

## House WRDA Bill to Be Considered in Fall

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will not mark up a Water Resources and Development Act before the August recess, according to sources on Capitol Hill familiar with the situation. While House leaders agree on the need to schedule floor debate on WRDA immediately after approval by the Committee in the hopes of avoiding the fate that befell the House farm bill, which was unexpectedly voted down on the House floor in June, consideration of annual spending bills ultimately took priority on the legislative calendar. Action on WRDA is likely to commence soon after the House returns from August recess.

The much-anticipated bill would be the culmination of a series of meetings, hearings and listening sessions conducted by Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Water Resources Subcommittee Chairman Robert Gibbs (R-OH) since the beginning of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. Although a draft has yet to be released, Chairman

Shuster and top-ranking Democrat Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) are said to be “notionally aligned” after internal discussions on the content of the bill. In addition, committee Democrats were briefed on an outline of WRDA shortly before the Independence Day recess.

Jurisdictional considerations prevented finance provisions affecting two major programs—the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and Inland Waterways Trust Fund—from being included in the Shuster-Gibbs draft. This would align the House draft with the Senate-passed WRDA, thereby setting up the prospect for critical revenue-raising provisions to be included in comprehensive tax legislation currently

under discussion by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI). However, there are indications the Shuster-Gibbs draft includes several critical components of the Inland Waterways Capital Development Plan.

AWO will continue to work with Waterways Council, Inc., to build support for WRDA prior to introduction through grassroots visits and Washington advocacy. For more information, please contact Craig Montesano at (703) 841-9300, extension 297, or at [cmontesano@vesselalliance.com](mailto:cmontesano@vesselalliance.com).

## Chairman Buckley McAllister Visits St. Louis to Learn the Brownwater Business



Last week, AWO Chairman Buckley McAllister, McAllister Towing, visited St. Louis and spent three days with AWO members, learning more about the industry’s inland operations. Look for more information on McAllister’s visit in the August 5 AWO Letter.

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### HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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# SCI Mountain Challenge – Team AWO Update

## *The Quest for the Summit Begins!*

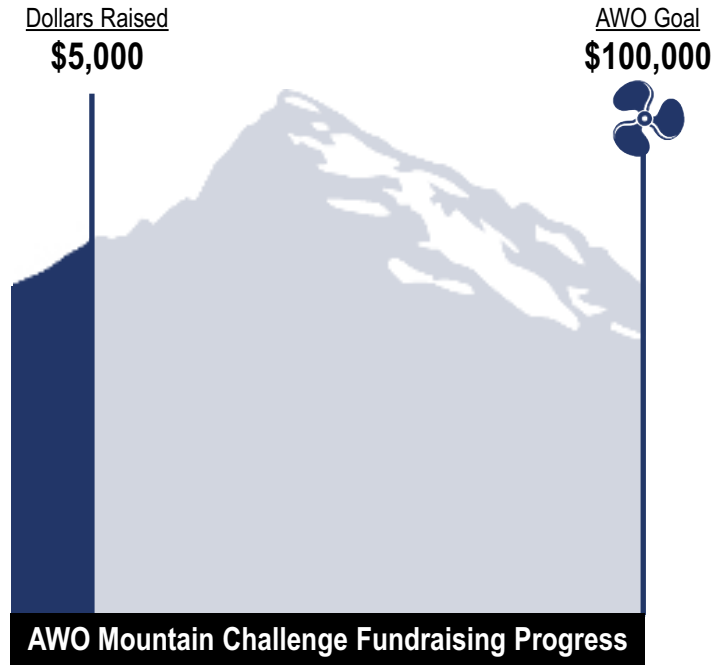
In spite of the summer heat, Team AWO members are training hard to compete in September’s SCI Mountain Challenge. Fundraising efforts to date have provided a good starting base of over \$5,000 in contributions, on which AWO will continue to build toward its goal of \$100,000 in donations for Seamen’s Church Institute.

