



The American
Waterways Operators

Spring Convention & Barge-In

Washington, D.C. • May 13-14, 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, May 12, 2025

6:00 p.m. –
7:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception
All Members and Guests Welcome

Crystal Room

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

7:00 a.m. –
8:00 a.m.

Monument Fun Run/Walk

Meet in Lobby

8:00 a.m. –
9:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

Buchanan

9:00 a.m. –
12:00 p.m.

**Annual Membership and
Board of Directors Meeting ([link](#))**
All Members Welcome

Ballroom

2:00 p.m. –
5:00 p.m.

Spring Convention Education Session
All Members and Guests Welcome

Ballroom

2:00 p.m. –
2:15 p.m.

Welcome, Safety Briefing and Introductions

Trade Policy: Impact to the Domestic Maritime Industry

Darrell Conner, K&L Gates LLP

Max Fisher, National Grain and Feed Association

John Bressler, American Association of Port Authorities

Patrick Parsons, The American Waterways Operators

2:15 p.m. –
2:55 p.m.

Tariffs? Trade disputes and negotiations? Section 301 actions? Today's news headlines are dominated by stories speculating on how these actions will affect businesses and consumers. To help make sense of what they mean for you, join us for a panel discussion focused on the Administration's trade policy and its impact on the domestic maritime industry.

[AWO Antitrust Policy may be viewed here.](#) It is the policy of AWO to comply with all applicable federal and state antitrust laws.

Mr. Sean Plankey, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for the U.S. Coast Guard

2:55 p.m. –
3:20 p.m.

Since President Trump's inauguration, Mr. Plankey has been Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem's senior Coast Guard advisor and representative, putting him at the forefront of momentous organizational changes as the leader of the effort to establish the Coast Guard Service Secretary and the Force Design 2028 initiative to prepare for the challenges and missions of the future. He is also President Trump's nominee to be the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. He will offer his special insights into the Coast Guard's strategic direction and activities under President Trump and Secretary Noem's leadership and preview his priorities as CISA Director.

Maritime Matters: An Emerging Bipartisan Policy Consensus?

Michael Roberts, Hudson Institute

Jennifer Carpenter, The American Waterways Operators

3:20 p.m. –
3:50 p.m.

Growing recognition of the threat to U.S. economic, homeland and national security posed by China's aggressive expansion in the maritime domain is driving an emerging bipartisan consensus that the U.S. must do more to support and grow its maritime industry, including a new Executive Order on Restoring America's Maritime Dominance and reintroduction of the SHIPS for America Act. What do these initiatives portend for U.S. maritime policy generally and for the domestic tugboat, towboat and barge industry specifically?

Your Input Needed: Maximizing Opportunities for Federal Regulatory Reform

Caitlyn Stewart, The American Waterways Operators

3:50 p.m. –
4:10 p.m.

What is the one regulation that gives you the biggest headache or costs your company the most money – without seeming to bring any benefit? President Trump has directed his Administration to pursue an aggressive agenda of rescinding regulations that stifle American businesses and unleashing American dynamism and ingenuity. AWO has developed a deregulatory advocacy agenda informed by members and is looking for your feedback to ensure we are making the most of this moment to support the success of your company and our industry. Please engage in the dialogue and help AWO perfect its plan!

Barge-In Prep Session

Mr. Craig Montesano, The American Waterways Operators

Mr. Joe Manion, The American Waterways Operators

4:10 p.m. –
4:55 p.m.

All you need to know to get ready for a productive – and enjoyable! – day of advocacy on Capitol Hill, including an opportunity to meet with your team members and prepare for the day ahead.

4:55 p.m. –
5:00 p.m.

Closing Announcements

5:00 p.m. –
6:30 p.m.

Spring Convention Reception

All Members and Guests Welcome

Courtyard

7:00 p.m. –
10:00 p.m.

Social Dinner

RSVP is required. Note, there is an additional cost to attend that is invoiced following the event

Old Ebbitt Grill

675 15th St, NW

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

7:00 a.m. –
9:00 a.m.

Grab-N-Go Breakfast

Peacock Lounge

9:00 a.m. –
5:00 p.m.

Barge-In

Capitol Hill

4:00 p.m. –
7:00 p.m.

Closing Reception
All Members and Guests Welcome

101 Constitution
Rooftop

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