

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

March 2015

www.wapgh.org

March Highlights

A total of (twenty-seven) 27 members were registered for the February 11, 2015 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Dan Lacek discussed the untimely passing of JD Fogary, Port of Pittsburgh Commission. Funeral details had been sent to the membership in a separate email.

Dan acknowledged that industry has faced a tough six weeks of river operation due to high water and ice. It highlighted the incredible teamwork and cooperation between industry members and regulatory members in our area.

Coast Guard News

CDR Lindsay Weaver covered the **attached** report. She also recognized all the cooperation during these recent river challenges and highlighted that there were far less marine casualties this year. In her words, the Pittsburgh District "got their groove on"! Seventeen of the eighteen barges have been recovered from the recent barge breakaway near Port Perry Bridge. One barge remains at pier but poses no navigational impediment.

LT Arianna Mohnke covered the bridge report and several other items on the **attached** report.

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** report. He also took a moment to recognize the strong partnership between regulatory and industry members.

In addition to the Report provided by John Dilla, Richard Lockwood, Pittsburgh District Operations and Regulatory Division Chief briefed the Association on the following additional matters of interest;

- The Corp Lock website recently experienced a cyber-attack and may result in the website being down for months. Input from membership regarding data obtained from the site would be helpful.
- The proposed river closure at New Cumberland Lock & Dam on April 7-8, 2015 has been delayed. Due to the significant ice issues we have had this winter and now the extended high water event, there are several customers in the area that are in dire need of product as well as the need to replenish necessary stock piles.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci covered the following information:

- There are still available funds for the FY14-15 CMAQ Program and an additional \$4 million that will be available for projects beginning on October 1, 2016. The Port is currently working on changing the parameters of the funds to take new boats and port equipment. Further details will be made available soon.
- The diesel tax increase to 29-cents-per-gallon takes effect on April 1, 2015. Deposited into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF), this amount is matched by General Treasury Funds and is dedicated to new construction and major rehabilitation of the inland system. The 9-cent-increase will add around \$80 million annually to the IWTF.
- The Upper Ohio Study is back to the drawing board with no future timeline identified.

Mary Ann shared special memories of JD Fogarty during their 15 years together. JD was an ambassador for the Port who loved the region and also all the people that crossed his path on a daily basis. He made everyone feel special regardless of their lot in life and will be greatly missed by all!

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported on the following:

- The spring "Who Works the Rivers" program will be held on April 16, 2015. It will host the Consortium for Public Education and the TFIM (the future is mine) group and total number of students should exceed 60 in attendance. Thanks for all the strong industry support for this program.
- The Man Overboard Seminar is scheduled on July 16th at the MonVale Health Plex and the Barge Breakaway is scheduled for October 15th at the Floreffe Fire Hall.

Navigation Committee Report

Eunice Ratcliff extended thanks to all regulatory offices and National Weather Service for the strong cooperation during these rough river challenges. Recognizing all those companies and individuals that provided ice breaking assistance during the heavy ice conditions just highlights the strong industry bond in our region.

- It was also noted that drift is occurring out of the Allegheny.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider was unable to attend the meeting. A detailed report will be provided at the April membership luncheon.

Other Comments

Dan Lacek, WAP President, is still seeking volunteers from member companies to service on the Navigation Committee, Legislative Committee and Education Committee. Anyone interested in serving on any of these committees should contact the respective committee chair.

The Waterways Association of Pittsburgh's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th and a report will be provided at the April 8th membership luncheon.

April Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2015 at Chartiers Country Club. Cost of the luncheon will be \$25. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, April 2, 2015 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

April 8, 2015

Menu:

Fresh Fruit Cup w/Honey Cream
Chartiers Pub Steak/8oz top sirloin char-grilled w/giant onion ring
Sherried Garlic Mushroom Buttons
Lemon Meringue Pie

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, April 2, 2015** to:

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