

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh

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Accepting Applications for 2023
Pittsburgh Maritime Association Scholarships
Must be postmarked by March 31, 2022
[Click Here for Application and Details!](#)

Newsletter
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www.wapgh.org

January Meeting Highlights

Forty members registered to attend the January meeting held at The Fez on Wednesday, December 14th. President David Podurgiel welcomed the attending members and our Guest of Honor, George Brkovich.

George has just retired from the USACE and gave a snapshot of his career which included 20 years in the USCG serving at sea on the west coast and another 20 years in the USACE serving our in-land waterways. Here in the Pittsburgh area, he was charged with the care and maintenance of the river boat operated by the USACE among other duties. His combined knowledge from the USCG; learning about boats, and USACE; learning regulations, made him an impressive presenter at our Barge Breakaway Seminars. He has agreed to continue presenting at this event. His career advice: "Stay positive to keep those around you positive". We wish him the very best in his retirement and look forward to his continuing support.

David then thanked Michael Kidd of Crouse Corp for serving on our Board of Directors. Michael will continue serving our Association by remaining on the Navigational Committee contributing his vast knowledge of the Ohio River.

Capt. Randy Chapman presented the Navigation Committee Report. He reported during the extreme cold and blizzard like conditions at the end of December several companies stopped work entirely until temperatures came back up to safe levels, the safety of crews being a priority.

Click Here to Read Full Navigation Report

Scott Harshman of Port of Pittsburgh Commission provided the Legislative Report. He advised PPC will continue to advocate for changes that are advantageous to our industry.

Click Here to Read Legislative Report

Several members of our local USCG group attended the meeting. MST1 Onnalee Blackledge presented the USCG report. She discussed the vital importance of training, communication, familiarity with vessels and operating equipment, keeping abreast of weather conditions, and the redundancy of safety checks, keeps our crews and vessels safe, especially during inclement conditions.

Click Here to Read Full USCG Report

US Army Corps of Engineers report was presented by John Dilla. Highlights in his presentation included complications at Dashields and equipment breakdown in transit to Hannibal. Repair work is at a stop but new dates to resume work will be published as soon available. Dredging contract

for Hannibal is in place and dates for that work will be announced.

Click Here to Read Full USACE Report

Lee Hendricks of the National Weather Service was in attendance and presented a report to membership. He advised that weather patterns allow the prediction of mild weather for the balance of Winter into Spring.

Click Here to Read Full National Weather Report

Kristen Stojakovich presented the Membership Report. With 5 new members in 2022 and 1 prepaid member for 2023, our total membership as of Jan 1, 2023, is up to 62. Our goal for new membership in 2023 is 3 new members. Members should be active in cultivating new members. Contact Kristen Stojakovich: KStojakovich@barges.us or Carole Ann Krelow: ckrelow@wapgh.org with new member contacts so that they may reach out and provide information regarding becoming a WAP member.

Meetings, Networking and Educational event schedule has been published.

Visit our Website: www.wapgh.org or Click Here to review the 2023 Calendar of scheduled events

David Podurgiel presented New Business. After more than 15 years, there will be an increase of the annual membership fee to \$750 per year. This increase of \$12.50 per month will allow WAP to sustain development of a new website and social media accounts as well as providing funds for Who Works the Rivers and Man Overboard training.

Under Old Business, the membership ratified the new slate of candidates to replace those Directors whose terms have ended. We welcome to our Board of Directors:

Robert McCallister, ACNR

Christian Wirginis, Gateway Clipper Fleet

Following the membership meeting, WAP held the annual review. The 2023 Budget as approved by our Board of Directors was reviewed. Members were advised of finances and the re-design of our website with the addition of Social Media; Facebook and Twitter. It is estimated it will take several months to complete this project.

WAP will have 5 representatives attending the Annual DC Fly-In. Representatives will have the opportunity to meet and discuss issues important to our industry with our Washington representatives. Event will be held Feb 7 – 9.

Click here to Register for February Meeting