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Newsletter
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October Meeting Highlights

Forty-seven members were registered to attend our October joint meeting with the Huntington District Waterways Association held on the 12th at the Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, OH. Presidents Bill Barr and David Podurgiel welcomed members. Both Bill and David mentioned the close relationship of the two waterways associations noting the importance of sharing information.

David advised that prior to the membership meeting, the USCG Marine Safety Units of both PGH and Huntington held their annual Marine Incident Summit. The summit is open to all members and is held annually in conjunction with the joint meeting.

Click Here to Read Full MSU Summit Report

Guest speaker, Caleb King of TVIB discussed Credit Dry Docking, Internal Structure Exams and other Sub-Chapter M requirements. His full presentation is available by request to Carole Ann Krelow: ckrelow@wapgh.org.



David discussed the upcoming closure of the Montgomery Lock, Oct 17 through Dec 16. This will affect EVERYONE who navigates through this area. All mariners must take their turn and assist with cuts as instructed. Failure to assist with cuts will result in losing your place in the que.

Also, the 2024 removal of Lock 3 in Elizabeth remains in planning stages. Previous lock removals have given the experience to know that both currents and water depths will change. It is expected that water levels will drop 3' above the lock and rise 2' below the lock. Expect to lose 2' of Air Draft at the Bell Bridge upstream from US Steel. These are just some of many details that will be worked out and advised before the removal of the lock.

Scott Harshman of Port of Pittsburgh Commission provided the Legislative Report. Of note, both house and senate have passed the WDRA bill modifying cost-share adjustment to 75% / 25%. Final negotiation of this bill will most likely happen after the November elections. A Continuing Resolution has been signed to keep the government open for business through December 16 after passing the Federal Fiscal Year end on September 30 without a budget. Expect a flurry of legislative activity just before the holidays.

Click Here to Read Legislative Report

Several members of our local USCG group attended the meeting. LTJG Eyobe Mills presented to the group noting several special events that affect navigation on the rivers. It

is extremely important that industry is actively aware of the many events that are scheduled.

Click Here to Read Full USCG Report

US Army Corps of Engineers report was presented by John Dilla. Please take a moment to review his report for current and upcoming repair and maintenance schedules for our locks and dams.

Click Here to Read Full USACE Report

Alicia Miller presented the national weather forecast noting a prediction for an early winter. The official Winter Forecast has not yet been published.

Click Here to Read Full National Weather Report

Educational Event Update:

Who Works the Rivers was held Thursday, October 6 on the Gateway Clipper "Empress". Eighty-five students were in attendance. Our T-shirt giveaway was a big success and students arrived in their t-shirts for their day of education regarding employment in and around our inland waterways. Thank you to those members who volunteered employees to assist at the event, during the planning stages and those who sponsored our T-shirt giveaway. Our membership efforts make this an extremely successful endeavor.

Click Here to See Photos

Barge Breakaway Seminar was held Thursday, October 20 at The Fez in Aliquippa. Following the classroom training in the morning, hands-on waterfront training was held at the Marion Hill landing. Fifty-seven members registered to attend. Presentations were given by US Coast Guard, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather and membership to help attendees understand causes and implications of breakaway barge events. Hands-on training later in the day included an opportunity to better understand the mechanics of barges that breakaway and methods to avoid this situation.

We thank all the members who volunteered their time and expertise to make this a meaningful educational event.

Click Here to See Photos

Annual Holiday Gala

A reminder has been sent out to **SAVE THE DATE** Friday, December 9 for our Annual Holiday Gala, at Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe



Click here to Register for November Meeting