

JOINT MEETING NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Employee News 2
Perfect attendance winners 3
Employees' service milestones 5
Joint Meeting receives award 5
New appointment to Board 6

**VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2
FALL 2013**



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

2013 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

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Chairperson, Newark
Theodore R. Green
Vice Chair/Secretary, East Orange
Howard Levison
Treasurer, South Orange

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Angela R. Garretson, *Hillside*
Lebby C. Jones, *Irvington*
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Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*
James M. Florio, *Union*
Patricia Spango, *West Orange*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

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Joint Meeting Hosts Guests from Japan

The Joint Meeting was proud to recently host fellow industry colleagues from Japan. These individuals are all members of the Society of Environmental Instrumentation, Control, and Automation (EICA), representing a diverse group from academia, industries, environmental associations, and wastewater treatment facilities. EICA has performed an assessment of the damages sustained by several wastewater treatment plants due to Japan's Great East Earthquake and Tsunami. A report consisting of recommendations for future wastewater treatment facility protection and damage mitigation was released by EICA following the assessment.

The EICA members were visiting New Jersey to learn more about the impact of Superstorm Sandy on our wastewater treatment facilities, the recovery efforts, and future storm mitigation plans. The group was especially interested in touring the Joint Meeting treatment plant since we were one of the few treatment plants in the area to maintain continuous operation during and after Sandy passed through the region. This was due in large part to the cogeneration facility, which supplied power to the plant for four days until utility power was restored to the electrical power grid. The visitors raised many questions about the design and operation of the cogeneration facility. *See page 4 for more on Japanese Guests.*

Upcoming Events

November 19-21, 2013. 98th Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ.

November 19-20, 2013. New Jersey Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) at Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ.

Employee News

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

Emar Greenemeier joins Joint Meeting as a Boiler Operator. Emar brings with him over 25 years of experience in Boiler Operations, 11 of those years in a wastewater treatment facility. He and his wife Jeannette reside in Columbia, NJ.

Hector Reveron is now part of Site Services. Hector joins the Site Services department after working in the automated mail processing industry for the last 12 years. He and his wife Blanca reside in Jersey City, NJ.

Maureen Quinn joins us as an Operator Trainee. Maureen and her husband operated their own business for several years until recently. She then obtained an opportunity to work in wastewater treatment after Hurricane Sandy struck in 2012. Upon working in the wastewater treatment industry, she desired to make it a new career. Maureen and her family reside in Bayonne, NJ.

Jason Paluch was hired as an Operator Trainee. Jason was employed by Test America (formerly Severn Trent Laboratories) for several years before pursuing new opportunities on the West Coast. He returned to the New Jersey area to seek opportunities with Joint Meeting.

Ken Hojnowski has become an Operator Trainee. Ken is a local resident from Colonia, NJ and attended Arthur Clark High School in Clark, NJ. Ken has worked in the service and transportation industries prior to joining the Joint Meeting family.

Eliana Borges joins us as an Operator Trainee. Eliana had been employed in the security industry for the past nine years, including an assignment at the Red Bull Arena in Harrison, NJ. She is seeking to take advantage of the many opportunities available at Joint Meeting. Eliana is a resident of Newark, NJ.

Raymond Tango is the newest member of our Security Team. Upon completing high school in Kenilworth, NJ, he was employed for three years as a plumber's helper. Ray then joined Newark Beth Israel Medical Center where he was employed as a Security Officer.

Darius Mayes was hired as an Operator Trainee. Darius has spent the last several years working for local cable providers as an installer and troubleshooter. He is a graduate of Lincoln Technical Institute and is a resident of Maplewood, NJ.



Our new hires in front row left to right are **Eliana Borges**, **Maureen Quinn**, and **William Negrón**. In back row are **Ray Tango**, **Jason Paluch**, **Darius Mayes**, **Ken Hojnowski**, and **Hector Reveron**. **Emar Greenemeier** was not available when this photo was taken.

William Negrón joins us as a Boiler Operator. Willie is the newest member of our Boiler Operations Team. He worked for PQ Corporation in Avenel, NJ for 24 years before the company downsized. He then went to The Sisters of St. Dominic in Caldwell, NJ before coming to Joint Meeting. Willie served honorably in the United States Army for three years. He and his wife Elba reside in Carteret, NJ.

We wish all our new employees much success.

Recent Promotions/Transfers — John McNamara has been promoted to Project Manager, replacing **Steve Dowhan** upon his promotion to Superintendent. John started his career at Joint Meeting in 1977 and was first promoted in 1980 to Shift Supervisor. He served as Shift Supervisor for many years before being promoted to Project Coordinator in 2004. John has played important roles as a Shift Supervisor and in the Projects Department. He has played an increasingly important role in the initial planning and design phases of capital construction projects. John has also developed an excellent working relationship with the project engineers during the construction phases. He has assisted the engineers with coordinating construction activities between the construction contractors and Joint Meeting operations and maintenance staff. His operating experience (36 years at the Joint Meeting) has played a significant role during the startup of newly constructed facilities and the training of plant operators and maintenance personnel. John has demonstrated his commitment to the successful operation of new projects time and time again.

