

# JOINT MEETING NEWS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Employee News	2
Combating childhood poverty	4
Employees' service milestones	4
Perfect attendance winners	5
New appointment to Board	6

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2  
FALL 2016



## Another Friend Moves On

**John McNamara** is leaving Joint Meeting after 38 years to enjoy a much deserved retirement with his family. John began his career at Joint Meeting in 1977 as a Wastewater Operator and after a few years of learning the facility operations, he was promoted to Operations Shift Supervisor. John played an integral role not only as a Supervisor but also as a role model and mentor to employees. In a short time, he was identified as a very talented and skilled operations person. As a result, John was offered the Project Coordinator position in the Projects Department where he played an increasingly important role in the initial planning and design phases of capital construction projects. He quickly developed an excellent working relationship with the project engineers during the construction phases. John assisted engineers with coordinating construction activities between the construction contractors and Joint Meeting's operations and maintenance staff. His 36 years of operating experience played a significant role during the startup of newly constructed facilities and the training of plant operators and maintenance personnel. John demonstrated his commitment to the successful operation of new projects time and time again, resulting in his most recent promotion to Projects Manager. We will miss John and wish him the best. Pictured above, Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, left, and Superintendent **Stephen Dowhan**, on the right, congratulate **John McNamara** on his last day at Joint Meeting.

## Upcoming Events

**November 15-17, 2016.** 101st Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ.

**November 15-16, 2016.** New Jersey Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) at Caesars, Atlantic City, NJ.



A newsletter of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties, a wastewater treatment plant serving eleven member municipalities:

East Orange  
Hillside  
Irvington  
Maplewood  
Millburn  
Newark  
Roselle Park  
South Orange  
Summit  
Union  
West Orange

Also serving:

Elizabeth  
Livingston  
New Providence  
Orange

### 2016 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

#### Officers

Howard Levison  
*Chairperson, South Orange*  
Carl Hokanson  
*Vice Chair/Secretary, Roselle Park*  
Richard Sun  
*Treasurer, Summit*

#### Members

Quilla E. Talmadge, *East Orange*  
Sip T. Whitaker, *Hillside*  
Renee C. Burgess, *Irvington*  
Victor DeLuca, *Maplewood*  
Robert J. Tillotson, *Millburn*  
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, *Newark*  
Joseph Florio, *Union*  
Gerard Guarino, *West Orange*

**Executive Director**  
Samuel T. McGhee

[www.jmeuc.com](http://www.jmeuc.com)



# Employee News

## New Arrivals — James

**Bunkiewicz**, Pretreatment Department, and his wife Meghan welcomed their daughter Delaney Abigail into the world on July 21, 2016. Delaney arrived weighing 7 lbs, 8 oz and 21 inches long.



**Chris Pabst**, Projects Department, and his wife Cathy proudly announce the birth of their son Connor on May 23, 2016. Connor came into the world at 1:08 pm weighing in at 8 lbs, 8 oz and 20 inches long.



**Fredy Gamboa**, Site Services Department, and his wife Jovana welcome the arrival of their daughter Gabriella on June 13, 2016. Gabriella weighed 7 lbs and was 19 inches long.



All are reported doing well. Congratulations to our staff and their families.

**Family Achievements** — Barrie Rogers, daughter of **Nathan Rogers**, Projects Department, received a Civic Scholarship and is a RISE Scholar at Drew University in Madison, NJ. She is attending the University studying Neuroscience. In addition, Barrie was recruited to play lacrosse for Drew.

**Promotions** — **Jason Kohlepp** has been promoted to Project Manager. He began at Joint Meeting in March 2014 after a distinguished 12-year career with CME Associates. Jason's experience includes construction engineering which involves the design and construction of sanitary sewerage and potable water facilities for various public and private projects. He possesses his C-2 License and is pursuing his BS Degree in Civil Engineering. Jason is taking on the position vacated by the retirement of John McNamara.

**Nathan Rogers** has been promoted to the position of Project Coordinator. He has been an integral part of the Projects Department for more than 15 years. In addition to his responsibilities in projects, Nathan has played an active role in compiling and tracking data concerning the hauling and disposal of biosolids generated by the treatment process. This information is critical for preparing state and federal monitoring reports.

