

# Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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December 2016

[www.wapgh.org](http://www.wapgh.org)

## **December Highlights**

A total of (20) twenty members were registered for the December 14, 2016 luncheon meeting at Bella Sera.

## **Coast Guard News**

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

## **Army Corp of Engineers**

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report. Additional Comments regarding New Cumberland closure:

- Additional Navigation notices will be issued. Long term solutions are being currently reviewed.
- Lockage time is expected to double or triple during manual operations of the lock.
- All work will be completed during daylight hours due to safety concerns.
- Anyone with closure questions should contact John Dilla or Mark Ivansin directly.

## **National Weather Service**

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

## **Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report**

Mary Ann Bucci provided the following:

- Matt Pavlosky has been hired as the new Program/Marketing Manager and will be starting January 9, 2017. Mary Ann plans on bringing him to the January meeting.
- The Port is working closely with the IRPT (Inland River Port Terminals) to handle possible move on container from Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

## **Education Committee Report**

Michael Graham reported that the first "Who Works the Rivers" program has tentatively been set for April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Navigation Committee Report**

David Podurgiel provided the following information:

The Liberty Bridge meeting went well and opened the channel of communication. Work between the navigation channel (Pier 7 & 8) will require communication to deal with large tows exceeding three barges. Due to possibility of 'high water' during Spring we suggested they do

the work between piers 7-8 (main channel) in the August/September period.

### **Legislative Committee Report**

Richard Kreider provided the following report:

- Waterways Infrastructure Improvements for the Nations (WIIN)/Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) cleared its final hurdle last Friday passing the Senate by a 78 to 21 vote.
- WIIN/WRDA authorizes Army Corps of Engineers' work on locks and dams, dredging and other water resources projects. The final bill does not contain a Public-Private Partnership (P3) provision that could have allowed for the collection of tolls or lockage fees on waterways. It is believed that we will continue to hear more about P3's relating to inland navigation. An interview with Paul Ryan indicated there is a lot of support on the hill for Trump's plan to repatriate significant corporate and public dollars. Speaker Ryan specifically mentioned he expected a good portion of these dollars would go to rebuilding our infrastructure in the form of P3s. If this eventually happens, we will need to work hard to ensure private investment finds its ways into inland navigation system and it is not done at the expense of our industry or shippers.
- WIIN/WRDA bill also included an approved Chief's Reports for Upper Ohio Study that allows the Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery (EDM) locks project to move forward. WINN is expected to be signed by the President but there will be lots of work ahead regarding appropriations so please stay engaged.
- The Senate also passed a continuing resolution to provide funds to keep the government operating through April 28, 2017. Funding will remain at the current FY'16 levels until then.
- Unfortunately, we were not successful in getting the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) included in either the NDAA or the continuing resolution. Most of the supporters felt that these bills were both critical and choose not to include VIDA or any other legislation indirectly related to the bills as they did not want to risk any controversy. There is still strong support for VIDA in both the House and the Senate, including our local representatives (Casey, Toomey, Rothfus and Murphy). AWO has made it their top legislative priority for 2017. Members are encouraged to contact their representatives as soon as we have been successful in attaching it to new legislation.

### **January Membership Meeting - LOCATION CHANGE**

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 11, 2017** at Bella Sera (414 Morganza Rd, Canonsburg, PA 15317). Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh  
Meeting Response Form**

Bella Sera (414 Morganza Road, Canonsburg, PA 15317)

January 11, 2017 @ Noon

**Menu:**

Romaine & Radicchio Salad w/balsamic vinaigrette/buttermilk ranch  
Lemon Chicken Romano w/fresh herbs, Pecorino & Lemon  
Oven Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes  
Chef's Choice of Vegetable  
Chocolate Chiffon Cake

**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 Wednesday, January 4, 2017** to:

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Fax:            (724) 285-4999  
Email:        [cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)