“I cannot say thank you enough to all of our early contributors. Several AWO member companies, industry members, and AWO staff have stepped up right away to get us off to a great start,” said Tom Allegretti, AWO’s President & CEO. “We know their contributions will be joined by many others from the industry in the coming weeks and we are very grateful for that support.”

The team will be participating in two group hikes, one this week and one in late August, to prepare for the mountains of Maine.

“The training is going well so far,” said Lynn Craig, AWO’s Vice President – Finance & Administration. “We are all taking this challenge very seriously, and we have a chance to make a real difference for SCI. That is keeping all of Team AWO very motivated.”

For more information on AWO’s involvement in the SCI Mountain Challenge, contact Carmina Smith, AWO’s Manager – Organizational Integrity & Improvement, at (703) 841-9300, extension 280, or [csmith@vesselalliance.com](mailto:csmith@vesselalliance.com).



### *Team AWO Warmly Thanks Our First Sponsors!*

#### Companies

Brennan Marine, Inc.  
Chem Carriers, LLC  
DeLoach Marine Services  
JB Marine Service, Inc.  
K&L Gates  
SGS Petroleum Service Corporation

#### Individuals

George Clark  
John Harms  
Ann McCulloch

## Got Links?

If you receive a hard copy of the *AWO Letter* and need to know the exact Web addresses of the hyperlinks in any articles, please contact Frank Leach at (703) 841-9300, extension 254, or via email at [fleach@vesselalliance.com](mailto:fleach@vesselalliance.com).

### *Two Easy Ways to Donate!*

Corporate donations are permissible and fully tax-deductible and we encourage member companies to choose between three giving levels: Platinum (\$5,000), Gold (\$2,500) or Silver (\$1,000). Contributions of any size from companies and individuals will be most appreciated as AWO works to meet its ambitious fundraising goal.

To donate **on-line** using a credit card, please visit Team AWO’s fundraising page by clicking [here](#).



To donate via **mail**, please send a check made payable to The Seamen’s Church Institute of New York and New Jersey to AWO, Attention: Carmina Smith, 801 North Quincy Street, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203.



## House Passes FY 2014 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

### *Rep. Luetkemeyer Leads Effort to Defund Missouri River Studies*

On July 10, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2609, the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill for fiscal year 2014, which would provide \$30.4 billion in funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy, and other related agencies—\$2.9 billion less than the funding level enacted for fiscal year 2013.

Under the House bill, the Corps would receive \$4.676 billion, including \$1.34 billion for construction and \$2.68 billion for operations and maintenance.

The bill would also prohibit funding for the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan and the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study due to passage of two amendments introduced by Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) on the House floor.

The MRERP study was authorized by Congress in 2007 to develop a 50-year plan to recover endangered or threatened species and restore the ecosystem of the Missouri River basin. MRAPS was authorized in 2009 to review the authorized purposes of the Corps' projects in the Missouri River basin and determine if changes to the authorized purposes are warranted. Both studies could adversely impact navigation on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers by affecting the amount and predictability of Missouri River flows.

Commenting on the adoption of his amendments, Rep. Luetkemeyer said that “residents and businesses living along the river deserve meaningful action to prevent flooding and promote commerce, not studies.”

Rep. Luetkemeyer also led successful efforts to defund MRERP and MRAPS in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved an Energy and Water Development appropriations bill on

June 27, but it has yet to be considered on the Senate floor.

For more information, please contact Craig Montesano or Caitlyn Stewart at (703) 841-9300, extensions 297 and 260, respectively, or at [cmontesano@vesselalliance.com](mailto:cmontesano@vesselalliance.com) or [cstewart@vesselalliance.com](mailto:cstewart@vesselalliance.com).



## MERPAC to Review Coast Guard Medical Forms

On July 24-25, the Merchant Mariner Personnel Advisory Committee will hold an intersessional meeting at U.S. Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, DC to discuss needed revisions to form CG-719K, “Merchant Mariner Credential Medical Evaluation Report,” and CG-719K/E, “Merchant Mariner Evaluation of Fitness for Entry Level Ratings.” To read the *Federal Register* notice, click [here](#).

