

AWO Southern Region U.S. Coast Guard Luncheon and New Orleans Roundtable

June 24, 2025

9:00-12:00 CST (AWO member roundtable)

12:00-4:00 CST (lunch with USCG Sector New Orleans), followed by a Networking Happy hour sponsored by Yazoo River Towing and Canal Barge Company.

Member Roundtable: Open Forum

- **Safety Briefing**
- **Introductions and Welcome** (*Ms. Jill Bessetti*)

AWO Southern Region Chair **Patrick Smith** and AWO Southern Region Vice Chair **David Lane**
AWO Pacific Region Vice President and Regional Team Leader, **Peter Schrappen**

- **Legislative & Regulatory Developments**
 - *Coast Guard Authorization Act status report*
 - *Safer Seas Act of 2022 advocacy update*
 - *Update on AWO deregulatory advocacy agenda*
 - *Brief on Coast Guard leadership changes and check-in on Coast Guard-AWO relationship*
 - *Are there any other issues on the advocacy priorities list that you'd like to discuss?*
 - *Are there any emerging issues that need Congressional or Administration action?*
- **Safety & Sustainability** (*Mr. Michael Breslin*)
 - *What safety, sustainability or compliance challenges impacting your operations does AWO need to understand or address?*
 - *SIRE, SSRP, Subcommittee updates*
 - *Bridge Issues*
- **Lagniappe**
 - *Mariner recruitment and retention. AWO participation in We Work the Waterways.*
 - *Updates from LA Maritime Academy* (**Kelly Denning**)
 - *Benzene fence line monitoring/barge docks* (**Angie Fay, Matt Woodruff**)
- **Regional Updates**
 - *What emerging issues are most poised to impact your operations locally?*
 - *Update on USCG lunch discussion. Future issues to raise to local USCG units?*
 - *Deregulatory discussion/ideas*
- **Political Affairs Update** (*Mr. Joe Manion*)
- **Open Discussion** (all)