# JOINTMEETING NEWS


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VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2
FALL 2012




## Steve Dowhan Has New Role at Joint Meeting

Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** (right) congratulates **Steve Dowhan** on his appointment to the position of Acting Superintendent for Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties, which was effective September 4, 2012.

Steve began his career at Joint Meeting in 1995 as a Project Coordinator. Prior to Joint Meeting, Steve worked with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) as Branch Chief, as well as with the N.W. Bergen County Utilities Authority serving in roles of Laboratory Supervisor and Operations Supervisor. Steve has had extensive experience in the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment systems for over 35 years. He has also been actively involved in operator training programs. *(continued on page 5)*

## Upcoming Events

**November 13-15, 2012.** 97th Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ.

**November 13-14, 2012.** New Jersey Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) at Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City.

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


**2012 Joint Meeting Board of Directors**

**Officers**
Ronald C. Rice
*Chairperson, Newark*
Theodore R. Green
*Vice Chair/Secretary, East Orange*
Thomas C. McDermott
*Treasurer, Millburn*

**Members**
Angela R. Garretson, *Hillside*
Lebby C. Jones, *Irvington*
Kathleen M. Leventhal, *Maplewood*
Tanya Torres, *Roselle Park*
Howard Levison, *South Orange*
Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*
James M. Florio, *Union*
Victor Cirilo, *West Orange*

**Executive Director**
Samuel T. McGhee



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# Employee News

As a result of many changes within Joint Meeting, we are pleased to welcome the following new employees.

**Patricia DaSilva** joins Joint Meeting in Laboratory. Patricia is a resident of Kenilworth, NJ and is a graduate of Monmouth University where she majored in biology. Prior to coming to Joint Meeting, Patricia worked for Gibraltar Laboratories in Fairfield, NJ.

**Jan Dmytrach** joins us in Mechanical Maintenance. Jan attended Rutgers University and Lincoln Technical School. He brings with him a wealth of experience in Diesel Repair and Mechanical Maintenance. Jan is a resident of Somerset, NJ. **Victor Rivera** also was hired in Mechanical Maintenance. Victor is a resident of Bridgewater, NJ and attended Iona College. He comes to Joint Meeting after being employed for several years at the Fashion Institute of Technology and Baruch College.

**Joseph Mancino** is now part of Site Services. Joe is a resident of Livingston, NJ and is a graduate of Thomas Edison State College where he majored in business. He has worked in the property management industry for the past 15 years specializing in repair and maintenance of residential and retail facilities. **Charles "Anthony" Guest** also joins Site Services. Anthony came to Joint Meeting after a long and distinguished 20-year career in the steel industry. He worked for American Strip Steel in Kearny, NJ and Main Steel Polishing in Union, NJ. Anthony is a resident of Union, NJ.

**James Bunkiewicz** is now part of Pretreatment. James is a graduate of Cook College Rutgers where he majored in biology. He also received his Masters Degree in Environmental Science from The College of Staten Island. Prior to starting with Joint Meeting, James was employed by Groundwater Environmental Services. He is a resident of Linden, NJ.

**Jason Harris** was hired as an Operator Trainee. Jason is a resident of East Orange, NJ. He attended Essex County College and has worked in various positions related to Customer Service prior to coming to Joint Meeting.

**Recent Promotions/Transfers — Antonio Diaz** has moved from Site Services to Mechanical Maintenance. **Chris Pabst** has been promoted from Maintenance Mechanic to Operations Shift Supervisor. **Steve Feller** was promoted to Operations Manager I, succeeding **Ramon Vara** upon his retirement. **Roger Marques** was promoted from Operations Shift Supervisor to Operations Manager II.

**New Arrival — John McNamara** welcomed his new grandson Derek into the world on May 10, 2012. John's son Keith delivered the baby on the front seat of his car while enroute to the hospital. Congratulations to John and his family.

**Correction —** In the prior issue of *Joint Meeting News Spring 2012*, we incorrectly reported that Maintenance Administrative Clerk **Malika Johnson's** son Ethan was born on February 6, 2012. He was actually born on February 5, 2012. We regret our error.



Once again, we are wishing a dear friend and colleague all the best as he leaves Joint Meeting to begin retirement. Operations Manager **Ramon Vara** has concluded 25 years at Joint Meeting and is shown above (on the left) receiving a plaque in appreciation for his years of service from **Samuel McGhee**, Executive Director of Joint Meeting.

## Ramon Vara Retires

Ramon began his career at Joint Meeting as a Third Shift Operator. A few years later, he was promoted to Dewatering Supervisor and then moved to the main plant as a Supervisor. In 2008, Ramon was appointed to the newly created position of Operations Trainer. Ramon assumed responsibilities for all training functions of existing employees, as well as for new employees. After a successful period in his Trainer position, Ramon was promoted to the position of Operations Manager.

