

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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April 2018

www.wapgh.org

April Highlights

A total of 27) twenty-seven members and guests were registered for the April 11, 2018 luncheon meeting at Bella Sera. Guest, Joe Arnstein (Community Affairs/Pittsburgh Pirates), was introduced by Matt Pavlosky.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

- We had a high-water event this past week, it was our 7th out of 12 weeks we have had high water which impacted river traffic
- We had simultaneous Barge Breakaways on 1/13/18. 27 Barges from Jacks Run, Mile 2 Ohio and 38 from Bellaire Harbor.
- As of today, 7 of the 7 barges that sank between 95 and 110 Ohio River on 1/13/18 have been raised/salvaged.
 - 4 barges are still sunk above Emsworth Lock, hopes are that they will get back to salvage operations in the next 2 weeks.
- During the high water there was equipment on the lower end of Dashields long wall. This is different than in the past, and when we went into high water we had to lock 1 barge at a time to avoid hitting the equipment.
- After several attempts to communicate with the Corps they did rearrange the equipment and make it somewhat better. The Corp has promised better cooperation in the future.
- Within the next 2 weeks Port Captains from various companies will meet with WAP Navigation Committee to discuss the upcoming outage at Montgomery Lock, there are restrictions the Corp is asking for and as an industry we need to come up with answers so traffic won't be impacted too bad.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin was unable to attend the meeting. Richard Kreider provided a brief update:

- The FY2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill was signed into law and several highlights are listed below:
 - Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF)-supported projects will receive full use of estimated annual revenues plus additional balances from the IWTF resulting in at least \$399 million to be made available for priority navigation projects.

- o The Construction account received \$2.085 billion, more than doubling the \$1.02 billion proposed in the FY201 budget request.
- o The O&M account was increased to another record-setting fiscal year of funding at \$3.63 billion or 17.1% above the initial budget request.
- o The bill rejected the Administration's proposed new 10-year, \$1.037 billion user fee to be paid by commercial operators.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Mary Ann Bucci presented the following:

- Special thanks were extended to Matt Pavlosky, the Congested Waterways Committee for all their work on the National Safe Boating Week Kick-Off event with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Flyers were made available for this special event. The Port is seeking sponsors to assist with the event. Please contact Mary Ann or Matt if able to provide this assistance.
- A roundtable discussion was held with Senator Toomey focusing on WRDA 2018. It is imperative that the funds continue to flow to our projects. Several funding alternatives were suggested:
 - o Adjust the cost share (match) for construction and rehabilitation of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund projects to 25% IWTF/75% general revenues.
 - o Allocate 10% of Hydro-electric revenues generated on the inland waterways to water rehabilitation versus a current 100% allocation to the general fund. This will generate approximately \$150 million.
- A proposal will be made to the PPC Board for an Economic Impact Study focusing on the Upper Ohio Navigation Project. This study will be used to bring foresight to the need for ongoing infrastructure support and how it economically affects our area and the nation.

David Podurgiel requested additional information from Mary Ann for his upcoming participation in the scheduled AWO Barge-In next week.

Coast Guard News

LT Shawn Simeral presented the **attached** report.

Army Corp of Engineers

Kathy Griffin covered the **attached** lock closure report.

Note: The closure schedule for 2019 AR2 has been confirmed as follows: Chamber closure August 5 - August 26; 35' width restriction August 26-September 9; chamber closure September 9 - October 13; 35' width restriction October 13 - October 26. Dates are contingent upon pool elevation/weather.

National Weather Service

Lee Hendricks covered the **attached** report.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham confirmed the first "Who Works the Rivers" is Thursday, April 19, 2018 with 60 to 100 students expected. Any company interested in participating in this program should contact Mike directly.

Man Overboard Seminar	July 19, 2018	Clarion Inn/Belle Vernon
Barge Breakaway Seminar	October 18, 2018	Floreffe Fire Hall
"Who Works the Rivers"	October 4, 2018	Gateway Clipper

May Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at Chartiers Country Club Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. and lunch served promptly at noon. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, May 3, 2018 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club
May 9, 2018 @ Noon

Menu:

Seasonal Fresh Fruit Cup w/honey cream
Breast of Chicken Oregon served w/Brown sauce, mushrooms and wild rice
Medley of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
Blueberry Pie
Coffee, decaf coffee and Iced Tea

Cost: *\$30/per member*

_____ YES, I will be attending

_____ No, I will not be attending

****Special Dietary Requirements:** _____

NAME: _____
(Please print)

COMPANY: _____

Please respond **by Thursday, May 3, 2018** to:

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