

AWO Convenes Fall Convention and Board Meeting in Miami

Members Receive Critical Updates on Industry Issues; Board Approves Capacity Task Force Recommendations and 2014 Budget

On October 16-18, the American Waterways Operators held its Fall Convention in Miami. Meeting participants engaged in a series of meaningful conversations on critical industry issues and association governance, beginning with an orientation

for new Board members on Wednesday, October 16. The convention continued on Thursday, October 17, as the membership gathered for the Common Issues Council, the Joint Meeting of the Inland Dry and Inland Liquid Sector Committees, and the Coastal Sector Committee, Harbor

Services Sector Committee and Public Affairs Committee meetings. The Fall Convention concluded with a meeting of AWO's Board of Directors on Friday, October 18.

A thoughtful and interactive Common Issues Council, presided over by AWO Vice Chairman Frank Morton, Turn Services, LLC, kicked off the Fall Convention meetings. AWO staff and member leaders took meeting participants through a number of critical issues and topics, including towing vessel inspection and manning requirements, vessel discharges, coalition activity related to the Jones Act, spill responder immunity legislation, House progress on the WRRDA bill, and AWO PAC progress. Additionally, AWO's new Director – Safety & Environmental Stewardship, Holly Riestler, led a panel discussion on the association's safety initiatives and solicited participant questions on the practical impacts AWO members should expect as Responsible Carrier Program auditor training and certification



AWO Vice Chairman Frank Morton, Turn Services, LLC, leads the Common Issues Council meeting at AWO's Fall Convention.

(continued on page 2)

House Passes WRRDA Bill

Just one week after an extended government shutdown, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), by an overwhelming bipartisan margin of 417-3, culminating a diligent and comprehensive program to build support for the bill led by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Ranking Member Nick Rahall (D-WV).

The House completed floor debate on the bill in one afternoon, mostly free of the partisan rancor that has characterized many proceedings in the House during the 113th Congress. Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall were praised by Members on both sides of the aisle for their attention to educating junior lawmakers about the need for a waterways infrastructure bill and for addressing specific concerns related to the bill.

(continued on page 5)

VOLUME 70, No. 22 • OCTOBER 28, 2013

AWO Letter: Convention Special Edition



Breaking News.....	1
Agency Actions.....	5
Association News.....	6
Members Only.....	7
Passing the Word.....	17

AWO Convenes Fall Convention and Board Meeting in Miami

(continued from page 1)

responsibilities are transitioned to the Towing Vessel Inspection Bureau.

Following the Common Issues Council, the Joint Meeting of the Inland Dry and Inland Liquid Sector Committee featured a panel of industry leaders on issues facing inland waterways operators. Waterways Council, Inc. Chairman Matt Woodruff, Kirby Corporation, shared his thoughts on pending WRRDA legislation. Inland Waterways Users Board Chairman Marty Hettel, AEP River Operations, and Brent Nissen of American River Transportation Company, Immediate Past Chairman of the River Industry Executive Task Force, offered insight into the roles of IWUB and RIETF and how those organizations interact with the industry. The Joint Inland Dry and Inland Liquid Sector Committee meeting also included updates from AWO staff on the U.S. Coast Guard's recently finalized rule requiring non-tank vessel response plans for vessels over 400 gross tons and important projections for Missouri River flows into the mid-Mississippi River this winter.

Among the topics addressed at the Coastal Sector Committee meeting was the array of international issues facing towing vessel operators transiting to foreign ports. The Committee also discussed how companies can obtain certificates of voluntary compliance for the Maritime Labor Convention, AWO's comments on the Coast Guard's proposed revisions to the Marine Safety Manual, the pending work of the Towing Safety Advisory Committee to develop recommendations on minimum manning for towing vessels engaged on foreign voyages, and the industry's



AWO staff members Kevin Dowling and Charles Costanzo, with AWO Coastal Sector Committee Vice Chairman Art Mead, Crowley Maritime Corporation.

recent work with the Coast Guard on the IMO Polar Code.

