

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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March 13, 2019

www.wapgh.org

March Highlights

A total of (31) thirty-one members and guests were registered for the March 13, 2019 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. First-time attendees Amanda Bolyard of Longview Power, LLC and Guest Bob Carter of Carmeuse Lime & Stone, Inc.

Navigation Committee Report

Ryan Newton provided the following report:

- The Waterways Association continue to work with the Corps on trying to understand the Levels of Service change at AR 4 from LoS 2 (16 hours per day) to 3 (10 hours per day). As an industry we have presented our case why any changes to the LoS will be detrimental to industry, the terminals, local economies and any future development plans 5 years and further. Dean Marlin is leading the committee and at this point has formally requested that we meet with Colonel Short to discuss the issue.
- It continues to be a struggle this year for industry due in part to abnormal weather patterns that kept us in elevated river levels, in addition to both planned and unplanned lock outages.
- The first Barge Fleeting Safety Initiative meeting was held on February 22nd and included local industry reps, USACOE, and was hosted by the Coast Guard. Several challenges were identified, and potential mitigation steps were reviewed. The committee intends on meeting every few weeks to work on action items with the next meeting being scheduled for next week.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Mary Ann Bucci provided the following report (including Legislative):

- The Port is working with the Congested Waterways to promote the May 26, 2019 Safe Boating Event during the Pittsburgh Pirates Game. Anyone wishing to participate or donate gifts should contact Scott Harshman at the Port's offices.
- Mary Ann has been meeting with various state officials to gain support for funding an automated lockage system test at Greys Landing. This could potentially solve issues with the level of operations on the Allegheny.

Legislative Report

- Congress has been encouraged to spend the Inland Waterways Trust Funds to complete ongoing projects.
- Funding alternatives for Pittsburgh projects could include the adjustment of the cost share (match) for construction and

rehabilitation of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund projects to 25% IWTF/75% general revenues.

- The Administration's FY20 budget proposed a 31% cut from the FY19 appropriated amount.
 - If this budget is accepted, the Lower Mon would be the only IWTF project receiving FY20 funding.
 - A per-vessel charge on inland waterways is proposed in addition to the current diesel fuel tax. The charge would greatly impact the Pittsburgh region.
 - Commercial operators would also pay 10% of Operational & Maintenance, historically a Federal responsibility.
- Educational meetings continue with new congressional members to highlight the current Lock & Dam situation.

Coast Guard News

The **attached** report was submitted.

Note: Transit concerns are being addressed for the upcoming May 18th Garth Brooks concert at Heinz Field.

Army Corp of Engineers

The **attached** report was submitted.

Note: Lockfest has been scheduled for May 18th at Emsworth. The event is generating much interest.

National Weather Service

The **attached** report was submitted.

Education Committee Report

The first "Who Works the Rivers" will be held on April 11, 2019.

Tentative dates have been set for the following: Man Overboard on July 11, 2019 at the Clarion Hotel and October 10th for the Barge Breakaway at the Floreffe Fire Hall. The "Who Works the Rivers" fall date is October 3rd.

****Reminder - The WAP office will be closed the week of March 25th to complete a move to new location.**

April Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2019 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 Friday, April 5, 2019 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club
April 10, 2019 @ Noon

Menu:

Fresh Fruit Cup w/Honey Cream
Chicken Picatta/sautéed with fresh mushrooms, capers and lemon
Wild Mushroom Parmesan Rice
Lemon Meringue Pie
Coffee, tea and iced 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 Friday, April 5, 2019** to:

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