

JOINT MEETING NEWS

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Plans Underway for Front Gate Upgrade

Above is the existing entrance to the Joint Meeting facility located at 500 South First Street in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Plans are underway to upgrade the front security booth, enhance security features, construct a delivery receiving area, provide a staging area for tractor trailers and provide additional employee parking. At its June 2008 meeting, the Board of Directors approved CMX Engineering for this project's design phase. Completion of the project is expected in the spring of 2009.

Upcoming Events

November 13, 2008. NJWEA-North Section 14th Annual Affiliates Night and Beefsteak Dinner at Union Local 464 Hall, Little Falls, NJ for NJWEA members and guests.

November 18 to 21, 2008. 93rd Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference in Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ with workshops for municipal officials.

May 10 to 15, 2009. NJWEA 94th Annual Conference and Exhibition at Bally's Atlantic City in 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

2008 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers

Anthony Terrezza
Chairperson, Union
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Vice Chair/Secretary, Maplewood
Ronald C. Rice
Treasurer, Newark

Members

Sal M. Anderton, *West Orange*
Ricky Badillo, *Roselle Park*
Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*
Edward A. Brewer, Jr., *Hillside*
Sharon Fields, *East Orange*
Lebby C. Jones, *Irvington*
Thomas C. McDermott, *Millburn*
Terriann Moore-Abrams, *South Orange*

Executive Director

Samuel T. McGhee

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Employee News

Eugene Lawson, Maintenance Clerk with the Joint Meeting since May 2000, passed away unexpectedly on June 10, 2008. Gene was a graduate of Weequahic High School in Newark and Rutgers University and served in the U.S. Air Force. He taught and coached in the Newark school system, was elected to the Irvington Board of Education, and was active in many non-profit organizations and in numerous social lodges. Joint Meeting extends its condolences to Gene's wife, Elmira, his sons Eugene, Jr., Viktor, Mikal and Bandit as well as his other family members. He was a wonderful person whose infectious smile and upbeat personality will be missed by everyone who knew him at Joint Meeting.



Jimmy Shanks, former Maintenance Mechanic with the Joint Meeting, passed away on September 25, 2008. He retired in May 1991. Condolences are extended to his family and friends . . . **Steve Mercandetti**, Environmental Officer with our Industrial Pretreatment Department, passed the state licensing test and earned a C-2 collection license. Congratulations to Steve on his accomplishment . . . And congratulations to **David Foushee**, Wastewater Operator in the Primary Facility on Team 2, who passed the state licensing requirements and earned his S-1 license . . . Congratulations to our operator trainees who completed their on-the-job training and passed the Introduction to Water and Wastewater Treatment Course and thus qualified for open Wastewater Operator positions. They are: **Maurice Clark** and **William Harrison** who were assigned to the Dewatering Facility, Team 2; **Jesse Ordner** who was assigned to the Dewatering Facility, Team 4; and **Miguel Foster** who was assigned to a Utility Operator position.

Twenty-seven Joint Meeting employees attended the New Jersey Water Environment Association's semiannual Fall Technology Transfer Seminar Program, which was held in Eatontown, New Jersey from September 29 through October 2, 2008. It was an opportunity for employees to earn continuing education credits and to maintain their licensing requirements. Courses were offered in such topics as Clean Energy, Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development, Underground Storage Tank Recertification, Industrial Management, and Safety Compliance.

WEF Chooses Paluch to Moderate Webcasts

Jim Paluch, Assistant Superintendent/Collection System Operations, has been notified by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) of his acceptance to provide a Power Point Presentation at the WEF Collection Systems Specialty Conference to be held in Kentucky in April 2009.

Jim will speak at the 2008 Annual WEF Technical Exhibition and Conference in October of this year. WEF has also requested that Jim moderate all future WEF Collection System Committee webcasts in an effort to insure continuity and familiarity on issues of infrastructure sustainability and awareness. Congratulations to Jim and best of luck. His success and achievements reflect Joint Meeting's efforts to make the general public more aware of our aging underground infrastructure.

Last Visit to Yankee Stadium

A chartered bus departed the Joint Meeting premises on Sunday morning, May 25, 2008, carrying 54 employees, family members and friends to visit the historic Yankee Stadium in its final season hosting the New York Yankees.