Following the Coastal Sector Committee, the Harbor Services Sector Committee focused on sector-specific challenges related to fatigue and crew endurance management, emphasizing how Crew Endurance Management System programs must be adapted to fit a company's needs and operational profile. The group also discussed the priorities that compete with sleep and the importance of overall wellness in addressing crew alertness.

Wrapping up the day, the Public Affairs Committee meeting received an update on AWO's current public affairs projects, most notably, the newly-launched website, designed to be an engaging first impression of the industry's important role in moving the nation's cargo and its contributions to safety and the environment, national

and homeland security, and the U.S. economy. The Public Affairs Committee also featured noted crisis communications consultant, Sam Sacco, Owner and President of Strategy & Communications Consultants, who shared his expertise on how AWO members can prepare to communicate in a crisis, position themselves before a crisis occurs, develop an internal team to manage situations as they arise, and share information with the media, the public, and other interested stakeholders.

Friday's important Board meeting began with remarks from AWO Chairman **Buckley McAllister**, McAllister Towing, who framed the two pivotal votes that members would consider during the meeting. Mr. McAllister detailed the accomplishments of the association, the dedication of its member leaders,

(continued on page 3)

AWO Convenes Fall Convention and Board Meeting in Miami

(continued from page 2)

and the professionalism of its staff, but also noted that the association was at a crossroads as it examined its future capacity and the need to ensure



continued excellence in its work to advocate for the industry and protect the significant investments being made by AWO members. Stating the need to ensure that AWO is managed “so it is prepared for perpetuity,” Mr. McAllister commended the work of the Task Force on Future Missions and Capacity of AWO in addressing the difficult questions of the size of the association, the sustainability of its organizational structure, and potential cost-saving measures, as well as the group’s ultimate conclusion that AWO’s current capacity must expand in order for the association to continue to meet member needs and expectations.

AWO Chairman Buckley McAllister, McAllister Towing, addresses the Board of Directors at its October 18 meeting.

AWO’s **President & CEO Tom Allegretti** also addressed Board members, positing the current fractured political environment and other times of historical discord as an example of the road that AWO cannot follow if it wants to ensure continued advocacy excellence and maximum return on investment for industry members. Noting that AWO has a record of confronting its most pressing and significant challenges even if the timing isn’t right for every segment of the business, Mr. Allegretti stated that “AWO doesn’t kick the can down the road.” Instead, Mr. Allegretti reminded Board members that it is the Board’s role to provide the certainty that AWO can continue to serve its members and protect their investments, both today and in the future. After a robust discussion of the recommendations of AWO’s Capacity Task Force and the

(continued on page 4)



AWO Senior Vice President – Regional Advocacy Lynn Muench, along with Waterways Council, Inc. Chairman Matt Woodruff, Kirby Corporation; Inland Waterways Users Board Chairman Marty Hettel, AEP River Operations; and RIETF Immediate Past Chairman Brent Nissen, American River Transportation Company, at the Joint Meeting of the Inland Dry and Inland Liquid Sector Committees.

AWO Convenes Fall Convention and Board Meeting in Miami

(continued from page 3)

proposed 2014 budget, both passed with overwhelming approval of Board members.



From start to finish, the Fall Convention and Board Meeting were full of significant discussion and dialogue on current issues facing the industry and how to prepare to meet future challenges. AWO warmly thanks meeting sponsors AccuTrans, Inc., Bollinger Shipyards, Inc., Turn Services, LLC, and WQIS, as well as all of the members who participated in the sessions.

For more information, please contact Ann McCulloch at (703) 841-9300, extension 252, or amcculloch@vesselalliance.com.

AWO President & CEO Tom Allegretti delivers the President's Report at the Board of Directors meeting.

AWO Thanks the Following 2013 Fall Convention Sponsors!



