JOINTMEETING NEWS

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FALL 2014



South Orange Visitors to Joint Meeting

The Joint Meeting was proud to recently host visitors from the Township of South Orange. The visitors, who are members of the South Orange Environmental Commission, took a tour of the facility, accompanied by Board Member Howard Levison. The Environmental Commission has the power to conduct research into the use or possible use of open land areas in South Orange. In addition, they coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes to study and make recommendations concerning open space preservation. The Commission makes recommendations concerning water resources management, air pollution control, solid waste management, waste control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance, marine resources and protection of flora and fauna.

Pictured above, left to right, are Superintendent **Stephen Dowhan**, **Joel Levin**, **Howard Levison**, Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, **Michele Paladino**, **James McGowan** and Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso**.

Upcoming Events

November 18-20, 2014. 99th Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ.

November 18-19, 2014. New Jersey Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) at Golden Nugget, 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

2014 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Joseph M. Florio
Chairperson, Union
Howard Levison
Vice Chair/Secretary, South Orange
Patricia Spango
Treasurer, West Orange

Members
Lonnie P. Hughes, *East Orange*
Salonia Saxton, *Hillside*
Renee C. Burgess, *Irvington*
Kathleen M. Leventhal, *Maplewood*
Sandra Haimoff, *Millburn*
Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins, *Newark*
Ryan Kelly, *Roselle Park*
Mike McTernan, *Summit*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

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Employee News

We are pleased to introduce our newest staff members:

New Operators in Training —

Jason Ball is a resident of Mahwah, NJ. He attended Teaneck High School and Bergen County Vocational School where he completed his Introduction to Wastewater Operations I & II. Prior to Joint Meeting, Jason was employed by the Valley Health Care System in Ridgewood, NJ.

Kellyann Quinn is a resident of Elizabeth, NJ. She worked in the childcare industry prior to coming to Joint Meeting. Kelly attended Elizabeth High School and the Sanford Brown Institute. She has one son Evan.

Anthony Pearson hails from Jersey City, NJ where he attended Ferris High School. He was previously employed by Pathmark and Target. Anthony has one daughter Renee.

Brian More was employed by Mac Products for 16 years prior to coming to Joint Meeting. He attended Bergen Community College. Brian is a lifelong resident of Kearny, NJ where he resides with his wife Maureen and children Megan and Brendan.

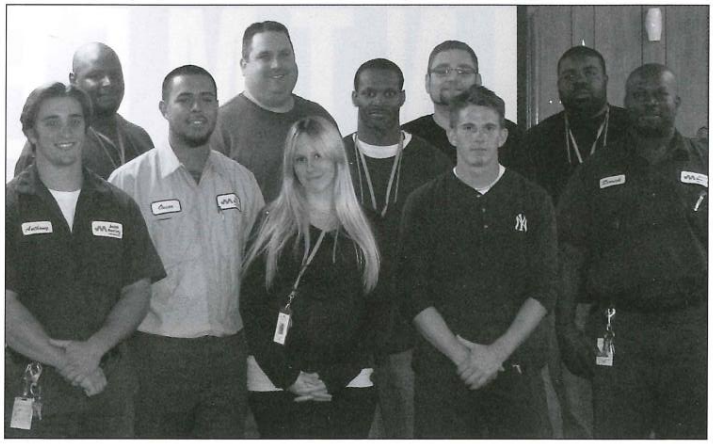
Shawn Adams resides in Union, NJ with his wife Shantay and son Amahl. He has been working in the construction materials business for several years. Shawn attended Elizabeth High School.

Michael Pelayo is a resident of Old Bridge NJ. He graduated from Old Bridge High School and attended Everest Institute in South Plainfield, NJ. Prior to Joint Meeting, Michael worked for Henning Building Supply in Hopelawn, NJ.

Oscar Melara rejoined Joint Meeting as part of the Summer Temporary staff. Oscar was with Joint Meeting during the summer of 2013. Upon completion of his summer assignment, Oscar will now be a member of the Operator in Training staff. He attended Elizabeth High School and resides in Elizabeth, NJ with his son Isaiah.

Additional Staff Changes —

Derrick Williams joins us as a Site Services Worker. He was self-employed as a general contractor for the last 15 years before coming to Joint Meeting. He was also employed by Alpha Metals in Jersey City, NJ for several years until the facility closed. Derrick is a lifelong resident of Jersey City and has two daughters Yasmin and Daijah.