The CG-719K is the U.S. Coast Guard form used to document the physical and medical condition of applicants for officer endorsements and qualified ratings (e.g., AB, QMED and Tankerman-PIC). Form CG-719K/E is used to document whether an applicant for entry-level ratings (e.g., OS, Wiper and Steward’s department) has the physical ability to perform the listed duties. These forms were last revised in January 2009.

MERPAC has been tasked with reviewing the forms to ensure they are complete, consistent with existing medical evaluation policy, and easy to understand. The Coast Guard has received many complaints from industry stakeholders that these forms are needlessly complex and do not provide all the information that medical providers need to efficiently conduct merchant mariner physicals.

MERPAC is the federal advisory committee tasked with advising the Coast Guard on matters relating to the training, qualification, licensing, certification and fitness of mariners. MEDMAC, the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee, is also reviewing the forms and providing input to the Coast Guard.

For more information, please contact Brian Vahey at (703) 841-9300, extension 251, or via email at [bvahey@vesselalliance.com](mailto:bvahey@vesselalliance.com).



## Coast Guard Proposal Would Require PFDs on Barges

On July 17, the U.S. Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require barge operators to provide some form of wearable personal flotation device for individuals who work on board the barge. The proposal would allow operators to stow PFDs remotely rather than require the devices to be kept on each individual barge, ensuring that operators can continue to keep PFDs stowed on the accompanying towing vessel and require crewmembers to don the devices before they board the barge. Operators would be required to ensure that crewmembers working on board the barge wear their PFD at all times. The proposal would not require operators to install lifebuoys on barges.

The Coast Guard is undertaking this rulemaking project in order to align current regulations with the requirements of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010. Uninspected commercial barges are currently exempt from regulations mandating the installation of lifesaving devices because they are not “propelled by machinery.” However, the 2010 Coast Guard Authorization Act brought barges as well as uninspected sailing vessels within the scope of this statutory requirement. To read the proposed rule, click [here](#).

Comments are due October 15. For more information, please contact Brian Vahey at (703) 841-9300, extension 251, or via email at [bvahey@vesselalliance.com](mailto:bvahey@vesselalliance.com).

### Welcome, New Affiliate Member!

**Steiner Construction, Inc.**  
Bayou LaBatre, AL  
[www.SteinerMarine.com](http://www.SteinerMarine.com)

Rep: Mr. Russell T. Steiner  
President

## Coast Guard to Eliminate Watchkeeping of Medium Frequency Channels on August 1

The U.S. Coast Guard, citing costly upkeep of aging infrastructure and minimal use of certain medium frequency channels by mariners, will make the following radio watchkeeping changes effective August 1:

- The Digital Selective Calling channel 2187.5 kHz will no longer be guarded;
- Transmissions of Marine Information Broadcasts on 2670 kHz will cease; and
- Watchkeeping of channel 2182 kHz will no longer occur.

The *Federal Register* notice announcing the changes can be viewed [here](#).

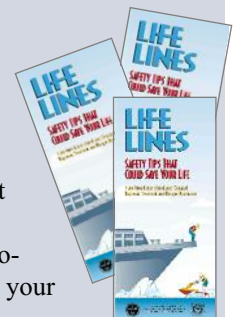
The use of these medium frequency channels began to wane after 1987 amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea greatly expanded the use of more modern means of maritime communication. Important maritime broadcasts such as weather warnings and Notices to Mariners will continue to be broadcast from sources such as VHF and NAVTEX. The requirement for vessels subject to SOLAS to maintain listening watches on channels 2182 and 2187.5 kHz remains in effect.

For more information, contact Mr. Larry Solomon of the Coast Guard at (202) 475-3556 or [larry.s.solomon@uscg.mil](mailto:larry.s.solomon@uscg.mil).

## Recreational Boating Season is Here!

*Have you Ordered Your Lifelines Brochures Yet?*

AWO urges recreational boaters to use special caution when operating around commercial vessels and to educate themselves on the constraints under which those vessels operate. AWO's popular brochure, entitled "Lifelines: Safety Tips That Could Save Your Life," delivers important safety tips to recreational boaters in an easy-to-read, user friendly format. Have you ordered your brochures yet?



