

Jennifer A. Carpenter



Jennifer A. Carpenter serves as Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of the American Waterways Operators (AWO), the national trade association representing the inland and coastal tugboat, towboat, and barge industry.

Ms. Carpenter joined AWO in August 1990. She served as Government Affairs Assistant, Manager-Regulatory Issues, Director-Government Affairs, Vice President-Government Affairs, Senior Vice President-Government Affairs & Policy Analysis, Senior Vice President-National Advocacy and Executive Vice President before assuming her current position in January 2016. From 1994 to 2007, she was a member of the congressionally authorized Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC). Ms. Carpenter has also served on the Committee on Inland Water Transportation of the National Research Council's Transportation Research Board. She has received two Meritorious Public Service Awards and a Public Service Commendation from the U.S. Coast Guard for her contributions to the Towing Safety Advisory Committee and the Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership.

Ms. Carpenter holds a B.S. in international relations, law and organization from Georgetown University and an M.S. in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University. She also pursued graduate studies at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan, as a Georgetown University China Studies Fellow. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Ms. Carpenter resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband, Keith, and children Christopher, Patrick, and Catherine.