Our newest employees in front row left to right are **Anthony Dinardo**, **Oscar Melara**, **Kellyann Quinn**, **Michael Pelayo**, and **Derrick Williams**; in back row left to right are **Jason Ball**, **Brian More**, **Shawn Adams**, **Sorin Astalus**, **Anthony Pearson**. Not available for photo is **William Cobb**.

Anthony Dinardo has joined us as a Site Services Worker. He was previously employed by the Public Works Department in the Township of Hazlet, NJ where he resides. Anthony graduated from Raritan High School and attended Brookdale Community College.

William Cobb was hired as a Boiler Operator. He resides in Newark, NJ with his wife Takiya and children Jaquan, Aniya, Eleisha, William and Elizabeth. William has several years of experience as a Boiler Operator in the residential housing industry. He graduated from Columbia High School in the State of Georgia and Bloomfield Vocational School.

Michelle DeFrancis is Joint Meeting's new Purchasing Officer. She comes to Joint Meeting, succeeding Bob Sforza. Michelle was previously the Qualified Purchasing Agent for Jackson Township Municipal Utility Authority. She lives in Jackson NJ with her husband Frank and two children Christopher and Frankie.

Sorin Astalus has become an IT Technician. He joined the Joint Meeting family officially after working as an intern for the IT department. Sorin currently attends New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he is in his fourth year toward his BS degree in Information Technology. He lives in Little Ferry NJ with his new wife Melissa.

We wish all our new employees much success.



Michelle DeFrancis, our new Purchasing Officer.

Achievements —
Wastewater Operator **Miguel Foster** passed the NJDEP exam for his S-1 License. Operations Manager II **Glen Riscen** passed the NJDEP exam for his S-3 license. Congratulations to Miguel and Glen.

New Arrivals —
Joseph Branche, Site Services, welcomed a new baby girl, Kayla, on July 17, 2014. She weighed 6 lbs, 4 oz. Kayla and mother Ashana are all doing well.

Jason Kohlhepp, Projects Department, welcomed a new baby boy, Phoenix, on June 22, 2014.

Djavana Menter-Harris, Lab Technician, welcomed a new baby boy, Brandon Djavon, on July 18, 2014. Brandon weighed in at 8 lbs, 3 oz. Brandon and Djavana are both doing well.

Steve Dowhan, Superintendent, is proud to announce the arrival of his new grandson, Brantley Theodore Dowhan, on July 8, 2014. Brantley weighed 6 lbs, 3 oz.

Kazimierz Kowalski, Site Services, is proud to announce the arrival of his new twin grandchildren, granddaughter Emily (5 lbs, 19 inches) and grandson Nicholas (4 lbs, 18 inches).

Congratulations to all the new parents and grandparents!

Marriage —
Congratulations to **Patricia Dasilva**, Lab Technician, who was married to Manuel Fraga on May 24, 2014. Patricia and Manuel are residing in Kearny, NJ.

Congratulations to **Sorin Asalus**, IT Department, who was married to Melissa Gonzalez on February 16, 2014. Sorin and Melissa are residing in Little Ferry, NJ.

Perfect Attendance

Four employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2014.

Antonio Diaz, Mechanical Maintenance
Harby Guerrero, Sludge Handling Team 4
Jessie Ordner, Dewatering Team 4
Robert Surman, Collections Systems

Eleven employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 2nd Quarter of 2014.

Eliana Borges, Operations Team 2
Mario Freitas, Dewatering
Harby Guerrero, Sludge Handling Team 4
Aron Harris, Electrical
Kazimierz Kowalski, Site Services
Louis Lawson, Security
Hector Reveron, Site Services
Ralph Scott, Mechanical Maintenance
Tom Shanks, Mechanical Maintenance
Robert Surman, Collections Systems
Zygmunt Szczesny, Electrical

Fifteen employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 3rd Quarter of 2014.