**Chris Pabst** has been promoted to the position of Assistant Project Manager. He has taken on the position vacated by the retirement of Mike Richardson. Chris began his career with Joint Meeting in 2009, after serving honorably in the United States Marine Corps. After serving as an Operator and then a Mechanic, Chris was promoted to Operations Shift Supervisor in 2012 and, in 2013, he assumed the position of Training Coordinator.

**Welcoming New Employees** — **Andrew Cerrato**, Electrician, brings over 12 years of experience in this field. He attended Kittatinny High School in Hampton, NJ and Middlesex County Vocational School. Andrew resides in Middlesex, NJ.

**Peter Criaris**, Site Services Worker, joins the JM team after working for several years with the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority and the Jersey City Board of Education. Prior to working for Jersey City, he owned and operated Criaris Seafoods in Jersey City for 17 years. Peter is a resident of Jersey City.

**Keir Dargon**, Wastewater Operator in Training, has lived and worked in the Essex County area for several years. She worked for the Essex County Department of Public Works, the Community Education Center, and the Sunrise Adult Daycare facility. Keir attended high school at Newark Tech and college at Passaic County Community College and the University of the District of Columbia. She is a resident of Newark, NJ.

**Fredy Gamboa**, Site Services Worker, has been employed in the industrial painting and light construction field. For the last several years, he was employed by Diamond Head construction, West Virginia Paint Company, and Northeast Contracting. Fredy and his wife Jovana reside in West Orange, NJ.

**Eric Dowhan**, Operator in Training, brings almost 10 years of experience in water and wastewater treatment. He possesses his S-1 license and has completed the Advanced Waste Water Operations course. Eric and his family reside in Hackettstown, NJ.

**Edward Orzechowski**, Laboratory Technician, originally hails from Georgia. While living there, he attended the University of Tennessee. Ed has relocated to New Jersey to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering.



**Waliyy Dixon**, Wastewater Operator in Training, is a longtime resident of Linden, NJ. He attended Linden High School and then Rutgers University. Waliyy played professional basketball in the United States Basketball League for the Long Island Surf and the Atlantic City Seagulls. He was invited by the New Jersey Nets to participate in their training camp in 2004 and 2005. Waliyy is involved in youth basketball and community outreach programs. He was previously employed by Dunbar Security Services.



Joint Meeting's new Wastewater Operators in Training are, left to right, **Markill Mars**, **Waliyy Dixon**, **Heir Dargon**, **Gerard Whitaker**, **Joe Mino**, **Laquan Robinson**, and **Jojo Nonato**.

**Markill Mars**, Wastewater Operator in Training, served honorably in the United States Army. He then joined L'Oreal USA where he worked as an Operator for 13 years. Markill then continued his career with Actavis Pharmaceutical before coming to Joint Meeting. He and his family reside in Elizabeth, NJ.

**Joseph Mino**, Wastewater Operator in Training, attended Hunterdon Regional High School and Hunterdon County Polytech. He has been working in the contracting field for the past few years. Joe is a resident of Branchburg, NJ.

**Jojo Nonato**, Wastewater Operator in Training, is a longtime resident of Jersey City. He attended Dickinson High School and Hudson County School of Technology where he completed Parts 1 and 2 of the Introduction to Water & Wastewater Treatment course work. Before coming to Joint Meeting, Jojo worked for Saint Gobain Plastics in Wayne, NJ.

**Manisha Patel**, Lab Technician, is a resident of Jersey City. Prior to coming to Joint Meeting, she worked for Bioreference Laboratories. Manisha also participates in a volunteer program with the Jersey City Medical Center where she is on call to respond to local 911 calls to treat patients and obtain critical information prior to the arrival of rescue teams.

**Laquan Robinson**, Wastewater Operator in Training, is a longtime resident of Elizabeth, NJ. He attended Elizabeth High School and the Boiler Training Center in Kenilworth where he received training to obtain his Black Seal license. Laquan has worked for many years in the hospitality industry providing technical support in the maintenance departments for hotels.

**Gerard Whitaker**, Wastewater Operator in Training, is a resident of Hillside, NJ. He graduated from Morgan State University in Maryland where he earned his B.S. Degree in Business Administration. Gerard has worked for the Wakefern Food Corporation for several years in progressive positions. He is also active in the Hillside Civic Association.

