

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

P.O. Box 534, Lyndora, PA 16045
Phone: 724-355-4101 Fax: 724-285-4999
Email: cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org

July 2018

www.wapgh.org

July Highlights

A total of (38) thirty-eight members and guests were registered for the July 11, 2018 luncheon meeting aboard the Gateway Clipper's Princess. Guests Michael Rich of Ingram Barge and Rusty Flowers of Lake Lee Leasing were introduced.

The 2018 Pittsburgh Maritime Association Scholarship Recipients were recognized and certificates awarded.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurciel provided the following report:

- Attended Huntington District Waterways meeting and Incident Summit on 19 June. Of interest was the Coast Guard reported that Mariners will see letters of Suspension and Revocation attached to their files if CG deems they are responsible of 'poor' judgment after an incident, i.e. collision with a bridge, my issue with this is who is the credentialed mariner within the CG to make these determinations? Have they run a towboat on the Inland Waterways? Why isn't industry part of this decision making?
- Lock 4 Charleroi was able to give mariners 500" on the weekend of July 7-9, this greatly helped industry get much needed commodities through. There is a hope that the lock will open a couple days early, 7/17 vs 7/19.
- Montgomery Large chamber outage starts 8/6-9/14.
- A meeting was held at PEWAR's on 29 June to discuss another unexpected Dashields outage, COE wanted to extend the current schedule of Mon-Thursday, 0630-1630 through mid-October. Brian Loring, Rich Kreider, Jay Ruble (Crouse) and I met with Mark Ivanicin, Denise Polizzano and others to discuss a better plan. A plan was worked out that has the 10-hour outages occurring Monday-Friday during the Montgomery outage, 8/13-9/14. There will be intermittent outages of no more than 4 hours Mon-Fri, 7/16-10/10.
- A meeting was held recently regarding the deterioration in the communication process between the COE Pittsburgh District and regional stakeholders. As you all know, I brought this up in our May meeting. Notes I received from this meeting show some promise in reinstating regular local stakeholder engagement meetings and other bullet points. RIETIF members are paying close attention to

what happens up here. I promise the WAP Navigation Committee will hold everyone to their word.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin provided the following report:

- The White House has proposed a reorganization of the USACE to the Department of Transportation and the Department of the Interior ... Navigation work would go to the DOT while responsibilities for Locks and dams, ecosystem restoration and clean water act permitting would go to the DOI
 - Seems to be increasing momentum as this was previously proposed by Congressmen Shuster and Groves - who will take leadership in congress.
 - However, this will have a way to go and will require congressional action.
- FY 18 USACE work plan previously reported in June
- FY 19 Appropriations
 - House passed their version in June
 - Senate approved a more robust "Appropriations Funding" June 25 (86-5) which is similar and part of a minibus appropriations bill (HR5895) that will provide \$6.9 billion for USACE Civil Works mission - (\$2.16 billion over Administrations budget request - and higher than the House proposal)
 - Includes construction account of 2.16 billion (1.289 billion over the Presidents FY19 request) and O & M funding of \$3.74 billion (\$1.66 million over Presidents FY 19 request)
 - \$123 million into investigations account, \$1.52 Billion into Harbor Maintenance trust fund)
 - This includes funding top 5 projects - Olmsted (\$36 million as this was requested in Presidents FY19 budget) Kentucky Lock (\$58.6 million), Lower Mon locks and Dams 2,3,4 (\$87 million) Chickamauga Lock (99.5 million), LaGrange Lock and Dam (\$28.8 million)
 - Includes 6 new construction starts and 7 new study starts to be determined.
 - Rejects user fees proposed by Presidents FY 19 budget that sought to raise \$1 billion over 10 years.
 - House and Senate bills next move to conference committee to reconcile differences. If this can be agreed by 9.30 this will be an exception as will not need a Continuing Resolution as in the past
- WRDA 2018 (Water Resources Development Act) -aka "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018".
 - House passed in June - 408-2
 - Senate - Speaker McConnell reportedly intends to move to the Senate Floor after July 4 recess.

- INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE
 - Everyone remains pessimistic
 - Shuster intends to release a compressive bill - but no one expects action or immediacy to be taken by this congress.
- Senator Casey held press conference at Braddock Dam - yesterday
 - See notes.
- HBO - VICE "AMERICAS CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE "The Big Fix" focuses on waterways as well as the Gateway Project in New York. Note interview with Daniel Sloan who was on Trump Administration transition team advisor. Aired June 29.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Mary Ann Bucci presented the following:

- The press conference for Senator Bob Casey at the Braddock Lock & Damon July 9, 2018 was well attended with strong industry support. He addressed the 2018 workplan for the Lower Mon Project and the need of the inland waterways system and the river's importance to SW Pennsylvania.
- Mary Ann will now be testifying before the Senate Finance Committee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 in Washington D.C. She will also be testifying before the State Transportation Committee on July 17th on Act 89 updates.
- Additional roundtable discussion with candidates will try to be scheduled to educate those running for local offices the importance of the inland waterways to this region.

Coast Guard News

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

Army Corp of Engineers

Mark Eberle covered the **attached** lock closure report.

National Weather Service

Alicia Miller covered the **attached** report.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham was unable to attend. The following information was presented:

- The Man Overboard Seminar is scheduled for Friday, July 20th. Participants will have access to the Clarion Inn's outdoor pool following the classroom portion.
- The Barge Breakaway Seminar date is October 18 with Tabletop Exercises and will be held at the Florefffe Fire Hall.
- The next Who Works the Rivers has been scheduled for October 4, 2018.

August Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 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, August 2, 2018 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

****PLEASE NOTE: ANYONE TRAVELING FROM THE NORTH TO CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE BALDWIN ROAD CLOSURE. THIS CLOSURE WILL THROUGH OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. SPECIAL DIRECTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN ALL COMMUNICATION FOR MEETINGS HELD AT CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB.**

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club
August 8, 2018 @ Noon

Menu:

Fresh Fruit Cup w/Honey Cream
Chicken Marsala - sautéed chicken w/marsala wine mushroom sauce
Wild Mushroom Parmesan Rice
Apple Pie w/Vanilla Ice Cream
Cold Tea, coffee and hot 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, August 2, 2018** to:

Cheryll Cranmer
Phone: (724) 355-4101
Fax: (724) 285-4999
Email: cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org