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Newsletter
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April Meeting Highlights

Prior to the start of the April Meeting, President David Podurgiel welcomed our featured speaker, Andy Masich, President, and CEO of the Heinz History Center. Andy gave an interesting presentation regarding history in our region, highlighting a young, unknown George Washington who journeyed through our area, then known as “the Ohios”. He also shared some history regarding the Lewis & Clark expedition, which began in Pittsburgh on the Ohio River after the completion of the 50’ keelboat which had been built at Ft. Fayette.



Andy then advised the planning of a new permanent exhibition at the History Center, highlighting the history of our rivers and those who worked there. If you are interested in helping with this new exhibit by contributing photos or memorabilia, you may contact Andy’s assistant, Kimberly Kendgia at kakendgia@heinzhistorycenter.org.

After the presentation and lunch. President Podurgiel welcomed the members in attendance. Thirty-eight members registered for the meeting. He made special welcomes to Ed Moreno of Cleveland Cliffs, a new member, James McCarville, former Executive Director of PPC and Tom Kelly a former recipient of the PMA scholarship.

Shane Checkan, Navigation Committee Chair presented the Navigation Report. Shane advised the importance of having lines ready to lock your tow. More than 5 cuts will require an assist boat. Assist boats must be pre-arranged within 6 hours of locking to allow your assist is present and ready to work with no delay. Planning is vital to keep delays during on-going construction at many of the locks to a minimum. An Assist Boat can be exchanged without penalty of “timed out” crew.

Click Here to Read Full Navigation Report

Scott Harshman provided the Legislative Report. He advised the USACE is not using the IWUB Trust fund as provisioned. A continued letter writing campaign is recommended. PPC continues to work on the designation of “US Marine Highway” for the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. He thanked James McCarville for his efforts toward this goal.

Click Here to Read Full Legislation Report

LTJG Eyobe Mills provided the USCG report. He thanked Andy Masich for his presentation.

Mills discussed off station and missing buoys on the Ohio River. Be alert and report to USCG either of these conditions. He also advised Reporting of Marine Casualties should be done through Sector Ohio Valley. This should be done prior to filling out documentation. No need to go through the corporate office.

Click Here to Read Full USCG Report

Mark Ivanisn provided the USACE Report. He advised a “flip-flop” of scheduled work at Dashields and New Cumberland, diving at Emsworth should not affect locking schedules and dam warning buoys are currently being installed. Also, the USACE is looking for seasonal laborers, offering 3 – 4 months of part-time work.

Click Here to Read Full USACE Report

Alicia Miller of the National Weather Service presented a report to membership. She advised March temperatures had been above normal with a prediction for April to be a combination of above normal to normal temperatures. No predictions for major systems in the near future. Summer forecast indicates above normal precipitation in May and June with temperatures in the normal range.

Click Here to Read Full National Weather Report

Kristen Stojakovich advised our upcoming Networking events include; Sporting Clays Tournament - May 4, TopGolf Event - June 29, Family Night at the Wild Things ball park - Aug 4 and our Annual Golf Outing - September 19.

Daria Schwartz advised our Who Works the Rivers event will be held on April 20th onboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet and volunteers are still needed. Next educational event will be Man Overboard – July 20.

President Podurgiel advised as New Business that our Executive Director, Carole Ann Krelow has resigned effective June 30 and WAP is currently looking for a replacement. Please direct applicants to davidpodurgiel@acnrinc.com.

Old Business:
Website Redesign Committee continues to work on that project.

Meeting was adjourned by President Podurgiel.

Next meeting:
Wednesday, May 10 at Chartiers Country Club.
Click Here to Register for May Meeting