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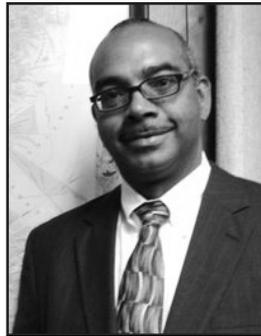
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President's Letter



Dear friends,
Our Annual Conference, held in conjunction with the Mississippi World Trade Center, is now behind us. So many people worked so hard to make it a good conference and it exceeded our expectations. A special thanks to Barbara Travis and her staff, including Ann Atkins and Gina Todd, at the Mississippi World Trade Center.

The speakers were excellent and very informative. The theme, "Intermodal, Interconnected – the World Beckons," was well demonstrated with interlocking presentations on the various transportation modes and the relationship between intermodal transportation and economic development. However, the conference would not have been a success without the support of our wonderful sponsors. They are listed elsewhere in this newsletter, and I add my personal thanks to all of them for their help. We were delighted to see some of the sponsors attending the conference – and we hope they'll join us again.

There is discussion in progress for the 2012 Annual Conference to be in Columbus. After hearing speaker Joe Maxx Higgins rave about the economic development happening in that area, we want to go and see it for ourselves. Hopefully the MSWTC will partner with us again!

One more time, many thanks to all who made the conference a success!

Anthony Hauer, MWRA President
Executive Director,
Port of Natchez-Adams County

MWRA Mission Statement:
MWRA promotes the advancement of Mississippi rivers, ports and harbors, coastal and inland waterways, flood control, recreation, water development and management, water supply and all other beneficial uses of water resources.

MWRA AND MSWTC THANK OUR SPONSORS

We could not do this without you!

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Diplomate Luncheon Sponsors:

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MWRA CAPT. ENGRAM RIVER STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The 2012 award was presented to Amanda Guizerix, currently a freshman at the University of Mississippi majoring in French. Ed Wong at Vicksburg High School has been responsible for developing the River Studies program in conjunction with the Vicksburg District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Amanda, her parents and Mr. Wong all attended the MWRA luncheon in Natchez to accept the award. MWRA has awarded the River Studies Scholarship for many years. It was re-named to include the name of Capt. Robert Engram following his death in 2007.

WATERWAYS MARKETING PORTAGE

It comes as no surprise that the good message of the US waterways is a difficult one to deliver to citizens and politicians geographically distant from our coastal and inland river ports and terminals. And yet, without our good work, these same citizens will pay more for bread, building materials, electrical power, et al. We've all discussed this dilemma from time to time and the November 8-10 Intermodal Transportation Conference in Natchez, Mississippi provided another forum for that conversation.

I offered an uncomplicated but hard-work plan to the attendees of the conference, and the result was a commitment of time and energy sufficient to produce a working test of the idea, targeted to a couple of dozen publications and decision-makers we rarely contact regarding the importance of the commercial waterways. With the support and participation of the Waterways Council, AWO, the National Waterways Foundation, IRPT, and *The Waterways Journal*, we have collected key industry studies, articles, photos, videos and links that tell the compelling story of our US waterways. The information items are in a format ready for republication by newspapers or magazines or for individual consumption. They are being housed on handy and attractive flash drives and will be hand-delivered over coffee or lunch by key people in our industry to editors, publishers, and other key contacts from Biloxi to Fort Worth and Indianapolis to Richmond.

We will test this idea over the next four months to see if we can capture a sufficient new audience to justify rolling this out on a larger scale. I'll offer a progress report next quarter. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact me by phone (317-631-0234) or email (erobinson@tpgwatermark.info) for more information or to sign up. Think of it as an adventure: a waterways marketing canoe trip that requires – when the river doesn't flow well – the occasional portage opportunity.

MWRA DEVELOPS DIPLOMATE AWARDS

MWRA has been functioning since 1957 and during that time, many people have contributed substantially to its continued success. Old records were retrieved and nominations for the new MWRA Diplomat Awards bubbled up from various board members. Dean Pennington and Jeff Ballweber co-chaired the committee and presented summaries for consideration by the board.



At the recent MWRA / MSWTC Intermodal Conference in Natchez, the first set of these awards was presented. For each awardee, a plaque and certificate were presented and a brief summary tribute was expressed by another MWRA member. The selected recipients for 2011 were:

- **Capt. Robert Engram** (deceased) – tribute delivered by Jeff Ballweber and accepted by Mrs. Robert (Carmen) Engram
- Greg Deakle delivered the tribute to **Hal Walters**
- Mike Davis delivered the tribute to **Edith Sims**
- Alan Moore delivered the tribute for **John Hampton Stennis**, whose health precluded his ability to attend in person
- **Harold Burdine** (deceased) was honored by Barbara Travis
- **Don Waldon**'s tribute was delivered by Eugene Bishop. Both Don and his wife Jackie were on hand to accept the award.

The luncheon was sponsored by MWRA, MSWTC and Lowndes County Port, Port of Greenville, Pickering, Inc., Rosedale-Bolivar County Port, and Port Itawamba.

SCENES FROM THE CONFERENCE

Col. Jeffrey Erickson, District Engineer for the Vicksburg District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, made an interesting presentation on the spring floods along the Mississippi River.



The Wednesday Luncheon was a Tribute Luncheon to outgoing Southern District Transportation Commissioner Wayne Brown (center). He is pictured with MWRA President Anthony Hauer and Jay Moon, President and CEO, Mississippi Manufacturers Association and Keynote Speaker.

One of the highlights of the conference was a port tour at the Port of Natchez-Adams County. Assembled for a group shot are some of the participants, standing near the new port crane with a lift capacity of 300 tons.



Calendar of Events 2012

- February 1 **MS Intermodal Council Board of Directors Dinner,**
Old Capitol Inn, Jackson. Information to follow.
- February 2 **Mississippi Intermodal Council Breakfast with our Legislators,**
Old Capitol Inn, Jackson. Information to follow.
- March 26-28 **NWC Budget Summit,** Madison Hotel, Washington, DC.
More information to follow.
- April 2-4 **MS Water Conference,** Jackson Hilton.
Information: jschmidt@ext.msstate.edu