attendance are too few. (See Meeting Response Form at the end of the newsletter)

Important business items require voting at our next membership meeting. First, with the merge with the Pittsburgh Maritime Club our Bylaws have been reviewed and revised by William Porter, former President of the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh. William has been instrumental in the merge effort and the Board of Directors is appreciative of his efforts. Of most importance within the revisions are the addition of two seats to our board. Our current Board of Directors in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Maritime Board of Directors had suggested this addition, but these new seats will not immediately be filled as we move through this first year of planning, organizing and hosting events via the new Networking Committee. A vote regarding acceptance of the Bylaws revisions will be held at the February Membership meeting

Second, due to so many cancellations of membership meetings, re-elections of Officers and Board Members have been put off until the February Membership meeting.

**2021 Pittsburgh Maritime Association Scholarship** application and details are in an attachment to the January newsletter. In 2020 four \$1,500.00 scholarships were presented. In 2021 four \$2,000.00 scholarships will be awarded.

### **Navigation Committee Report**

Dave Podurgiel, Vice President provided the following report:

- ⌚ Due to a pump failure on the RF3 crane the final repair to the lower gate cannot be completed and the fleet will have to return and close the Primary Chamber for 2 weeks in January. Primary Chamber closed on January 11-27, average delay is 12-15 hours. Project is on schedule as confirmed by the USACE today, 19Jan21.
- ⌚ Operating conditions are near normal. NWS predicts possible high water events in February due to La Nina, their report should confirm that.
- ⌚ A 'team' was formed between the USACE, Port of Pittsburgh to look at doing a study of a study about Low Use Rivers and the Marine Highway. WAP Navigation Committee nor WAP was included. We are addressing this now to have a seat at the table.
- ⌚ Below are upcoming USACE projects that will affect river commerce in 2021
  - o Pike Island L/D OR 84.3: Primary Chamber Intermittent Closures for river wall crack repair. A date to start has not been set, this was confirmed by USACE today, 19JAN2.
  - o Willow Island L/D OR 161.7: Primary Chamber intermittent closures for hydraulic system replacement. Awaiting design completion, June 1-September 30.
  - o Montgomery L/D OR 31.8: Primary Chamber dewatering, July 26-August 27 Major Delays.
  - o Hannibal L/D OR 126.4: Primary Chamber intermittent closures for culvert valve replacement, October 25- December 10

### **Coast Guard News**

The **attached** report was provided for the newsletter.

### **National Weather Service**

Alicia Miller of NOAA Federal provided the **attached** report for the newsletter.

### **Port of Pittsburgh Commission**

A current Report is not available.

### **Legislative Report**

Dean Marlin Legislative Committee chair, provided the following report for the newsletter.

### **WRDA 2020 OR "THE AMERICA WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2020"**

- ⌚ All indications are that WRDA will be passed during this session.

## **2021 APPROPRIATIONS**

- ⌚ On November 10 the Senate released all 12 of its appropriations bills which includes the FY21 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill.
- ⌚ Although we are under a continuing resolution that extends funding to all federal agencies through December 11 - this recent development bodes well for moving our nation forward into 2021 without further deliberation.

## **ADDITIONAL**

- ⌚ Surprisingly the US Treasury has reported that September industry contribution into the Inland Waterways Trust fund where over \$30 million - bring annual receipts collected to \$112 million - only \$8 million below 2018 year to date receipts.
- ⌚ In mid-October a Presidential Executive Order was signed establishing a Water Subcabinet in order to coordinate relevant government agencies in the effort to improve water infrastructure planning and promotion.
- ⌚ There is an excellent editorial in the November 9 issue of The Waterways Journal entitled "Infrastructure: Now Is the Time". It points out that it is time to stop bipartisan disagreement about the ways and means and costs - and focus in on the goals necessary to restore and improve use of our Nation's greatest commercial highway.

## **Army Corp of Engineers**

A current report is not available.

## **Education Committee Report**

Michael Graham, Education Committee Chair, provided the following report:

**Man Overboard Seminar** is tentatively scheduled for July 26, details to follow.

**Barge Breakaway Seminar** is tentatively scheduled for October 21. Additionally, with the cancellation of the 2020 seminar, WAP is hopeful to hold a second Barge Breakaway Seminar early in 2021, perhaps March or April. This training is extraordinarily important and holding the event twice within the year would be a win-win. Details of both events will follow.

**Who Works the Rivers** will have 2 events this year, but both will be held virtually. As those dates approach, details will be announced.

## **Networking Committee**

Events will include:

**Clay Shoot**, Date TBD

**Golf Outing**, Date TBD

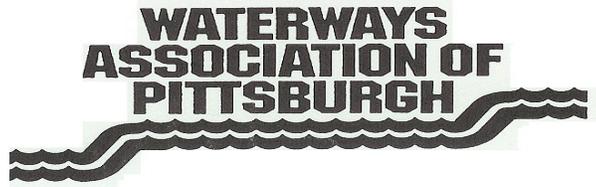
**Holiday Party**, Friday, December 10 2021 at Hilton Garden Inn Southpointe

*Details for all of the above events will be announced as available.*

**February Membership Meeting**

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10 at Chartiers Country Club.

Please email the response form below, or you may call or text your response by Thursday, February 4, 2021 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.



**Member Luncheon Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

Wednesday February 10, 2021

Check in 11:30 until Noon

***Meeting Begins Promptly at Noon!***

**Menu**

Bread Basket with House Garden Salad

Roasted Cod with Walnut Crust

Mushroom Risotto

Fresh Green Beans

Chocolate Tarte with Chantilly Cream

*Please note any Special Dietary Requirements:* \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$30 per member

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I will not attend

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company

***Please respond to Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director - by Thursday, February 4***

***[ckrelow@wapgh.org](mailto:ckrelow@wapgh.org) OR Call, Leave Message or Text at 724-991-0136***

***Cash, Checks or Master Card or Visa Accepted***

***For Credit Card charges, please fill out attached form and return with response***

***A 10% convenience fee will be added to all credit card payments (\$3.00)***