We thank Ramon for all of his contributions to the staff and operation of Joint Meeting. As we wish him an enjoyable retirement, we are also left with the question, "Who will bring the bagels?"

# Perfect Attendance

Fourteen employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2012. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Carmine Cristiano, Sludge Handling, Team 3
Mario Frietas, Dewatering, Team 3
George Garcia, Dewatering, Team 1
Harby Guerrero, Sludge Handling, Team 4
Carlos Jimenez, Secondary Team 3
Robert Leskin, Boiler Department
Ralph Madera, Primary, Team 1
Djavana Menter, Laboratory Technician
Joseph Ratz, Boiler Department
Tony Rivers, Site Services
Ralph Scott, Mechanical Services
Robert Surman, Collections Systems
Thomas Shanks, Mechanical Services
Pete Vlasakakis, Site Services

Fifteen employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 2nd Quarter of 2012. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Matthew Bodzioch, Operations
Carlos Cabral, Sludge Handling, Team 4
Dan Comerie III, Operations
Carlos DelaCruz, Operations
Melanie Folmer, Laboratory
George Garcia, Dewatering, Team 1
Ryan Gerhard, Sludge Handling, Team 1
James Gibson, Site Services
Ray Jones, Boiler Department
Kazimierz Kowalski, Site Services
Louis Lawson, Security
Djavana Menter, Laboratory Technician
Ralph Scott, Mechanical Services
Robert Surman, Collections Systems
Pete Vlasakakis, Site Services

Twenty-three employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 3rd Quarter of 2012. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Matthew Bodzioch, Operations
Curtis Brown, Sludge Handling, Team 1
Carlos Cabral, Sludge Handling, Team 4
Carlos DelaCruz, Operations
David Dipner, Laboratory
Morgan Frierson, Primary, Team 5
George Garcia, Dewatering, Team 1
Ryan Gerhard, Sludge Handling, Team 1
Harby Guerrero, Sludge Handling, Team 4
Don Heminghaus, Sewer Maintenance
Carlos Jimenez, Secondary, Team 3
Ray Jones, Boiler Department
Kazimierz Kowalski, Site Services
Ralph Madera, Primary, Team 1
Miguel Mejia, Dewatering, Team 2
James Murdoch, Mechanical Maintenance
Jairo Nunez, Sludge Handling, Team 5
George Pelayo, Sludge Handling, Team 2
Jaime Rivera, Mechanical Maintenance
Luzminio Roman, Dewatering, Team 3
Roscoe Scott, Sludge Handling, Team 2
Robert Surman, Collections Systems
Millicent Walker, Laboratory

## *You put your left foot in...*



Tony Wyczesany (Electrical) and Diane Burkowski (Administration) compare new footwear they received from their physicians.

Tony was out for a period of time and now is back. Fortunately, Diane was able to come in and work with her new "shoe."



## High School Students Tour Joint Meeting

On October 5, 2012, Joint Meeting welcomed students and faculty from the Millburn, NJ High School to the facility. The students are enrolled in the Advanced Placement Environmental Science Course. Pictured on far left is Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**. On the far right are Operations Manager **Steve Feller** and Training Coordinator **Peter Kaciupski**. Educational institutions interested in touring the Joint Meeting facility in Elizabeth, should contact Executive Director Samuel McGhee at 908-353-1313.



## Our Summer Interns

Joint Meeting was happy once again to have staff interns work during the summer while they were off from school. Executive Director **Samuel T. McGhee** (center) is joined by summer interns (left to right) **Ryan Phillips**, **Kenneth Hutchins**, **Chris Stafford** and **Janee Carr**. Chris Stafford and Ken Hutchins were assigned to Site Services. Janee Carr worked in the Laboratory and Ryan Phillips worked in Maintenance and Projects.

## Member Benefits Online System Changes

The State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits is implementing a significant change to the retirement application process. Effective October 1, 2012, all Applications for Retirement must be submitted online using the Retirement Application program of the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS). This requirement applies to all eligible members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF), Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS), and State Police Retirement System (PFRS) who wish to submit an application for retirement.

MBOS is a set of applications that allow registered members access to their pension account information over the Internet. Here are some guidelines:

- MBOS provides you with a secure, fast, and efficient method to apply for retirement.
- MBOS allows applications to be submitted for all types of retirement — including disability.
- Before you apply, use MBOS to obtain the most accurate Estimate of Retirement Benefits that is available. (SPRS members – see Human Resources or contact the Division for an estimate.)
- With MBOS you receive immediate confirmation on screen and by follow-up email that your Retirement Application has been received.
- MBOS eliminates printing and mailing costs and improves retirement processing, saving you time and money.
- If you are currently a registered MBOS user, you already have access to the online Retirement Application through your MBOS account.
- If you are new to MBOS you can access MBOS after you register with both the MyNewJersey Web site and MBOS. Registration is free at:
**www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml**
Registration requires several steps. New users should read and carefully follow the MBOS Registration Instructions.