AWO staff members Brian Vahey (left) and Jennifer Carpenter (right) and AWO Treasurer George Foster, JB Marine Service (center left), participate in a crisis communications exercise with Public Affairs Committee guest speaker Sam Sacco, Strategy & Communications Consultants (center right).

House Passes WRRDA Bill

(continued from page 1)

Stating that the House-passed measure would strengthen America's economic competitiveness and streamline the infrastructure review process,

Chairman Shuster emphasized that "fundamentally, this bill is about jobs. Not just the jobs in constructing these improvements to our infrastructure, but current and future jobs

that will depend on a modern, efficient transportation system that will allow American businesses to compete and prosper in a global marketplace."

AWO President & CEO Tom Allegretti praised the bipartisan leadership of Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member Rahall, and Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member Bob Gibbs (R-



OH) and Tim Bishop (D-NY), respectively, in shepherding WRRDA to House passage. "The overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle is an example of what our democracy was

meant to do – set aside partisan politics to help secure the nation's collective success," Mr. Allegretti said.

Included in H.R. 3080 are provisions consistent with the WAVE-4 legislation,

sponsored by Reps. Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL), that reform the project delivery processes of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and create a prioritization of authorized improvements based upon risk of failure and economic return to the nation. WRRDA also establishes a 75 percent Federal funds-25 percent Inland Waterways Trust Fund cost-share formula for the completion of the

Olmsted Locks and Dam project. In addition, environmental reviews will be streamlined to a three-year limit and there will be a \$3 million cap for Corps of Engineers feasibility studies.

WRRDA authorizes several new Corps of Engineers waterway maintenance projects, including dredging of the Sabine-Neches Waterway in Texas and Louisiana, Savannah Harbor in Georgia, and related port projects in Texas and Florida. The bill also directs that portions of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund be spent on maintenance and dredging projects. Sixty-five percent of the FY13 revenue will be spent in FY14 to maintain channel widths and depths, and 80 percent of the previous year's revenue will be allocated by FY 2020.

Reps. Shuster and Rahall will be joined by conferees soon to be appointed by the Speaker of the House to commence a formal conference with Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Ranking Member David Vitter (R-LA) to craft a compromise between H.R. 3080 and S. 601, the Senate-passed Water Resources and Development Act.

"AWO members are committed to providing safe, efficient and reliable transportation of the nation's valuable cargo," Mr. Allegretti stated. "Our industry provides needed family wage jobs and promising career paths. WRRDA's passage in the House is an essential step in ensuring the nation's water transportation system will continue to meet our needs well into the future."

For more information, please contact Craig Montesano at (703) 841-9300, extension 297, or cmontesano@vesselalliance.com.

2013 VGP eNOI System Now Online

NOIs Due December 12

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's eNOI System for the 2013 Vessel General Permit is now [online](#). If you are required to submit a Notice of Intent for your vessel in order to obtain authorization to discharge under the VGP, you must submit an NOI using the new eNOI system by December 12, even if your vessel has received permit coverage under the 2008 VGP. Because several features of the 2013 system are different from the 2008 VGP eNOI System, AWO recommends that member companies familiarize themselves with the new system in advance of the NOI due date.

Vessels of 300 gross tons or more or with 8 cubic meters (2,113 gallons) or more of ballast water capacity are required to submit NOIs. If your vessel is less than 300 gross tons and has less than 8 cubic meters of ballast water capacity, you do not need to submit an NOI. However, you must complete a Permit Authorization and Record of Inspection Form, which can be found in Appendix K of the 2013 VGP, and keep that form onboard your vessel in paper or electronic format.

For more information, please contact Caitlyn Stewart at (703) 841-9300, extension 262, or cstewart@vesselalliance.com.

AWO Comments on PFD Requirements for Unmanned Barges

In [comments](#) submitted last week, AWO supported the U.S. Coast Guard’s proposal to require the use of Personal Floatation Devices on unmanned commercial barges, but urged the Coast Guard to revise its proposed rule to better reflect the operational realities of hopper and deck barge operations.

