

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

P.O. Box 534, Lyndora, PA 16045
Phone: 724-355-4101 Fax: 724-285-4999
Email: cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org

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www.wapgh.org

January Highlights

A total of (28) twenty-eight members were registered for the January 11, 2017 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.

Richard Lockwood provided information on the Rivers Information Services (RIS). Rich will be serving as the Director of the RIS team.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci provided the following:

- Matt Pavlosky was 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.
- The tonnage report was recently released and Pittsburgh has fallen to 4th with just 26-27 million tons moving on our rivers. Diversity in freight needs to be promoted such as the container on barge. Robert Tully of Pittsburgh Marine Technologies shared photos taken in Germany with container barges transiting the Rhine River.
- There has been 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.

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 tentative date is October 12, 2017.
- The second "Who Works the Rivers" program has been tentatively set for October 19, 2017.

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.
- Some ice has been reported.
- The New Cumberland Locks & Dam's hydraulic system that operates the main chamber's four 170-ton miter gates and the emptying and filling valves has failed. This had caused a total river closure as the Army Corp determined a temporary solution to bring the lock back into service. The lock is currently operating through a bypass system while plans are being drafted on the actual permanent repair solutions. John Dilla of the Army Corp has been diligent in providing updated communication to insure accurate data is being released to mariners.

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 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 annual Washington visit in conjunction with the WCI Annual Conference has been scheduled for March 20 - 22, 2017 at the Williard Hotel. Anyone interested in making this annual trip to speak with local representatives about waterway issues and budgetary concerns should contact Rich or Cheryl directly.
- The Senate had passed a continuing resolution to provide funds to keep the government operating through April 28, 2017. Funding was believed to remain at the current FY'16 levels until then. There is a discrepancy regarding the CR funding. The OMB is currently requiring the Corps to operate at the Administration-requested FY 2017 budget level of \$4.6 billion instead of the appropriated level of just under \$6 billion. At this lower level and at the direction of the Administration, only Olmsted may be funded, with Lower Mon, Kentucky and Chickamauga in jeopardy, unless policy exceptions are granted. On behalf of the Corps, MG Jackson accepted IWUB Chairman Marty Hettel's request to seek the necessary funding for these three priority projects.

February Membership Meeting

The *next* membership meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 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

February 8, 2017 @ Noon

Menu:

Pittsburgh Wedding Soup
Baked Stuffed Breast of Chicken
Vegetable Medley
Cherry Crisp w/vanilla ice cream

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:

Cheryll Cranmer
Phone: (724) 355-4101
Fax: (724) 285-4999
Email: cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org