Courtesy of New York Yankees

The Yankees beat the Seattle Mariners 6 to 5 with an 8th inning single by Jose Molina for the Yankees' fifth straight win. It was a beautiful day in the Bronx. Employees who attended were Will Anderson, Jack Kennedy, Diane Burkowski, Jim Freedley, Vinnie Makfinsky, Glenn Connolly, Nelson Fairchild, Tony Bongiorno, Glen Riscen, Glen Schoenig, Rich Cirlincione, Ramon Vara, Keith Kilgore, Pete Kaciupski and Jim Murdoch.

Glen Riscen was responsible for organizing and planning the trip and running the 50-50s during the bus trip and did a great job. Two hardcover coffee table books on the history of Yankee Stadium were raffled off to lucky winners.

Everyone had a great time and was happy to be part of the fun watching the Yankees play in the "House That Ruth Built" in its final historic season.

The Boys of Summer in Action

Employees and families got together and played an enjoyable softball game under a bright sun on September 10, 2008 at Drotar Field in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The game was organized by Mike Foster, Joint Meeting's unofficial Ambassador of Entertainment.

At least twenty employees, family members and friends participated in the event. Glen Riscen brought two grills, and Miriam Ledee, James Gibson and Pat Rufolo cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for players and fans. Joint Meeting donated money for the food and soft drinks.

The game was played for fun with scoring not recorded after several innings since both teams were having too much fun just playing the game. Players included Mike Foster, Glen Riscen, Steve Feller, Roger Marques, Steve Pascucci, Tony Bongiorno, Gary Tate, Jaime Rivera, Charles Motley, Joel Altman, Roman Wisniewski, Lenny Bucher, Frank Osty (Lenny's friend), Mike Phillips, Miguel Foster, Eugene Rivera, Humbert Mortola, Glen Schoenig, Andrew Solano (Cathy's son), and several other friends of employees.

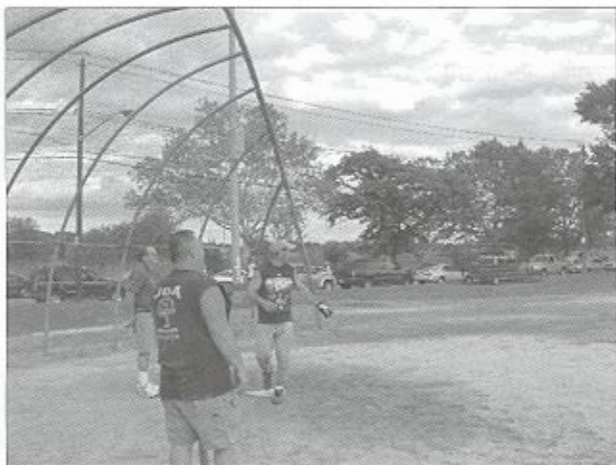
The players enjoyed it so much that they played nine innings and expressed interest in arranging another softball game. Supporters included Dan Comerie, Tom Ksepka, Aron Harris, Barry Michaels, Cathy Solano, Rich Cirlincione, James Gibson, Marcelo Kofman, Pat Rufolo, Miriam Ledee, and former Lab employee Jenny Wilson, as well as a special guest appearance by Adolph Kofman, Joint Meeting's retired Boiler Supervisor.



Shown above are the employees, family members and friends who played in the September softball game.



From left to right are Steve Feller, Humbert Mortola, Pat Rufolo, Miriam Ledee (partially hidden), Mike Foster and James Gibson who are seen working on the grill. Dozens of hamburgers and hotdogs were grilled to keep the players fit and the onlookers happy. A good time was had by everyone.



Tony Bongiorno scores another run in a slugfest as Steve Feller and Joel Altman look on.

New Pension Loan Rule

Effective November 1, 2008, The New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits is instituting a new rule for employees who wish to apply for a pension loan. Eligible members who wish to borrow against their pension account must submit their loan request applications online using the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS).

Paper loan applications will no longer be accepted by mail, nor will you be able to fax a loan application to the pension loan office.

