

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

July 2017

www.wapgh.org

July Highlights

A total of (50) fifty members and guests were registered for the July 12, 2017 luncheon meeting aboard the Gateway Clipper's Princess.

Daria Schwartz of Ingram Barge Company presided over the 2016 Scholarship recognition. The four recipients were: Evan Flohr, Isaac Flohr, Jessica Hannes and Samantha Logan. Daria honored each recipient with their achievement highlights and then presented them with their scholarship certificate.

Bill Porter of Ingram Barge Company presented Deane Orr a Certificate of Lifetime Membership for his service to the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh and Maritime Industry.

Coast Guard News

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

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report/Legislative Report

Mary Ann Bucci provided the following report:

- The CMAQ program was scheduled to expire on July 31, 2017. The program has been extended through September 30, 2020.
- The Upper Ohio Navigation project was authorized in WRDA 2016, but OMB is requesting a third study on this project. To quote Secretary Mulvaney, "OMB concluded that the Study would benefit from additional economic analysis consistent with the level of analysis conducted for all Corps projects and to ensure a potential investment of this magnitude is fully evaluated for the American taxpayer." This is the 17th year of studying this project. The project did receive 5.5 million dollars in the FY2017 work plan. Two million dollars will go towards the study that is anticipated to take three years. The additional 3.5 million dollars will go to the Pre-Engineering and Design
- The Lower Mon Project is receiving \$82,010,000 in the FY2017 Work plan. This will allow the USACE to award Options 1 and Option 2 and put the bid out for the dredging. This funding enables the project to stay on track. The project is still zeroed out for FY2018.

- The Port of Pittsburgh Commission hosted a press conference with Senator Bob Casey to discuss the funding needs for the locks and dams in our region. In addition to Senator Casey, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Terry Wirginis (Gateway Clipper) and Peter Stephaich all spoke at the event.
- We are receiving lots of positive feedback on our safety ads on various radio stations. It is also a great opportunity to start showing our "PortPitt" logo and our tagline, "Good things flow from here". We also wrote up a third ad on the importance of infrastructure funding.
- The Assessment Report has been submitted by Camiros to the City of Pittsburgh. Copies of the report will be available at the meeting. There is a transportation committee meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2017 to review the report. Mike Somales and Peter Stephaich are also invited to attend this meeting.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - The Port of Pittsburgh Commission will be the sponsor for the Allegheny Conference's program, **On the Boat to Water Quality & Infrastructure Investment on August 16, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM** on the River of Steel river cruises. The program will focus on improving water quality and waterways infrastructure.
 - The **American Society of Civil Engineers' Ports and Harbors Committee** will be holding their meeting in Pittsburgh at the **Grand Wyndham September 14-15, 2017**
 - The American Society of Civil Engineers is hosting its Ports' 19 Conference in Pittsburgh September 15-19, 2019 at the Grand Wyndham. This conference usually has approximately 1000 attendees and this will be the first year they are having their conference in a city with an inland port.
 - I will be meeting with Elizabeth Burkhart on September 13, 2017 to learn more about the conference and what their needs will be to make this conference successful.
 - **Smart Rivers** will be in Pittsburgh **September 18-20, 2017** at the **Sheraton Station Square**
 - **Platts 40th Annual Coal Marketing Days Conference** will be in Pittsburgh **September 26-27, 2017** at the **Omni William Penn Hotel**.
 - The Port of Pittsburgh Commission will be hosting an opening reception for the **Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour (ORBIT)** that will be in Pittsburgh **October 17-19, 2017**. The conference is being hosted by BG Mark Toy and the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division. Pittsburgh is the first city to host this conference. The attendees of this conference will be visiting various sites and projects that the USACE is currently working.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham provided the following information:

- The classroom portion of the Man Overboard seminar will be held at the Clarion Inn (Findley Road, Belle Vernon, PA). The water portion will be held at the MonVale Health Plex. There are 66 individuals registered for the seminar.

- The Barge Breakaway is scheduled for October 12, 2017 at the Floreffe Fire Hall and the Red Lion has been confirmed for catering needs. Dick Ehringer has provided materials for this seminar that will illustrate the consequences of a breakaway.
- The October 19th Who Works the River already has South Park and Blackhawk schools committed.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

- David welcomed the pledge for continued strong communication between the Corp and the Waterways Association to insure river safety.
- Congested Waterways Committee met on July 10th. After the meeting with WPXI, they want to do a story/segment on tow boating to include: how weather affects us, how congested waterways affect commercial traffic and how the failure to upgrade the locks is hurting the region. The Port of Pittsburgh and Coast Guard hope to join Murray Energy on this trip. Stephen Cropper and Katherine Amenta will be reporting.
- In light of the Emsworth Lock outage being cancelled due to the Cannelton Lock issue, there will be no further outages on the Mon/Upper Ohio for the remainder of the year. Next outage will be Lock 4 on the Allegheny from October 2 - November 28.
- Work on the Liberty Bridge, non-navigation channel starts on Monday, July 17th. In speaking to Bryan Frye from Fay construction, they foresee the next phase that will impact navigation in the next 3-4 weeks. The committee plans to have a follow-up meeting to include the Coast Guard to shore up the plans, mainly so they do not try to deviate from original proposal.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider was unable to attend. Legislative report was included under the Port of Pittsburgh.

August Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at the Chartiers Country Club. Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. and lunch served promptly at noon. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Wednesday, August 2, 2017 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

August 9, 2017 @ Noon

Luncheon Menu:

Fruit Cup with Honey Cream
Bourbon Glazed Chicken Breast w/Tangy Bourbon Glaze
Broccoli w/Lemon butter
Blueberry Pie 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, August 2, 2017** to:

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