



PVA RIVERS REGION MEETING

NOV. 8-10, 2026

Dolly Parton's SongTeller Hotel | Room: The Studio | Nashville, Tenn.

Program subject to change.

SUNDAY, NOV. 8

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception

Manthey Hospitality

Aboard the *The Capitol*

Boarding: 5:00 p.m.

Cruising: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The boat will board and disembark at the

West Bank Commercial Dock

100 1st Ave. S., Nashville, TN.

MONDAY, NOV. 9

8:30 - 8:15 a.m. Welcome Remarks

Christian Wirginis

Gateway Clipper Fleet, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Scott Whitehill

Gallagher, St. Louis, Mo.

**8:15 - 9:00 a.m. What Keeps Us Afloat:
A Riverboat Operators Roundtable**

Moderator:

Andrew Ostrowski

Pontoon Saloon, Nashville, Tenn.



PVA RIVERS REGION MEETING

AGENDA (CONTINUED)

9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Lessons Learned from Sector Ohio Valley First Responder Drills

Nicholas Lukaszewski

Belle of Louisville Riverboats, Louisville, Ky.

Joshua Reynolds (Invited)

Port Security Specialist

MSU Nashville, Nashville, Tenn.

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.

Networking Break

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

PVA's Flagship Safety Management System

Lee Boone

Passenger Vessel Association

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Food & Beverage Trends to Help Control Costs

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

Room: The Studio

District Commander's Intent and Force Design Update

RADM Will Watson (Invited)

U.S. Coast Guard

Commander, Heartland Coast Guard District

New Orleans, La

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Improving the Mariner Credentialing Experience: Navita Roll Out

REC Memphis Rep (Invited)

U.S. Coast Guard

Regional Exam Center

Memphis, Tenn.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Roundtable | Repower, Life-Extension, or New Construction: Assessing Pros and Cons

Moderator:

Gary Frommelt

Manthey Hospitality, Nashville, Tenn.

Jacob Connally

Dejong & Lebet, Jacksonville, Fla.

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Networking Break



PVA RIVERS REGION MEETING

AGENDA (CONTINUED)

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Roundtable | Operational Cohesion:
Improving Communication Across Teams**

Moderator:

Tim Roche

Wendella Tours & Cruises, Chicago, Ill.

TUESDAY, NOV. 10

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Challenges on the Western Rivers:
From Bridges to Buoy Tenders**

Moderator:

Casey Herschler

North American Marine Consultants, St. Louis, Mo.

Kevin Stier

Riverboat Twilight, Scales Mound, Ill.

CAPT Todd DeVries

U.S. Coast Guard

Director of Western Rivers

Eric Washburn (Invited)

U.S. Coast Guard

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. From Accommodations to Contracts: A Legal Refresher

Steve Bers

Whiteford, Baltimore, Md.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Networking Break

10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Achieving Quick Wins in Cybersecurity

Alex Soukhanov

True North Group, LLC, Plymouth, Mass.

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. The View from Washington D.C.: Issues that Affect You

Richard Patch

Passenger Vessel Association

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Region Old and New Business and Closing Remarks

Location Proposals for 2027 Region Meeting