

Barge-In FAQ

*The annual Barge-In is a chance for AWO members to educate key lawmakers and their staff on issues critical to our industry. This year's **Virtual Barge-In** will take place on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 as part of AWO's Spring Convention.*

Why Participate in Barge-In?

The Barge-In is the most prominent advocacy event of the year because it gives AWO members the opportunity to offer their expertise to Congress. In a time that has highlighted the importance of an essential, critical domestic workforce, it is imperative you and your employees provide a much-needed outside-the-Beltway perspective on the impact of laws and regulations on your companies and help to define the future needs of our industry. AWO will help you and your employees tell your story.

Who Should Participate in the Barge-In?

Everyone! Any employee of an AWO member company is eligible to participate. In fact, we encourage members to register as many company representatives as they can spare for a few virtual meetings on Wednesday, May 19. This year's virtual format will provide us greater flexibility when it comes to scheduling meetings – and provides us with an opportunity to generate maximum visibility among key decisionmakers in Washington. A large turnout helps us demonstrate our strength on Capitol Hill and broaden our reach across a wide spectrum of Congressional offices.

Will a Virtual Visit be as Effective as an In-Person Visit?

Yes! While we are eager to return to in-person meetings and events, the virtual setting has proven to be an effective tool for us to engage with lawmakers and their staffs to elevate critical issues of importance to the maritime industry and to educate them on the important work of our mariners and the maritime community.

How Will I Know What to Say?

Background information on key policy issues will be sent to all participants prior to the Barge-In. The "asks" for lawmakers will be clearly defined. We will host a webinar to discuss objectives for the 2021 Virtual Barge-In. And we will have a help desk on the day of the event to ensure a smooth set of meetings.

How Do I Sign Up?

If you have an existing AWO profile, you can register for the Barge-In on the member side of the AWO website. Simply log in and go to your Membership Dashboard page to register. If you do not have an existing AWO profile, email afazzini@americanwaterways.com for assistance.

Why is My Zip Code Important?

Providing the zip code of your company location allows AWO to ensure members meet with legislators from as many congressional districts as possible. If your company has multiple physical locations, please email additional company location zip codes to cmontesano@americanwaterways.com to ensure you are deployed where you are most needed. We'd also like to know about the other places you operate in, and any lawmaker relationship you or your company might have.

Additional Conference Information

The Barge-In is part of our Spring Convention, Annual Membership Meeting, & Board of Directors Meeting that takes place each year. If you register for the Barge-In, we encourage you to participate in these other meetings as well. More information on the Convention is located on the [AWO Event Calendar](#).