

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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February 2014

www.wapgh.org

February Highlights

A total of (thirty-three) 33 members and guests gathered at Chartiers Country Club for the February 19, 2014 luncheon meeting.

Bob MacPherson, Navy League Representative, invited members to support the formal USS SOMERSET shipboard commissioning that will be held on March 1, 2014 at Penn's 'Landing, Philadelphia. Members were encouraged to financial support the commissioning ceremony and activities.

Coast Guard News

CDR Lindsay Weaver addressed the following items:

- In light of all the recent river challenges, industry members were thanked for all their vigilance to insure an incident-free period.
- The Inland Waterway Conference is scheduled for March 5-7, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans. Members are encouraged to attend.

MST2 Ronald Lipscomb of the US Coast Guard covered all the current bridge updates, river activities and river closures that are included in the **attached** report.

Army Corp of Engineers

Paul Meininger, Charleroi Lock 4 Lockmaster, covered the **attached** report.

Concern was voiced by several members regarding the lack of Army participation in scheduled conference calls and webinars pertaining to the current river issues. Richard Lockwood notified members that the NWS, USACE and USCG were working together to ensure that conference calls and webinars were planned and scheduled in a way that allowed for appropriate folks to participate in the conference calls and webinars.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko provided the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Jim McCarville presented the following information:

- Mary Ann Bucci and J.D. Fogarty will be conducting a workshop on the CMAQ process for subgrantees to aid them in application process this Friday at 10 a.m.

- A kickoff for the Liquid National Gas Upper Ohio Corridor Study will be occurring shortly. Stakeholder groups will be established to provide input.
- At the end of the month, the Wireless Waterways System will have over 100 miles of coverage (from Montgomery to Maxwell). A request for Information will be completed by the Port to obtain private sector input on ideas how the system can be utilized in different methods.
- Industry members were thanked for their support in welcoming Congressman Duncan D. Hunter of California. He serves as Chair of the Sub-committee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.
- Senator Casey was the recent recipient of the Leadership Service Award given by the Waterways Council. This award was to have been presented at the recent WCI Conference in Washington. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the Senator was unable to attend the award dinner. This award is tentatively scheduled to be presented to Senator Casey in Pittsburgh on March 21st (tentatively) Very limited lead time will be provided so members will be encouraged to try to participate when the notice is finally sent.
- A bi-partisan meeting will be planned when the WRDA bill is signed to thank Senator Casey & Congressman Shuster for all their efforts and support.
- The PA Transportation Bill that passed contains several funding streams for intermodal purposes. PennDot is seeking a 5-year plan from the Port pertaining to the utilization of these funds. Anyone that can provide assistance in coming up with projects to include in the plan should contact Jim directly.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported the following:

- The Man Overboard Seminar date has been set for July 17, 2014 at the Mon Valley Healthplex. The date of October 21st is being reviewed as a date option for the Barge Breakaway Seminar. The Barge Breakaway Seminar will no longer rotate between Deckhand and Managerial emphasis but will be combined into one each year while maintaining a hands-on portion.
- There will be one "Who Works the Rivers" Program on October 14, 2014. Anyone interested in participating should contact Michael Graham at email: MGRAHAM@GATEWAYCLIPPER.COM. Industry members are strongly encouraged to meet these young students and promote river careers.
- An additional "Who Works the River" program has been scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2014 for The Consortium for Public Education. The attendance estimate is between 60/90 participants.

Navigation Committee Report

Eunice Ratcliff was unable to attend the meeting. Much of the navigational issues were discussed under other agenda items. No other information was presented under this report.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider (along with David McQuiston) provided the following items:

- The WRDA bill is now in final negotiations with several issues causing concerns. The Olmsted funding is different in each bill (100% in Senate Bill and 75% in House Bill).
- The annual Washington DC trip was held February 11-13, 2014. The congressional visits yielded very positive responses with many staffers appearing to be well educated on the issues. The reluctance by Congressmen and Senators to support the diesel fuel tax increase to fund the Inland Waterways Trust Fund has dissipated.
- It was also stressed that the WRDA program should be addressed on a regularly basis in order to prevent the funding issues from occurring again.
- The Congressional leaders were also advised that the US Army Corp of Engineers Operations and Maintenance Budgets are must be separately funded as it is not related to the Inland Trust Fund.
- The Waterways Association should reach out to other trade organizations/Associations that may have some areas of mutual concern that could broaden the voice and mission of waterway concerns.
- An additional \$81 million (above the Olmsted dollars) has been freed up for capital construction projects and the general consensus is the majority will end up going to the lower Mon project. The Corps is expected to allocate that funding by March 3rd.
- Major General John Peabody spoke to the WCI group at lunch and said he was pleased with the increased FY2014 funding for the Corps, and looks forward to future cooperative efforts with the Inland Waterways Users Board, WCI, and other stakeholders. He commented the Corps is working diligently to provide better data information regarding Operation & Maintenance needs, with plans to provide a draft of that information on or around March 5th.

March Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for March 12, 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, March 6, 2014 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

March 12, 2014

Menu:

Caesar Salad w/Mancini Croutons
Chicken Picatta sautéed w/fresh mushrooms, capers and lemon
Broccoli w/lemon butter
Lemon Meringue Pie
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, March 6, 2014** to:

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