In addition, as of October 5, 2012:

- Paper Applications for Retirement Allowance received by mail will be returned to members with instructions on submitting the retirement application using MBOS. If, after following the MBOS Registration Instructions, you still need assistance registering for or using MBOS, call the MBOS Help Desk at (609) 777-0534 or send an email with the subject line "MBOS E-mail" to: pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us




# Wagner College Students Visit Joint Meeting

Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** welcomed students from Wagner College to the facility on September 27, 2012. The tour has been an annual function for Wagner College students to learn about the processes involved in a Wastewater Treatment facility. Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso** coordinated the tour for the students. Operations Manager **Steven Feller** (right rear) conducted the tour.

## Steve Dowhan *(continued from page 1)*

For the past 17 years Steve has managed numerous capital projects at the Joint Meeting, including most recently the Cogeneration facility, Service Water Filtration System, Pump and Valve Replacement, and Site Improvement Project.

Steve received his B.S. Degree in Biology from Delaware Valley College and his M.S. Degree in the Environmental Engineering program from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Steve presently holds NJDEP S-4, C-4, T-2 and W-2 certified operator licenses.

In discussing his new responsibilities, Steve acknowledges that he has had the good fortune of working with the Joint Meeting staff for a number of years and he is looking forward to continuing the positive working relationship in his new position.

Please join us in extending your best wishes to Steve in his new role at Joint Meeting.

## Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

**15 YEARS**

**James Paluch**, Assistant Superintendent, Collections Systems

**10 YEARS**

**Keith Kilgore**, Boiler Operator
**Rick Stafford**, Safety Officer

**5 YEARS**

**Joseph Osborn**, Operations Supervisor
**William Anderson**, Waste Water Operator
**Maurice Clark**, Waste Water Operator
**Jessie Ordner**, Waste Water Operator
**Humbertt Mortolo**, IT Technician

Project Coordinator **John McNamara** is currently holding the record for years of service to Joint Meeting. He has 34½ years. Right behind him are Wastewater Operators **Ralph Madera** and **Carlos Jimenez**; both have 34 years.

# Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

**Victor Cirilo** has been appointed by the Township of West Orange to fill the position of outgoing board member Patricia Spango. Mr. Cirilo presently serves as the Council President for West Orange and is the Executive Director of the City of Passaic Housing Authority.

The Borough of Roselle Park has appointed **Tanya Torres** to fill the position of outgoing board member Mayor Joseph Accardi. Ms. Torres presently serves as the Third Ward Councilwoman for Roselle Park. She also serves as a member of the borough's Recreation Committee and is actively involved as a Girl Scout leader. Ms. Torres is employed at a local pharmaceutical company.

Ms. **Angela R. Garretson** has been appointed by the Township of Hillside to fill the position of outgoing board member Edward Brewer. Ms. Garretson presently serves as Council President for the Township of Hillside.

The City of Summit has appointed **Dave A. Bomgaars** to fill the position of outgoing board member Summit Council President Richard Madden. Mr. Bomgaars has previously served on the board and currently serves as the Second Ward representative for the City of Summit.

We welcome Mr. Cirilo, Ms. Torres, Ms. Garretson and Mr. Bomgaars to the Board and thank Ms. Spango, Mayor Accardi, Mr. Brewer and Mr. Madden for their service.

## Suggestion Box

In an effort to improve the flow of information and ideas between employees and the Joint Meeting Management Team, we have installed a suggestion box in the front vestibule of the P&O Building.

The box will be emptied on a regular basis and the suggestions will be reviewed by Samuel McGhee, Executive Director of Joint Meeting, and shared with the appropriate department to which the suggestion is related.

The suggestion box does not replace Mr. McGhee's long-standing policy of maintaining an open door to all employees. We hope the suggestion box provides an additional convenience for employees to communicate.

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**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

*Acting Superintendent*
Steve Dowhan

*Director of Admin. and Finance*
Anthony Terrezza

*Director of Human Resources*
Robert Barry

*Industrial Pretreatment Manager*
Michael Phillips

*Sr. Project Manager*
Stephen Dowhan

*Purchasing Officer*
Robert Sforza

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

*Asst. Superintendent Operations/Maint.*
Francis Bonaccorso

*Asst. Superintendent Collection System*
Jim Paluch

*Operations Manager*
Ramon Vara

*Safety Officer*
Richard Stafford

**Board Committees 2012**

**Operations Committee**

*Chair:* Dave A. Bomgaars
Howard Levison
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Victor Cirilo

**Public Relations Committee**

*Chair:* Joseph M. Florio
Angela R. Garretson
Dave Bomgaars
Howard Levison

**Finance and Budget Committee**

*Chair:* Howard Levison
Thomas C. McDermott
Lebby C. Jones
Joseph M. Florio

**Personnel and Procurement Committee**

*Chair:* Kathleen M. Leventhal
Theodore R. Green
Dave A. Bomgaars
Lebby C. Jones