To request copies of the brochure, please email your request to Frank Leach at [fleach@vesselalliance.com](mailto:fleach@vesselalliance.com). This brochure is free; however, there is a cost for shipping. Order your brochures today!

## Coast Guard Issues Final Rule On Vapor Control Systems

On July 16, the U.S. Coast Guard issued a final rule regulating the design and standards for marine vapor control systems. This rule revises pre-existing federal regulations regarding VCS at both vessels and shoreside facilities to make them more compatible with other federal and state rules. The new regulations:

- Govern the design and installation requirements for VCS at tank barge cleaning facilities;
- Reflect the extensive changes in cargo types and VCS

technology since regulations were last updated in 1990; and

- Limit opportunities to seek VCS-related equivalency and exemption determinations from the Coast Guard.

The final rule can be viewed [here](#).

AWO submitted comments on the Coast Guard's notice of proposed rulemaking in April 2011. In those comments, AWO urged that tank barge cleaning facilities not be subjected to the same regulations as tank vessel and bulk loading facilities. The final rule is

largely responsive to this comment and to AWO's recommendations to clarify the regulation of pressure-indicating devices and flow rate instrumentation.

The Coast Guard final rule governs the design specifications of vapor control systems on vessels and at shoreside facilities. Regulations establishing the circumstances under which VCS must be utilized by vessels and facilities were revised by EPA in 2011. For more information, please contact Kevin Dowling at (703) 841-9300, extension 264, or [kdowling@vesselalliance.com](mailto:kdowling@vesselalliance.com).

## August Meeting Sponsorships Available

Hopefully, your calendar is marked, plane tickets booked, and bags packed! During the month of August, AWO members will gather for the summer regional and safety meetings. The lineup of speakers and discussions is promising, and members and staff continue to work to provide you with a meeting experience that is relevant, engaging, and enjoyable. We hope that you have already made plans to convene, discuss, and learn with your industry colleagues.

Meeting sponsorships offer great opportunities to provide your company extra exposure while displaying your support of AWO's mission. All August meetings have sponsorship opportunities available, including opportunities to sponsor breakfasts, evening receptions, discussion sessions, and business meetings.

If your company is interested in a sponsorship opportunity, please complete and return the appropriate sponsorship form and email it to [syoung@vesselalliance.com](mailto:syoung@vesselalliance.com) or fax to (703) 841-0389. For maximum exposure, include an electronic version of your company logo.

Your support helps ensure members enjoy a full and productive meeting. Please click below for sponsorship opportunities for your preferred meeting.

August 7-8

**Pacific Region Summer Meeting**  
Berkeley, California

August 14-15

**Coastal & Interregion Safety Committees Joint Meeting**  
Louisville, Kentucky

August 15-16

**Combined Summer Meeting of the Midwest, Ohio Valley, and Southern Regions**  
Louisville, Kentucky

August 20-21

**Atlantic Region Summer Meeting**  
New York, New York

We hope your schedule will allow you to join us in conducting the business of the association. If you have not had the opportunity to register for a meeting, please click [here](#) to do so now.

These meetings are all benefits of your membership; so please, make plans to attend today. If you are unable to attend, send someone who has not

been before to take advantage of this great opportunity!

For more information, please contact Sarah Young at (703) 841-9300, extension 291, or via email at [syoung@vesselalliance.com](mailto:syoung@vesselalliance.com).

**2013 AWO Fall Convention**  
October 16-17, 2013  
Miami, Florida  
The Ritz-Carlton South Beach

A block of rooms has been reserved at The Ritz-Carlton for \$229, exclusive of taxes and fees.

For reservations contact Samantha Sellan, Group Reservations Coordinator, by phone at (786) 276-4067 or by email to

[Samantha.Sellan@ritzcarlton.com](mailto:Samantha.Sellan@ritzcarlton.com).

Reservations Deadline:  
September 13

Room Block Code: American Waterways Operators