The Coast Guard was required by the 2010 Coast Guard Authorization Act to establish PFD requirements for uninspected, unmanned commercial barges. In response, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking on July 17 which would not require PFDs to be stored on unmanned barges, but would require the “barge operator” to ensure that crewmembers wear a PFD before boarding the barge and keep the PFD on for as long as they remained on the barge.

In its comments, AWO told the Coast Guard that the term “barge operator” was confusing and recommended instead that the employer of any individual working onboard the barge (who might be a towing vessel crewmember, a fleet or facility employee, or a forklift driver, for example) be responsible for ensuring that their employees wear a PFD when there is a risk of fall overboard. Consistent with Occupational Safety

and Health Administration regulations, AWO urged the Coast Guard not to require that a PFD be worn where other measures are in place to protect against falls overboard, such as handrails, walls, or stanchions. AWO also recommended that the Coast Guard simplify its proposed regulatory language by stating directly that there is no requirement to store wearable

lifesaving equipment onboard an unmanned, uninspected barge.

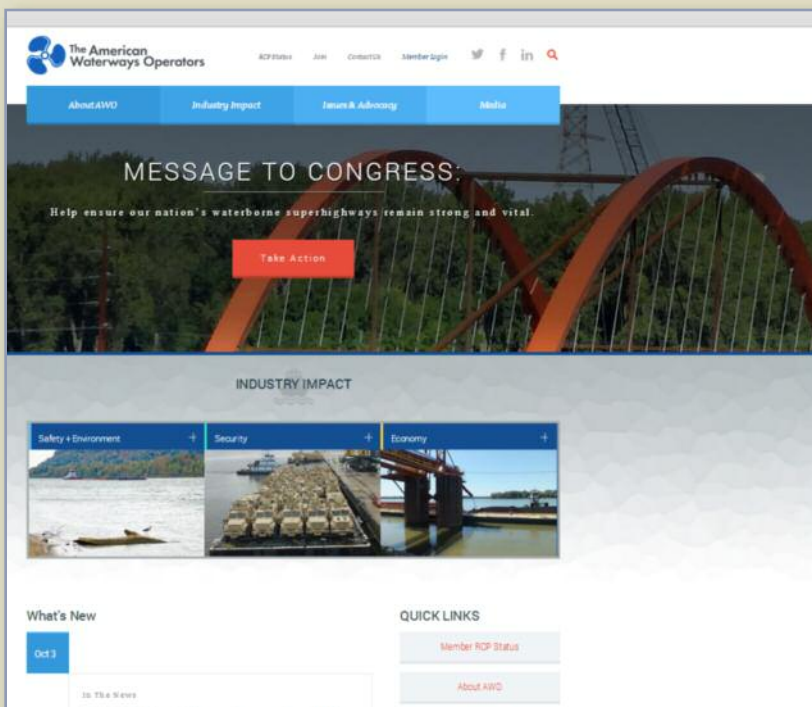
For more information, please contact Jennifer Carpenter or Brian Vahey at (703) 841-9300, extensions 260 and 251, respectively, or via email at jcarpenter@vesselalliance.com or bvahey@vesselalliance.com.

AWO Unveils Website at Fall Convention

AWO is very pleased to announce that its new and improved website is now online! The address hasn’t changed; you may still access the site at www.americanwaterways.com, but the look and organization of the website is dramatically different.

“The reaction to the website at the Fall Convention was very positive,” said Ann McCulloch, AWO’s Director – Public Affairs & Communications. “This is a great tool to help us better promote the industry, showcase the good work of AWO companies, and enable members to find the items they need quickly and easily. We are very excited about the new site.”

For more information, please contact Ms. McCulloch at (703) 841-9300, extension 252, or amcculloch@vesselalliance.com.



**Welcome,
New Affiliate Member!**

**Warrior & Gulf
Navigation, LLC**
PO Box 11397
Chickasaw, AL

Rep: Robert E. Rishel III
Port Captain -
Administration