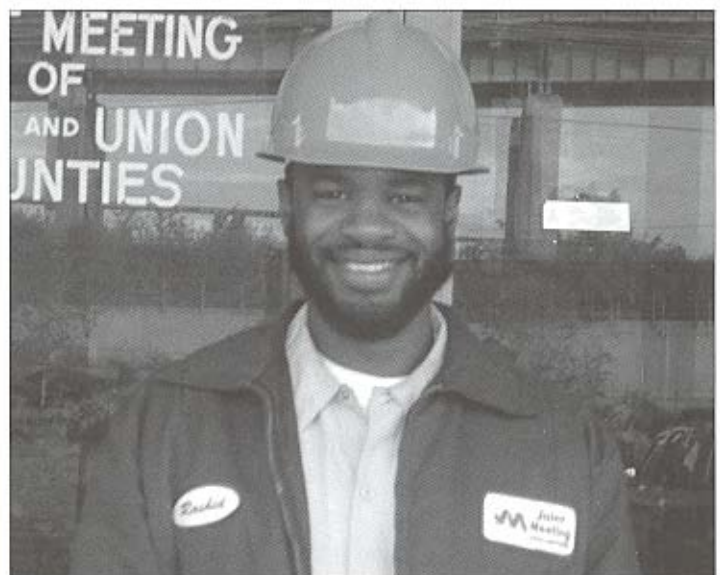
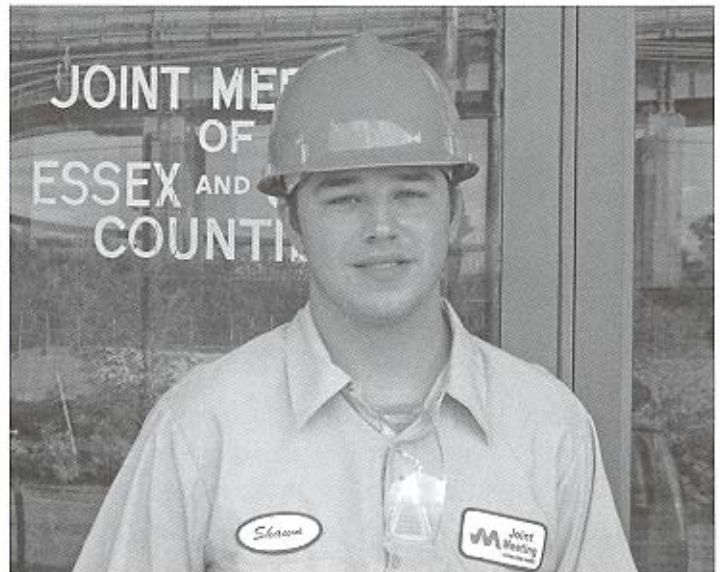
The Member Benefits Online System (MBOS) is a set of Internet applications that allow employees to access their pension account information. Members who are new to the system can access MBOS after they register with both the MyNewJersey Web site and MBOS. Registration is free. The registration process requires several steps and new users should carefully follow the MBOS Registration Instructions. If employees need assistance registering for or using MBOS, they should call the MBOS Help Desk at (609) 777-0534 or send an e-mail with the subject line "MBOS E-Mail" to: pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us.

Members should note that limited access to a computer or a member's reluctance to use MBOS will not be considered sufficient circumstances to allow manual loan processing.

Other provisions of the pension loan program remain unchanged. Members must still have at least three years of pension service credit posted to their retirement system account. Pension contributions and credit are posted to accounts on a quarterly basis and normally take 45 days from the end of the quarter to be posted.

Members may borrow amounts from between \$50 up to one-half of the posted contributions or a maximum loan balance of \$50,000, whichever is less. The interest rate is 4.69 percent on the declining balance of the loan. There is an \$8 administrative processing fee, which is not an added fee, but is taken from the requested amount of the loan to recover the costs of administering the program.

IRS regulations require that members who have multiple loans outstanding must repay the balance of all loans within a period not to exceed five years from the issuance of the first loan taken after January 1, 2004. Loans cannot exceed 25 percent of an employee's base salary. Joint Meeting will assist employees with enrollment in the MBOS system by appointment.



Shawn Kaciupski, top photo, and **Rashid Marshburn**, lower photo, were hired in September 2008 as part of the Operator Trainee Program. They will receive on-the-job training and attend Introduction to Water and Wastewater classes two nights a week from September through May. Upon the successful completion of their training, they will qualify to bid for any open Wastewater Treatment Operator positions.

Joint Meeting Earns Fifth NACWA Gold

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has recognized the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties by awarding the agency its Gold Award for the calendar year 2007. This is the second consecutive Gold Award that Joint Meeting has received. Joint Meeting previously won gold in 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2006.

The Gold Award is given to sewerage agencies that have met one hundred percent total compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System requirements with no violations to their New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) permit.

In the past, the Joint Meeting has been recognized by NACWA with ten Silver Awards beginning in 1993. The Silver Award recognizes facilities that have had fewer than five NJDEP permit excursions in a calendar year.

