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Newsletter
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December Meeting Highlights

Thirty-six members registered to attend the December meeting held at Chartiers Country Club on Wednesday, December 14th. President David Podurgiel welcomed the attending members. David made mention that the Holiday Gala, held on December 9th at the South Pointe Hilton was well attended and a great party. He thanked the Networking committee for their hard work in making the event a success.

He noted “Congratulations” were in order for first-time grandparents, Richard Lockwood (granddaughter Eliza) and Terry Wirginis (grandson Theodore). Congratulations also go to Christian Wirginis who is a WAP member and new father to Theodore.

Shane Checkan presented the Navigational Report. He stated recent weather has been uneventful and again reminded members that crews should not become complacent. Ice and high-water season are coming soon.

Also of note was that the Montgomery lock was to open on Friday, the 16th at 1800 hours as scheduled. Everyone is working hard to coordinate traffic flow through Dashields before the three-day closure beginning on the 17th. Dashields should re-open end-of day on the 19th.

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Scott Harshman of Port of Pittsburgh Commission provided the Legislative Report. The biggest legislative news is the WRDA cost sharing has been made permanent at a 65% / 35% split. This improvement in cost sharing will allow more jobs through at a faster pace.

Scott advised the Port of Pittsburgh believes the locks and dams should be part of DOT, not the DOD. Making this change would require legislated studies, and studies historically create wasted budget funds and are not a reliable source of change.

Click Here to Read Legislative Report

Several members of our local USCG group attended the meeting. LTJG Eyobe Mills presented the USCG report. He thanked membership for the increase in Marine Casualty Calls. He stated that USCG investigators require Form CG2692 as well as drug and alcohol testing once a casualty is reported.

LTJG Mills discussed the Everforward grounding as an example. Investigators found the Pilot was using his mobile phone for one hour of the two-hour transit. It was also noted the Pilot used his mobile phone as a navigation unit. This casualty may have been prevented if conduct were corrected. Investigations like this one can lead to better crew training to reduce similar incidents in the future.

Finally, LTJG Mills thanked membership for supporting him in his first six months of “learning the ropes” in his new role in Pittsburgh.

Click Here to Read Full USCG Report

US Army Corps of Engineers report was presented by John Dilla. He again thanked Shane Checkan, Chair, WAP Navigational Committee, for his good work managing the que at Montgomery lock during the on-going improvement project. He stated that the Montgomery project was moving forward very well.

With all the upcoming planned projects, it is important that members review his attached report which includes tentative dates for future projects.

Click Here to Read Full USACE Report

Alicia Miller of the National Weather Service was in attendance and provided a report to membership. She stated November had been above normal for precipitation, but thankfully, no flooding to report.

She also advised there were nation-wide extreme low temperature alerts being forecast for the week of Christmas. As these cold fronts move into our area, we might experience rain to snow with dangerous freezing events.

Click Here to Read Full National Weather Report

Kristen Stojakovich presented the Membership Report. Membership numbers have not changed since November with 6 new members and one non-renewing.

Kristen also presented our Educational Report. She reminded membership of our success with each of our 2022 events. Especially successful in her opinion are our Who Works the Rivers educational opportunities held for high school students. She noted two things make the WWR successful; #1 the number of members who participate and #2 having the Gateway Clipper as a resource. She thanked everyone who had participated throughout the year.

New Business is the DC trip; “Walk the Hill” coming up Feb 7 to Feb 9. An announcement will be sent out soon with details.

The next membership meeting will be Wednesday, January 11 at The Fez in Aliquippa.

Click here to Register for January Meeting