Eliana Borges, Operations Team 2
Jan Dmytrach, Mechanical Maintenance
Morgan Frierson, Operations Team 5
George Garcia, Dewatering Team 2
Harby Guerrero, Sludge Handling Team 4
Adris Hariprasad, Electrical
Rudolph Johnson, Security
Kazimierz Kowalski, Site Services
Joseph Mancino, Site Services
George Pelayo, Operations Team 2
Hector Reveron, Site Services
Ralph Scott, Mechanical Maintenance
Roscoe Scott, Operations Team 2
Robert Surman, Collections Systems
Zygmunt Szczesny, Electrical

The above individuals all achieved a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences. Congratulations to all of the above listed employees for their excellent attendance records.

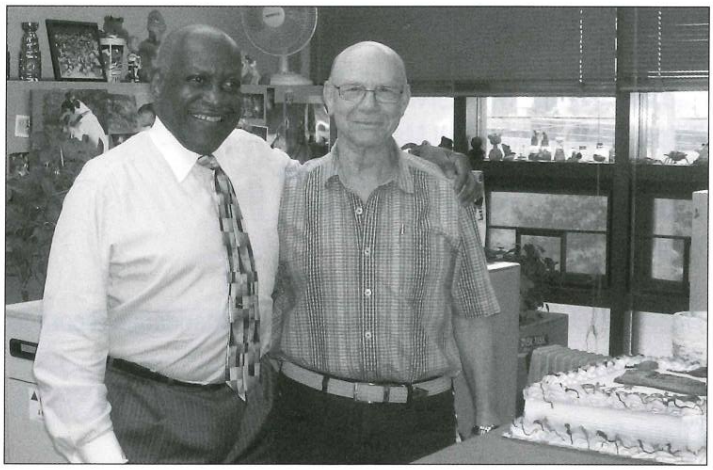
Friends Move On

Once again, we are wishing dear friends and colleagues best wishes as they leave Joint Meeting to begin retirement.

Purchasing Officer **Robert Sforza** dedicated more than 17 years to Joint Meeting. Bob provided guidance to the Operations staff and assisted in sourcing vendors for bidding for services and materials. Bob was an avid NJ Devils fan where he held season tickets.

Others who are retiring are: **Jack Howard**, Wastewater Operator, who was with Joint Meeting for 25 years; **Raymond Jones**, Boiler Operator, after being part of the Joint Meeting family for 27 years; and **Gary Tate**, Wastewater Operator, after he dedicated 26 years to Joint Meeting.

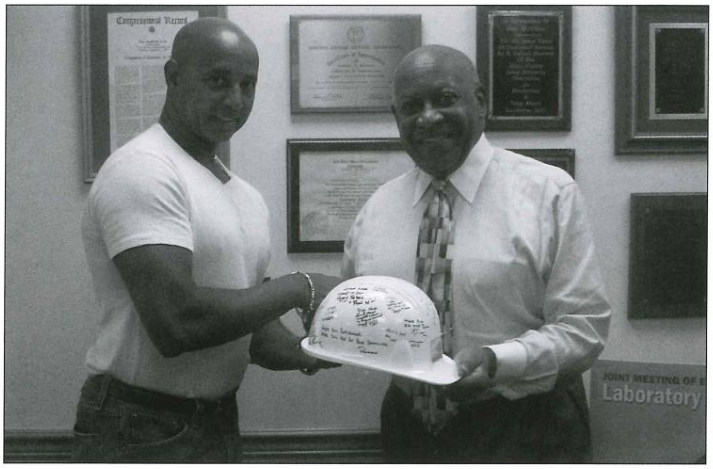
We wish them all an enjoyable retirement.



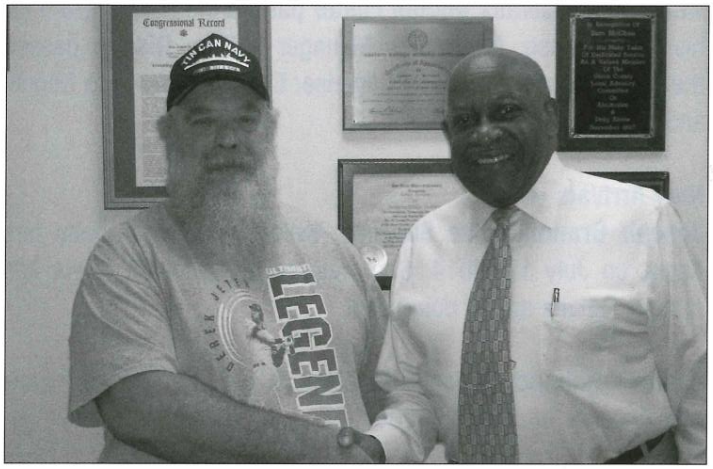
Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, on the left, congratulates **Robert Sforza** on his retirement.