Mark Morris has been promoted to the position of Shift Supervisor. Mark has been with Joint Meeting for seven years and brings a wealth of experience to the position. **Adris Harisprasad** has transferred to the Electrical Department. He has assumed the position vacated by the promotion of Antoni Wyczasany. **Chris Stafford** has transferred from the Site Services Department to the Operations Department as a Wastewater Operator.

Achievements — We are pleased to recognize **Malika Johnson** from our Maintenance Department for obtaining her B.A. Degree in Sociology from Kean University. Malika achieved this while working full time and being a full time mom. Congratulations!

Marcelo Kofman, Joint Meeting's Collection System Supervisor, has successfully completed the grueling three-day PACP (Pipeline Assessment Certification Program), which was offered by NASSCO (the National Association of Sewer Service Companies) at this past year's NJWEA Transfer Technology Seminar held in Eatontown, NJ. Certification in said Program guarantees that the Joint Meeting will keep abreast of the latest in industry-wide national standards developed to accurately assess and, thereby, properly rehabilitate our rapidly aging, yet extremely valuable, underground infrastructure. Congratulations, Marcelo, on a job well done.



Congratulations — We want to wish **James Bunkiewicz** all the best on his marriage this past June to Meghan. James came on board with Joint Meeting in April of 2012 as a Pretreatment Analyst. He and his wife will reside in Cranford, NJ. We wish **Joel Altman**, our Assistant Maintenance Manager, and his wife Dawn a Happy Anniversary. They will be celebrating 25 years this October.

New Arrival — **Julio Cabrera**, Lab Technician, welcomed a new baby boy on August 27, 2013 at 1:13 a.m. Also named Julio, the baby weighed 8 lbs, 6 oz. and was 21 inches long. Baby and mother Claudia are both doing well. Congratulations!

Welcome back — We are all happy for the safe return of **Don Heminghaus** from his most recent military deployment. We are also delighted that **Morgan Frierson** and **Gary Tate** are back from their recent absences.

Speedy Recovery — We wish **Allen Patterson** a speedy recovery. Allen was seriously injured in a shooting in his hometown. He is healing well and looks forward to coming back to work.

Passing of friends — We were sorry to hear about the passing of **Leo Bellew**. Leo worked for Joint Meeting as a Wastewater Operator from 1980 to 1997. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Perfect Attendance

Fifteen employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2013. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

William Anderson, Secondary Team 3
Carlos Cabral, Sludge Handling, Team 4
Carlos DeLaCruz, Team 1
George Garcia, Dewatering, Team 1
Ryan Gerhard, Sludge Handling, Team 1
Rodney Holman, Dewatering
Rudy Johnson, Security
Shawn Kaciupski, Utility Operations
Kazimierz Kowalski, Site Services
Louis Lawson, Security
Jane Martynova, Laboratory Technician
Djavana Menter, Laboratory Technician
Ralph Scott, Mechanical Services
Thomas Shanks, Mechanical Services
Robert Surman, Collections Systems

Eight employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 2nd Quarter of 2013. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Ed Aya, Electrical
Carlos DeLaCruz, Team 1
George Garcia, Dewatering, Team 1
James Gibson, Site Services
Aron Harris, Electrical
Oscar Javier, Electrical
Ralph Scott, Mechanical Services
Robert Surman, Collections Systems

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

Safety Training

Members of our staff participated in a 40-hour OSHA required Hazwoper (Hazardous Waste Operations Training) course. Employees assigned to operations-oriented positions are required to receive an initial 40 hours of training and an annual eight-hour refresher course. The training includes classroom instruction as well as hands on demonstration utilizing protective respirator masks and clothing. The staff was also trained in safely accessing confined spaces. The Joint Meeting Safety Officer Richard Stafford ensures compliance with all required safety programs.



Front row left to right are **Chris Stafford**, **Hector Reveron**, **Eliana Borges**, **Rodney Holman** (in harness), **Maureen Quinn**, and **Ocquan Morris**. Back row left to right are **Joseph Mancino**, two Lorco visitors, **Anthony Guest**, **Jason Paluch**, **George Pelayo** (hidden), **Roscoe Scott** (hidden), **Darius Mayes**, **Harry Smith** (instructor), **Jessie Ordner**, **Jason Harris** and **Ken Hojnowski**.

