



AWO Interregion Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 23 - 24, 2008

Location: St. Louis, Missouri

Safety Subcommittee Meeting Report

July 23, 2008 10:00a.m.

1. **Lesson Plan Subcommittee:** Lesson Plan Subcommittee Chairman, Donnie Hall of Hunter Marine, presented draft lesson plans on various items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for review and discussion. After reviewing drafts of lesson plans on Personal Flotation Devices, Hand Protection, Head Protection, Hearing Protection, and Eye Protection, the Subcommittee noted that the drafts contained excellent information that would be of benefit to a wide audience. Subcommittee members recommended several minor changes to improve and clarify the plans. Subcommittee members also agreed that the plans should be redrafted in a consistent format using the AWO template. Chairman Donnie Hall recommended that the Subcommittee meet by conference call to discuss any outstanding issues and set the date of September 4 to complete the reformatting.

Members of the Lesson Plan Subcommittee are:

Donnie Hall, Chairman – Hunter Marine
Shawn Courrage – Moxie Media
Glenn Cowan – Fryoux Tankerman Service
Ronda Echols – Echo Towing
Jo Ann Fridge – SGS – PSC
Robbie LeBlanc – Cenac Towing
Andy Norval – Blessey Marine
Donna Said – Alter Barge Lines
Chris Vecellio – Higman Barge

2. **Crew Alertness Subcommittee:** The Crew Alertness Subcommittee received an update from Chairman Jo Ann Salyers, Salyers Solutions, on two Crew Endurance Guides under development by the Subcommittee. The Endurance Guides are tools to encourage good crew endurance practices related to Environmental and Operational Improvements and the effects of Caffeine and Nicotine. The Endurance guide provides information and recommendations to reduce fatigue, improve the quality of life, both aboard vessels and at home. The Caffeine and Nicotine Guide provides recommendations



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that address the use of caffeine and nicotine and their effects on crew alertness. The Subcommittee committed to complete the Guides by the January 2009, Joint Safety Committee meeting in New Orleans.

Members of the Crew Alertness Subcommittee are:

Jo Ann Salyers, Chairman – Salyers Solutions
Jason Adams – Ingram Barge Company
Joe Baier – Western Kentucky Navigation
Jonathan Bennett – United Barge Lines
Joe Garuccio – ARTCO
Leslie Jenkins – JANTRAN
Toni Macksey – AccuTrans
Molly Isnardi – Upper River Services
Chuck McAllister – ARTCO
Donna Said – Alter Barge Lines

3. **Fall Overboard Subcommittee:** Chairman Jim Smith, Magnolia Marine, reported on a conference call held and work done to develop a Fall Overboard Questionnaire that could be used to develop information related to the circumstances and causes of falls overboard. Chairman Smith shared the draft form with the Subcommittee and explained that it was designed to be a simple one page document that would be easy and quick to fill out and still provide important information that could be used to develop more targeted programs to reduce or prevent falls overboard. Comments on the Fall Overboard Questionnaire should be forwarded to Jim Smith, (601) 638-5921 or jamesk.smith@ergon.com

Fall Overboard Subcommittee members are:

Jim Smith, Chairman – Magnolia Marine
Jim Fletcher – Team Services/Liquid Transfer
Steve Richards – BP Shipping
Charlie Ritchie – McNational, Inc
Jo Ann Salyers – Salyers Solutions
Tim Sizemore – AEP River Operations



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AWO Interregion Safety Committee Summer Meeting Report

July 23, 2008 1:00 p.m.

1. **Opening Comments:** The Spring meeting kicked off with a safety briefing followed by opening comments from Chairman Stan Knight, AEP River Operations. Stan began his remarks by reporting that former Chairman Steve Brundrett had resigned from the committee when he left Canal Barge Company in July to pursue new opportunities at a non-AWO member company. Replacing Stan as vice chairman is James K. Smith, Magnolia Marine Transport Company. Stan said that both he and Jim strongly support the goal of increasing the vertical alignment of the AWO Safety Committees with the overall goals of the association. Stan told the group he planned to focus on providing members with information on new initiatives to increase the effectiveness of the committee. Stan also said that he will continue the effort started by Steve to find additional ways we can maximize our committee's contribution to AWO as a whole while at the same time ensuring that time spent at these meetings brings value to attendees, both personally and professionally, and to the organizations they represent. Stan concluded his remarks by saying that he looks forward to working with members of the committee on projects to improve the safety of the industry and is committed to supporting the goal of providing attendees with information they can use at their companies to reduce injuries and improve safety overall.