Much of the success in obtaining these awards from NACWA is attributable to the great work of Joint Meeting employees in the operational and maintenance departments. Their hard work on a day-to-day basis, their cooperation and strong work ethics and their high degree of professionalism all contribute to making Joint Meeting achieve these high honors. Congratulations are extended from management to all Joint Meeting employees for their continued support and efforts.

Facility Tours of Joint Meeting

Tours of the Joint Meeting facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey are conducted for school groups throughout the year. For example, Elizabeth High School's science students toured the facility on July 28, 2008 with Steve Feller, Operations Supervisor, conducting the tour. Columbia University students in the Masters of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy program also toured the Elizabeth facility, learning about the plant's history and the water treatment methodology. Joseph Bonaccorso led this tour of Joint Meeting.

Educational institutions that are interested in touring the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties facilities in Elizabeth should contact Superintendent Joseph Bonaccorso at 908-353-1313 to arrange for a tour.

Employee Annual Fishing Trip

Twenty-six employees, family members and friends attended what is becoming an annual fishing trip on Saturday August 2, 2008. Employees who set sail were Diane Burkowski, Gary Tate, Pete Kaciupski, Aron Harris, Adris Hariprasad, Maurice Clark, Glen Schoenig, Marcelo Kofman and Jack Howard.

The Jackpot II Charter Boat left from the Cliffside Marina in Sewaren, New Jersey at 7:00 a.m. for eight hours of fluke fishing. This was the fourth annual employee fishing trip and has become very popular among employees. The big catch of the day was by Jimmy Rushton, a friend of Operations Supervisor Pete Kaciupski. See his photo below. Even those individuals who did not catch any fish that day enjoyed the sun and the sea.



The biggest catch of the year was not during the employee fishing trip, but rather during a September weekend trip to upstate New York where Jim Freedley, Sludge Handling, Team 5 Operator hauled in a 35-pound salmon. Other employees on the trip were Jack Kennedy, John McNamara and Ramon Vara. Nice work Jim!

Brewer and Anderton Join Board of Directors

Hon. Edward A. Brewer, Jr., Councilman from Hillside, and **Hon. Sal M. Anderton**, Councilman from West Orange, were appointed by their respective municipalities to serve as representatives on the Board of Directors of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties. Their terms of office began July 1, 2008.

Mr. Brewer serves as the Council Vice President in the Township of Hillside. He was selected to sit on the Hillside Board of Adjustments in 1991-1992. Mr. Brewer is a graduate of Upsala College and was a sales account manager for Wyeth in Madison, New Jersey for 31 years, retiring in 2001. As a Joint Meeting member, he was appointed to the board's Operations Committee.

Mr. Anderton is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law and is employed by the law firm of Tobia & Sorger in Harrison, New Jersey. He has served as counsel to the West Orange Planning Board and has served in many capacities in his community. The Board also appointed Mr. Anderton to the Operations Committee.

At its September 18th monthly board meeting, the Board of Directors elected **Hon. Ronald C. Rice** of Newark to serve as the Treasurer for the Board of Directors. In addition, Mr. Rice will serve as the Chairperson of the Board's Finance and Budget Committee. His duties will also include membership on the Operations Committee and the Personnel and Procurement Committee.

New contact information for employees represented by Teamster's

Teamster's Local 641
714 Rahway Avenue
Union, New Jersey 07083
908-686-8898

Teamster's Welfare Fund
(Dental, vision and prescription plans)
2185 Lemoine Avenue
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024
1-800-365-0082

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*
Ralph LaMendola, P.E.

Superintendent
Joseph Bonaccorso

Director of Admin. and Finance
Gary Restivo

Director of Human Resources
Richard Cirlincione

Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator
Cathy Martinson

Sr. Project Manager
Stephen Dowhan

Purchasing Officer
Robert Storza

Asst. Board Sec./Financial Asst.
Patricia Rufolo

*Asst. Superintendent
Operations/Maintenance*
Jack Kennedy

*Asst. Superintendent
Collection System*
Jim Paluch

Operations Manager
Alex Durand

Safety Officer
Terry Cole-Kelly

Board Committees 2008

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2008 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Ricky Badillo
Sal M. Anderton
Edward A. Brewer, Jr.
Ronald C. Rice

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Terriann Moore-Abrams
Ricky Badillo
Sharon Fields
Thomas C. McDermott

Finance & Budget Committee

Chair: Ronald C. Rice
Dave A. Bomgaars
Lebby C. Jones
Kathleen M. Leventhal

Personnel & Procurement Committee

Chair: Kathleen M. Leventhal
Dave A. Bomgaars
Lebby C. Jones
Ronald C. Rice