

P.O. Box 178
Valencia, PA 16059
724-991-0136
Ckrelow@wapgh.org

Newsletter
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www.wapgh.org

November Meeting Highlights

Thirty-seven members registered to attend the November meeting held at Chartiers Country Club. We welcomed two new members: Kyle Micholovic and Ron Glass of Metalico Pittsburgh and Jesse Sigman and Corey Langsdorf of United Diving Marine, Eleanor, WV.

We also welcomed Zach Hetrick and Shelby Zakrzerski from the PA Dept of Agriculture. Zach and Shelby gave a presentation regarding the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) and their department's efforts to stop the spread of this invasive and extremely destructive pest. In an effort to stop their spread, their department is requiring all businesses whose operations require the movement of products or vehicles, or any forms of conveyance be permitted. There is no cost to obtain a permit.

Zach and Shelby need your help to better understand our industry so they can assist in setting up required plans for your companies which include training employees and record keeping.

There was a long discussion between members and the representatives regarding the difficulty of setting up inspection programs that would be effective. One of our members invited the representatives to their waterfront so they could see firsthand and assist in coming up with a program for industry that would be acceptable.

Information regarding the SLF and the permit program will be available at our next membership meeting. Please contact their department directly at: SLFPERMIT@PA.GOV. We have been advised that once you are contacted by them or you contact them, there is a 30 day window to become permitted. Attendance at the November meeting does not start the 30 day period.

Shane Checkan presented the Navigational Report. He advised that pre-planning has helped with waits and delays at the Montgomery construction site. He also noted that the heavy rains being forecast will surely raise river levels and with the multitude of boats waiting, due to low water, he predicts there will be a rush of business.

Also of note, a study for future construction is being conducted by the USCG, our Navigational Committee and contractors. The goal is to find the best location for a spud barge above the West End Bridge. This barge will facilitate required sewer improvements. Its placement will create a no-wake, no-passing zone during the duration of the construction. Details will be provided to membership as they are available.

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Scott Harshman of Port of Pittsburgh Commission provided the Legislative Report. He thanked the Association for its support of the Osher class who attended our meeting last

month. He is still hopeful that the WRDA 75/25 split will be part of the completed bill in 2022. He suggested that if the 75/25 split does not come to fruition, at the very least, the 65/35 split will become permanent.

Click Here to Read Legislative Report

Several members of our local USCG group attended the meeting. MST1 Onnalee Blackledge reminded membership that as cold, wet and freezing weather comes on, crews should be mindful of slips, trips and falls. Keeping crews safe should be a priority.

LT Sean Dolan requested you SAVE THE DATE of March 1st, 2023 which will be Industry Day. Details of special events will be provided as available.

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US Army Corps of Engineers report was presented by Ian McKelvey. He reminded membership that upcoming high water will create pool changes and clearance issues; communication is key.

He reported the que at Montgomery is moving smoothly and was thankful for industry working together to make this happen. Also briefly discussed is the planned 2023 Fleet and Contract scheduled workload.

Click Here to Read Full USACE Report

David Podurgiel presented the national weather forecast. The official winter forecast calls for normal temperatures and higher than normal precipitation.

Click Here to Read Full National Weather Report

Kristen Stojakovich presented the Membership Report. Our 2022 goal of 5% new members (3) has been exceeded with the addition of 6 new members this year. We did have one member who did not renew.

Kristen also noted our Annual Holiday Gala is coming up on Friday December 9 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe. Members may register until Wed, Nov 30.

Robert McCallister advised there are no upcoming educational events for the balance of 2022. The 2023 schedule will be issued soon.

The next membership meeting will be Wednesday, December 14 at Chartiers Country Club.

Click here to Register for December Meeting