

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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February 2017

www.wapgh.org

February Highlights

A total of (32) thirty-two members and guests were registered for the February 8, 2017 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. First-time attendees from MPR Transloading & Energy Services, Natalie Brown and Justin Brown were recognized. Daria Schwartz introduced her guest, Tom Polster of Cronimet and guest Theodore Bair of GZA were also welcomed to the meeting.

Coast Guard News

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

Army Corp of Engineers

Ian McKelvey covered the **attached** lock closure report. It was confirmed that dredging at Braddock will occur in the 2017 timeframe.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci provided the following:

- Matt Pavlosky was again introduced as the new Program/Marketing Manager. He will be responsible for handling the CMAQ Program along with developing a marketing campaign to bring public awareness to the importance of our waterways system.
- No update has been received on the discouraging news that Locks 5,6,7,8,9 on the Allegheny may be decommissioned and no longer supported by the Army Corp of Engineers. Early indications are that the report will be maintained internally and not shared with the public. Members are encouraged to reach out to their representatives to make this information available.
- Under the current continuing resolution, the President's budget is in force. This budget did not contain any monies for the Lower Mon Project. A letter has been sent to President Trump to seek funds to continue this project without further delays.
- POWER Grants through Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) are now available. POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) is a multi-agency, congressionally funded initiative that targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. ARC

is participating in POWER with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and 8 other agencies.

- During the upcoming congressional visits, EDM funding appropriations will be a focus topic.

On behalf of the Pittsburgh Maritime Club, their first social event of the year is scheduled for April 1st at the Paint Monkey (located at the Waterfront). An evening of painting and spirits are in store for registrants. Further details available through Cheryll.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported the following:

- The first "Who Works the Rivers" program has been set for April 20th with the "Future is Mine" group which should provide 50 to 70 attendees.
- Man Overboard Seminar tentative date is July 13, 2017.
- Barge Breakaway Seminar date has been confirmed for October 12, 2017.
- The second "Who Works the Rivers" program has been set for October 19, 2017.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following information:

- No additional information is available on the Liberty Bridge repair schedule. The initial meeting opening lines of communication between repair company and industry.
- Questions on why repair work is proceeding on the New Cumberland Auxiliary Chamber instead of the main chamber hydraulic system was discussed. This project was included in the budget three-years ago and if funds were not utilized for this project, the money may move toward another project outside our district.
- The annual AWO Barge-In visits to congressional members will occur in April.
- The Administration's Wish List contained quite a few of river infrastructure projects.
- During the recent month of high water, no incidents were reported.
- Discussions on "Distracted Operators" recently revealed a spike in marine incidents. Usage of cell phones and other personal communication devices can lead to severe damages being incurred.
- It has come to the attention of the Navigation Committee that many pilots are relying heavily on AIS and are not making the necessary security calls. Members are encouraged to reinforce security call procedures with their pilots.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider was unable to attend the meeting. Legislative information was provided under the Port of Pittsburgh report.

March Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 8, 2017** at Chartiers Country Club 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, February 1st if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

March 8, 2017 @ Noon

Menu:

Fresh Fruit Cup w/Honey Cream
Chicken Crepes
Glazed Carrots
Coconut Cream Pie

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, February 1, 2017** to:

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