## Eduardo Aya Retires

In June 1991, Joint Meeting welcomed Eduardo (Ed) Aya to the JM family. Ed came on board as an Instrumentation Technician. Prior to Joint Meeting, Ed was with GAF Chemicals for 11 years. In his tenure, Ed moved into the position of Electrician and became a valuable asset to the operation of the facility and to his colleagues. Ed was cited for his dedication during major storm events such as Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, as well as for his numerous quarters of Perfect Attendance.

We will miss Ed and wish him well in his retirement.



**Ed Aya**, on the left, is congratulated by Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, center, and Electrical Supervisor **Ed Patterson**.





Front row left to right are **James Paluch** and **Samuel McGhee**. Second row left to right are **Theresa Teti**, **Beatriz Rubio**, **John McNamara**, **Malika Johnson**, **Miriam Ledee**, and **Grace Quintero**. Rear row left to right are **Roger Marques**, **Glen Riscen**, **Robert Surman**, **Shawn Kaciupski**, **Marcelo Kofman**, and **Francis Bonaccorso**.

## Joint Meeting Gets “Seriously Silly”

**J**ames Paluch, Assistant Superintendent Collection System Operations, and JMEUC’s collection system personnel, **Marcelo Kofman** and **Robert Surman**, have begun fundraising efforts at Joint Meeting in support of a great cause: fighting childhood poverty, both domestic and international, by championing children’s right to be happy and healthy. The fundraising is always important, but the ongoing awareness campaign is crucial.

The campaign’s iconic red nose, which people wear in support of the official “Red Nose Day” (this year held on May 26th), recently returned to store shelves at Walgreens and Duane Reade Stores nationwide, officially kicking off this two-month charitable campaign.

“Red Nose Day” is run by the non-profit organization, Comic Relief, Inc., a registered public charity. Money raised helps achieve their vision of a just world free from poverty. The initial inaugural “Red Nose Day,” held in the U.S. last year on May 21, 2015, raised more than 23 million dollars, which benefited children in all 50 states, as well as 15 countries internationally, through programs addressing literacy, healthcare and nutrition.

This year, the day’s events culminated in a two-hour television entertainment special presented on NBC, featuring well known comedians, musicians and Hollywood stars.

Executive Director **Sam McGhee** has provided his support for this endeavor and believes this is a great initiative taken on by Jim, Marcelo and Bob.

## Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

Congratulations to the following dedicated employees for their years of hard work and for reaching service milestones.

### 25 YEARS

**Santos Garcia**, Operations  
**Ralph Scott**, Maintenance  
**Zygmunt Szczesny**, Electrical  
**Roman Wisniewski**, Maintenance

### 20 YEARS

**Joseph Ratz**, Boiler Department  
**Antoni Wyczasany**, Electrical

### 15 YEARS

**Julio Cabrera**, Laboratory  
**David Viera**, Pretreatment

### 10 YEARS

**Miguel Foster**, Operations  
**Adris Hariprasad**, Electrical  
**Roscoe Scott**, Operations

### 5 YEARS

**Matthew Bodzioch**, Operations  
**Carlos DeLacruz**, Operations  
**David Dipner**, Laboratory  
**Krzysztof Kielian**, Maintenance  
**Grecia Quintero**, Administration  
**Lamar Shell**, Operations



## Perfect Attendance

Eleven employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2016. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

**Fuquan Brownridge**, Boiler Department  
**Carlos DeLacruz**, Operations  
**Rodney Holman**, Operations  
**Krzysztof Kielian**, Mechanical Maintenance  
**Ed Kobovitch**, Laboratory  
**Louis Lawson**, Security  
**Willie Negron**, Boiler Department  
**Hector Reveron**, Site Services  
**Christopher Stafford**, Operations  
**Robert Surman**, Collections  
**Pete Vlasakakis**, Site Services

Fifteen employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 2nd Quarter of 2016. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

**Joseph Branche**, Site Services  
**Fuquan Brownridge**, Boiler Department  
**Julio Cabrera**, Laboratory  
**Jan Dmytrach**, Mechanical Maintenance  
**James Foy**, Boiler Department  
**George Garcia**, Operations  
**Charles Guest**, Site Services  
**Rudolph Johnson**, Security  
**Brian More**, Operations  
**Tony Rivers**, Site Services  
**Ralph Scott**, Mechanical Maintenance  
**Tom Shanks**, Mechanical Maintenance  
**Robert Surman**, Collections  
**Millicent Walker**, Laboratory  
**Derrick Williams**, Site Services

