

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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August 2014

www.wapgh.org

August Highlights

A total of (twenty-five) 25 members and guests gathered at Chartiers Country Club for the August 13, 2014 luncheon meeting.

Coast Guard News

CDR Lindsay Weaver provided the following comments:

- The Waterways board was thanked for organizing the August 12th Meet & Greet with RADM Kevin Cook where industry concerns were shared and discussed.
- After contributing nearly 37 years of dedicated service to the US Coast Guard, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO4) Todd Talasky will be retiring effective August 27, 2014. An official announcement is **attached**. Todd has been invited to attend our September meeting so that the WAP members can recognize his service.
- A total of \$600,000 Port Security Grants have been awarded. In an effort to increase the amount awarded, grant submission webinars will be conducted to aid industry members in completing the grant applications.

LT Ariana Mohnke reported on the listing of river closures. Members are encouraged to review the river closure listing. If you have any issues with the list, members should contact Navigation Chair Eunice Ratcliff in an effort to mitigate closure issues.

CDR Weaver introduced new LCDR Pat Burkett to attendees. LCDR Burkett comes from a recent commission in Norfolk, VA with river experience. He is looking forward to develop strong working relationships with our industry members.

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** report.

Richard Lockwood confirmed that a series of listening sessions and webinars on implementation of WRRDA will be conducted by the Corp beginning mid-August. He also notified members that the Dashields project has encountered a delay. An updated Navigation Notice will be released soon.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko provided the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci presented the following information:

- The **attached** News Release was sent to the WAP Membership announcing the appointment of Stephen Martinko as the new Port of Pittsburgh Commission's Executive Director. Mr. Martinko has served as the deputy staff director of the US House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and as the chief of staff for US Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA). He will officially start in the position on September 8th.
- The move to the new offices is now complete. The new address is 4955 Steubenville Pike, Suite 245A, Pittsburgh, PA 15205. All phone numbers and email addresses remain the same. The new fax number is 412-722-1190. The Port will hold an open house to welcome the new Executive Director and highlight the new offices at the end of September/early October.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham was unable to attend the meeting. David McQuiston noted that the Man Overboard Seminar was held on July 17th at the Healthplex with a total of 63 attendees.

REMINDER.....The Barge Breakaway Seminar will be held October 16th at the Floreffo Fire Hall. Searchlight Safety's Deane Orr will be organizing the seminar content.

Navigation Committee Report

Eunice Ratcliff was unable to attend the meeting. No other navigational issues were introduced by the members.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider discussed the following items:

- Congress is out of session and will remain so for the month of August with a return set for the week of September 8th. It will then recess again in early October in advance of the November elections. A lame duck session is likely in November and December.
- Efforts continue to increase the inland waterways diesel user fee. The proposal was not included in the short-term fix for the Highway Trust Fund and there appears to be little interest in raising user fees this close to the November elections. The next likely tax vehicle may be the Highway Trust Fund Relief Act extenders bill that may surface in the lame duck session. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) is still our champion on the Senate Finance Committee.
- The Senate version of the FY 2015 Energy & Water Development appropriations bill was released late July and recommends funding for the Corps at a total of \$5.143 billion, including \$1.42 billion for Construction and \$2.815 billion for O&M. No appropriations bill is likely to pass before FY 2015 begins on October 1, therefore, a Continuing Resolution will probably be adopted in September.
- The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to revive the lawsuit filed to by several states seeking to prevent the Asian Carp infestation into the Great Lakes by creating a physical separation between the lakes and the Chicago Area Waterway System.

- The 72nd meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board will be held tomorrow in Walla Walla, WA. Mike Somaes is on the board and will attend the meeting. This is an important meeting for our area as discussions continue between industry and the Corps of Engineers related to risk exposure and how the Corps should prioritize its O&M.
- AWO has been requested by several AWO members to reconsider the legislative proposal to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to relieve responders from liability for response actions.
- The state of Tennessee continues to pursue a consumption tax despite the fact that the industry is already paying a fuel tax. This is an important issue to follow as it could result in other states following Tennessee's lead.

SPEAKER

Bob Shema of Marion Hill Associates provided the attendees with an overview of the search for the missing B-25 bomber in the Mon. In an attempt to address navigational issues, an explanation of the discovery process was highlighted along with the proposed dredging at the location. The entire operations are proposed to last a week.

September Membership Meeting

The *next* membership meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2014 at Chartiers Country Club. Cost of the luncheon will be \$25. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch served promptly at noon. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, September 4, 2014 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

September 10, 2014

Menu:

Mixed Field Greens w/Chartiers Crouton - Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing
Bourbon Glazed Chicken Breast/boneless chicken breast coated w/a tangy
bourbon glaze and topped with a Giant Onion Ring.
Red Bliss Potatoes
Apple Pie w/vanilla ice cream
Iced Tea and Coffee Service

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, September 4, 2014** to:

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