Our Summer Interns

Joint Meeting was happy once again to have staff interns work during the summer while they were off from school. **Janee Carr** and **Paul Mercandetti** worked in the Laboratory; **Ryan Phillips** worked in Maintenance and Projects; **Sorin Astalus** was assigned to the IT Department; **Oscar Melara** and **Ulyses Cuartas** were assigned to Site Services; and **Kim Shanks** worked with Jim Paluch in the Collections Department.

Safety Tips

In recent months, some of our colleagues have suffered injuries on the job, fortunately none life threatening. We would like to emphasize some workplace safety tips for all staff:

- If you believe you need assistance to accomplish a task, ask for help.
- If while performing a task, you need to exert extensive energy, ask for assistance.
- Always wear your helmet and glasses.
- Keep your radio with you at all times.
- Report any and all injuries immediately, no matter how minor. Even if no medical attention may be required, reporting will document the event in case of future related ailment.

Your assistance will protect you and your fellow workers.

Japanese Guests

(continued from page 1)

Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, Superintendent **Stephen Dowhan**, Operations Manager **Steven Feller**, Maintenance Manager **Roman Wisniewski**, Assistant Maintenance Manager **Joel Altman**, Project Manager **John McNamara**, and **Henry Johnsen** of CME Associates served as hosts to our guests during the facility tour and were present for a follow-up question and answer session and discussion.

The passion and interest shared between JMEUC and EICA was quite apparent. Credit goes to all of our staff who maintain the facilities 24 hours a day, seven days per week. — *Stephan Dowhan contributed this article.*

Payroll Self Service

To access Empower, do the following: Internet Explorer, v 6 or above is required.

Type <https://personal.ecipay.com/Prod/Login/> in your browser and press Enter.

Enter your 6 digit Employee # (located on your pay stub) including the zeros and Password in the corresponding fields. Example, if your number is 71, enter 000071, 352 is 000352 and so forth.

The first time into the system, your Password is the last six digits of your social security number. You will be asked to change your password.

Click the Show Client Code link. This will only be necessary the first time logging in from a particular computer or if your cookies have been deleted.

Enter the client code JMEUC.

Click Login to access the Home Page.

Upon login, the menu on the left side will give you access to different features.

If any employee has difficulty, please call Bob Barry at ext 1253 or email at rbarry@jmeuc.com.

Joint Meeting Receives Performance Award

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has bestowed yet another award to the staff and management of Joint Meeting for their tireless efforts: a Peak Performance Award. These Awards recognize NACWA member agency facilities for outstanding compliance of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits. Award recipients were recognized at NACWA's Summer Conference and Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to the staff and management on this award.

Educating Our Youth

Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso** was asked to speak to high school students at Athol High School in Athol, Massachusetts to explain the need for water in the environment, the importance of water treatment plants, and how water management is involved. Fran is a member of the Water Environment Federation and the New Jersey Water Environment Association. Both of these programs are non-profit organizations that educate the public on the importance of water in the world and to those who inhabit it. *Photo credit: Athol Daily News*



Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

25 YEARS

Steve Feller, Operations Manager

Jack Howard, Waste Water Operator

Gary Tate, Waste Water Operator

10 YEARS

Beatriz Rubio, Human Resources Assistant

5 YEARS

Shawn Kaciupski, Waste Water Operator

Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Member

Joint Meeting is pleased to welcome back Ms. **Patricia Spango** to the Board of Directors. Ms. Spango replaces West Orange representative Victor Cirilo. We thank Mr. Cirilo for his service to the Board of Directors.

Fire Department Training

The Elizabeth Fire Department will be conducting confined-space rescue training at the Joint Meeting treatment facility during the last week of October. This opportunity will provide Elizabeth FD personnel with hands-on training in locations that have limited access and may contain a hazardous atmosphere. Joint Meeting staff will also participate in this exercise. It will be mutually beneficial to both parties.

Pensions and Benefits

If you have not done so, all employees should register in MBOS (Member Benefits Online System) in order to apply for loans, obtain pre-retirement estimates and apply for retirement. Paper retirement applications are no longer accepted by the state.

To register for MBOS, go to:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml

Registration requires several steps. New users should read and carefully follow the MBOS Registration Instructions. You may call the MBOS Help Desk at 609-777-0534.

Important telephone numbers:

Teamster Local 575 Welfare Fund, 201-592-6800

Pensions and Benefits, 609-292-7524

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
John McNamara

Purchasing Officer
Robert Sforza

Asst. Board Secy./Financial Asst.
Position Vacant

*Asst. Superintendent
Operations/Maint.*
Francis Bonaccorso

*Asst. Superintendent
Collection System*
Jim Paluch

Operations Manager
Steven Feller

Maintenance Manager
Roman Wisniewski

Safety Officer
Richard Stafford

Board Committees 2013

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2013 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Dave A. Bomgaars
Patricia Spango
Howard Levison
Kathleen M. Leventhal

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
Angela R. Garretson
Dave A. Bomgaars
Lebby C. Jones