Eleven employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 3rd Quarter of 2016. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

**Curtis Brown**, Operations  
**Fuquan Brownridge**, Boiler Department  
**James Foy**, Boiler Department  
**Aron Harris**, Electrical  
**Louis Lawson**, Security  
**Djavana Menter**, Laboratory  
**Jairo Nunez**, Operations

**Eugene Rivera**, Mechanical Maintenance  
**Ralph Scott**, Mechanical Maintenance  
**Robert Surman**, Collections  
**Pete Vlasakakis**, Site Services

Congratulations to all of the above listed employees for their excellent attendance records.

## Burgers and Dogs

Once again, Joint Meeting was pleased to be able to serve up a barbeque for the staff on July 15, 2016. Of course, the barbeque was successful due to the efforts of Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso**. Fran did an outstanding job with the cooking and the preparation of the food.

Special thanks also goes to **Mike Maffia** and the Site Services department, **Rick Stafford**, **Chris Pabst**, **Mike Foster** and **Matt Bodzioch** for their assistance. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**.



Chef **Fran Bonaccorso** serving up a staff member.



Enjoying the barbeque are, left to right, **Julio Cabrera**, **Ed Kobovitch**, **Dave Dipner**, **Djavana Menter**, and **Patricia Fraga**.



## Joint Meeting Welcomes a New Board Member

Joint Meeting is pleased to welcome **Jerry Guarino** from West Orange to the Board of Directors. Mr. Guarino replaces **Victor Cirilo**. We thank Mr. Cirilo for his service to the Board of Directors.

## Summer at the Joint Meeting

Once again, we enjoyed the assistance of Summer Interns helping us in various departments around the facility. This summer's interns were: **Shavonne Carr**, Laboratory; **Rahul Nagpal**, IT Department; **Zachary Liming**, Projects Department; **Raymond Hamlin**, Site Services; **Juwaan Walker**, Site Services; and **Liana Altman**, Administration.



Front row left to right are **Juwaan Walker**, Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, and **Liana Altman**. Rear row left to right are **Rahul Nagpal**, **Zachary Liming**, **Shavonne Carr**, and **Raymond Hamlin**.



Joint Meeting conducts annual safety training utilizing skills to properly dig trenches and shore up the area so personnel do not become trapped by collapsing walls.

[www.jmeuc.com](http://www.jmeuc.com)



### Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

Wastewater Treatment Plant  
& Administrative Offices  
500 South First Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
(908) 353-1313  
FAX (908) 353-7925

### Joint Meeting Administrative Staff

*Executive Director*  
Samuel T. McGhee

*Deputy Executive  
Director/Chief Engineer*  
Position Vacant

*Superintendent*  
Stephen Dowhan

*Director of Admin. and Finance*  
Anthony Terrezza

*Director of Human Resources*  
Robert Barry

*Industrial Pretreatment Manager*  
Michael Phillips

*Project Manager*  
Jason Kohlhepp

*Purchasing Officer*  
Michelle DeFrancis

*Asst. Board Sec./Financial Asst.*  
Position Vacant

*Asst. Superintendent  
Operations/Maint.*  
Francis Bonaccorso

*Asst. Superintendent  
Collection System*  
Jim Paluch

*Operations Manager*  
Roger Marques

*Maintenance Manager*  
Roman Wisniewski

*Safety Officer*  
Richard Stafford

### Board Committees 2016

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2016 are:

#### Operations Committee

*Chair:* Sip T. Whitaker  
Renee C. Burgess  
Gerard Guarino  
Richard Sun

#### Public Relations Committee

*Chair:* Renee C. Burgess  
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins  
Carl Hokanson  
Robert J. Tillotson

#### Finance and Budget Committee

*Chair:* Joseph M. Florio  
Carl Hokanson  
Richard Sun  
Quilla E. Talmadge

#### Personnel and Procurement Committee

*Chair:* Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins  
Renee C. Burgess  
Victor DeLuca  
Joseph M. Florio