2. **Presentations/Updates:**

Mr. Joseph Garuccio, Divisional Compliance Officer ARTCO, filling in for Royce Wilken, immediate past chairman of the AWO Board of Directors addressed the committee on the future of Safety within AWO. Joe told committee members that Royce had asked him to assure safety committee members that AWO leadership believes that their work is very important. Reading from Royce's notes, Joe told the Committee that the enlightened owners and managers who represent the great majority of AWO members have fully embraced the idea that safety is our franchise to operate in the modern marine transportation industry. Safety will remain fundamental to AWO's mission. AWO's Chairman of the Board Merritt Lane has said that our safety mission will grow as we move into the Subchapter M environment. The demands on our industry to continuously improve our safety record will not stop just because we have a more stringent inspection regime.



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AWO's leadership is committed to staying in close communication with Gail Johnson, Chairman of the Coastal Safety Committee, Stan, and Bob to help make sure that the safety committees' work aligns with AWO's strategic plan. The members of the AWO leadership team are all are committed to attend more Safety Committee meetings to ensure that they understand what the Committees are working on, hear the committees' concerns, and make sure that AWO is effectively using their talents to address priority issues.

Bob Clinton, AWO Vice President - Safety, gave the Committee an update on several issues facing AWO members including: developments concerning TWIC enrollment center options, and the impending NPDES permitting requirements which will become effective on September 30, 2008. A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes.

Mike Weisend, Safety & Health Supervisor, AEP River Division, gave a report on the 1st quarter 2008 numbers from the AWO Voluntary Safety Statistics Program. Mike also presented a history of recordable injury rates for the various reporting sectors between 2003 and 2007. Recordable injury rates during this time period show an overall modest reduction. A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes.

Jim Smith, Safety and Environmental Coordinator, Magnolia Marine, gave a presentation, based on data from AWO's Voluntary Safety Statistics Program, on the numbers of falls overboard reported by members in the various AWO operating sectors between 2003 and the present. The data suggests that falls overboard remain a serious safety challenge. A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes.

Andy Cannava, Marine Superintendent - Vessel Safety, American Commercial Lines, reviewed efforts at American Commercial Lines to prevent falls overboard. Andy also recommended that safety committee members consider obtaining a copy of the book *The Values-Based Safety Process* by Terry E. McSween, which is an excellent resource for companies interested in improving their safety performance through behavior-based safety.

Roger Bohnert, Acting Associate Administrator Port and Intermodal, U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD), gave a presentation on the *National Port Gateway & Freight Corridor Strategy*. Mr. Bohnert reported that while the marine transportation system has been a story of success, it faces serious challenges; the *National Port Gateway & Freight Corridor Strategy* is an effort to address these challenges. Among the challenges noted by Mr. Bohnert is growing



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landside congestion at our nation's ports. This congestion is expected to grow worse as ships get larger and trade routes change. The *Freight Corridor Strategy* states that more emphasis must be placed on water access including: maintenance, deepening, and navigation. The *Strategy* recognizes that "the U.S. needs to increase and maximize capacity across all available surface transportation modes (rail, road, and marine highway) on domestic surface corridors" (surface in this context means all transportation that is not air). The *Strategy* also notes that "critical interstate waterway corridor infrastructure, including locks, needs to be modernized to meet growing demands for the use of inland waterways and to mitigate landside congestion." The committee was very appreciative of the information provided by Mr. Bohnert and will be interested in future developments. A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes.

Ron Wunderlich, Safety Coordinator, ARTCO, gave a presentation on the Practical Concerns, Training Requirements, and Maintenance Required when equipping the fleet with Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs). In attendance was Captain Terrell Griffis, age 46, who reported on his personal experience with one of ARTCO's AEDs when he suffered a heart attack in the wheelhouse of his tug. Capt. Griffis' heart had stopped when his crew administered an electronic shock using the AED carried aboard the tug. Capt. Griffis' heart returned to sinus rhythm after the first shock and he quickly regained consciousness. Emergency personnel finally arrived at the tug two hours later and transported Capt. Griffis to the hospital. Captain Griffis credits his survival to the quick action of his crew and the availability of the AED.

Stan Knight, AEP River Operations and Chairman of the Interregion Safety Committee gave a presentation on the causes and control of staph infections. A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes.

Bob Clinton presented a short lesson on Leadership Skills and on Future Challenges for AWO with the upcoming change in the White House. Copies of these presentations are included with these minutes.

3. **Reception Sponsor:** The Interregion Safety Committee wishes to thank its generous reception sponsor SGS Petroleum Service Corporation.
4. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Interregion Safety Committee will be in conjunction with the Coastal Safety Committee at the Joint Safety Committee meeting on January 21 -22, 2009, in New Orleans.



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Attachments:

- Advocacy Challenges
- Attendance List
- AWO Crew Alertness Subcommittee Report
- AWO Issues Update
- Business Card List
- Falls Overboard Presentation
- Injury Statistics Presentation
- Leadership Skills Presentation
- Leading Indicators Presentation
- National Port Gateway & Freight Corridor Strategy Presentation
- Staph Infections Presentation