

# 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](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)

September 2015

[www.wapgh.org](http://www.wapgh.org)

## September Highlights

A total of (27) twenty-seven members and guests were registered for the September 9, 2015 luncheon meeting at Bella Sera. Dan Lacek welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dan welcomed Gary Johnston of First Energy/Fort Martin Plant to his first meeting. Susan Oliver of WPX Energy was also welcomed as a guest to the meeting.

## Coast Guard News

LT Devin Adams presented the **attached** report.

## Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report. Concerns regarding the month long closure of Lock 4 were raised and addressed following the report presentation.

## National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

A meeting with 14 industry members was held on August 25<sup>th</sup> to evaluate briefing procedures during ice and high water situations.

## Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci covered the following information:

- Mission Critical Partners, Inc. has been awarded the contract to complete a business case study for the Wireless Waterway. The case study will focus on the progress made to date and will look at future possibilities of the project. They will be reaching out to members to obtain information regarding the wireless waterways project.
- On Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, the Chief of Staff for District 8, Captain Melvin Bouboulis, will be visiting our area. An evening function is currently being planned and details will be made available when finalized.
- On October 22nd, Toby Fauver, Deputy Secretary, Multi-Modal Transportation will be visiting the area. A round-table event will be planned to discuss the Multi-modal funding opportunities.
- Mary Ann encouraged everyone to participate in the Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program (AMSTEP) exercise that is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Beaver County Emergency Operations Center.

- There are still available funds for the FY14-15 CMAQ Program. All industry members that may be interested should submit an application as soon as possible with a tentative time frame for work to be completed. Otherwise, the unused funds will be released. Contact Mary Ann directly with any questions.

### **Education Committee Report**

Michael Graham reported the following:

- Who Works The Rivers - The next WWR is scheduled for October 6, 2015. As always everyone is invited and encouraged to attend as a speaker and/or a presenter. If any company is interesting in sponsoring these programs, they should contact Michael Graham directly.
- Barge Breakaway Seminar-The Barge Breakaway seminar is scheduled for October 15, 2015 (Florefe Fire Hall). The agenda is currently being finalized and will be provided to membership shortly.

### **Navigation Committee Report**

Eunice Ratcliff noted that work continues on the Birmingham Bridge Project. This span on the Monongahela River is difficult to navigate and with the project underway has provided additional challenges. All the topics regarding navigation have been covered under other reports.

### **Legislative Committee Report**

Richard Kreider provided the following information:

- Congress will be back in session for only 10 days. The passage of a continuing resolution will probably dominate discussions.
- The Corp fiscal '17 budget development is underway with a proposed release date of February 2016.
- The Inland Waterways Users Board met August in Nashville and is scheduled to meet again November in St. Louis. Rich plans on contacting Michael Somales for an update on the meeting. One area that was discussed with that the Olmstead Project is progressing ahead of schedule.
- Leadership from the US Army Corp of Engineers, the US Coast Guard and the inland towing industry signed a memorandum of understanding, designed to ensure consistent communications and support efficient and safe movement of commerce on the western rivers of the United States.
- WCI's Annual Meeting and the 12th Annual Waterways Symposium will be held November 11-13, at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel in New Orleans. You can register online at: <http://www.etches.com/128790>

### **Other Comments**

Clarification on upcoming meetings with the Corp are as follows:

- September 11<sup>th</sup> - meeting with towing industry members to discuss repairs at Montgomery and New Cumberland.
- September 17<sup>th</sup> - meeting is open to all industry members to review annual levels of service and contributed funds lockage data. Representatives from member companies are encouraged to attend.

- In November, a meeting will be held to discuss the proposed 2016/2017 repair schedule.

Susan Oliver, representative from the Clean/Fuels/Clean Rivers Consortium, addressed the group. The Consortium's ultimate goal is to expand the use of natural gas as a replacement for diesel fuel for the inland waterway system.

#### **October Membership Meeting**

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2015 at the Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, OH. Cost of the luncheon will be \$25. **All monies will be collected at the door for this joint luncheon. NO checks should be sent to Cheryll directly.** Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, October 8, 2015 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh  
Meeting Response Form**

Lafayette Hotel, Marietta, OH

October 14, 2015

**Menu:**

Roast Sirloin  
Baked White Fish  
Whipped Potatoes w/Gravy  
Vegetable Medley  
Cole Slaw and Garden Salad  
Assorted Desserts  
Lemonade, Ice Tea & Coffee Station

**Cost:**        *\$25/per member*

\_\_\_\_\_        YES, I will be attending

\_\_\_\_\_        No, I will not be attending

**\*\*Special Dietary Requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond **by Thursday, October 8, 2015** to:

Cheryll Cranmer  
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Fax:            (724) 285-4999  
Email:        [cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)