Superintendent **Stephen Dowhan**, on the left, congratulates **Jack Howard**, another retiring employee.



Ray Jones, on the left, is congratulated by Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**.



Gary Tate, on the left, is congratulated by Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**.

U.S. Air Force

On October 4, 2014, Superintendent **Stephen Dowhan** and Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso** represented Joint Meeting at the Employer Appreciation Day event at the McGuire Dix Lakehurst Joint Base. Their participation in this event was in recognition of the Joint Meeting's support of the Air Force Reserve and specifically our own "Citizen-Airman" Master Sergeant **Donald Heminghaus**. Don joined the Air Force Reserves in 1987 and has been serving proudly and with honor with the 514th Air Mobility Wing.

There were many informative and interesting presentations and hands-on demonstrations, including Steve's and Fran's participation in a mock deployment and an in-flight refueling mission on board a C-17 Globemaster III cargo jet. Thank you to Master Sergeant Donald Heminghaus and to all the men and women who serve our country.

Correction

On page 6 of the newsletter, the article welcoming new board members inadvertently identifies Ms. Renee Burgess as representing East Orange, NJ. Ms. Burgess represents the Township of Irvington.

Well Done

On July 2, 2014, Joint Meeting had a barbeque for the staff. It turned out to be one of the hottest and most humid days of the summer season. (easily in the 90s). The barbeque was spearheaded by Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso**. He's the one in the chef's hat and chef's jacket in the record-breaking heat wave, along with his assistant **Glen Riscen**, Operations Manager 2. Fran did an outstanding job with the cooking and the preparation for the barbeque.

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



Save the Day

On June 30, 2014, at 6:40 am, the #1 generator experienced catastrophic failure. Boiler Operator **Willie Negron** immediately acted to prevent injury to personnel and further damage to other equipment within the facility.

On the same date, Site Services worker **Anthony Guest** functioned as the fire watch during an operational shut down of the Digester gas supply. Anthony witnessed an unsafe condition and notified the supervisors immediately. His immediate attention to detail prevented potential injury and loss of life.

Both of these employees exhibited a high level of professionalism and set a great example for their peers.



Left to right are Superintendent **Stephen Dowhan**, **Willie Negron**, **Anthony Guest** and Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**.

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

35 YEARS

Edward Kobovitch, Lead Lab Technician
Marcelo Kofman, Supervisor, Collections Services

30 YEARS

Glen Schoenig, Supervisor, Mechanical Maintenance

25 YEARS

Christine Ginn, Laboratory Supervisor

20 YEARS

Diane Burkowski, Administration
Mike Maffia, Site Services Supervisor

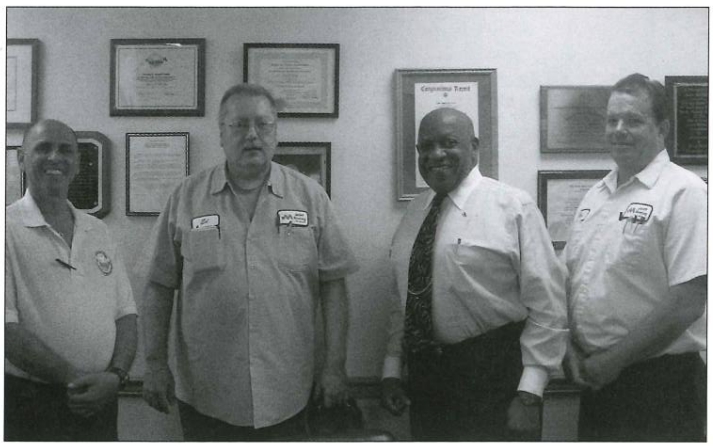
10 YEARS

Lenny Bucher, Auto Mechanic
Tony Rivers, Site Services Worker
Dave Shapiro, Lab Technician

5 YEARS

Malika Johnson, Maintenance Department
Chris Pabst, Training Coordinator
Allen Patterson, Wastewater Operator
George Pelayo, Wastewater Operator
John Petito, Wastewater Operator

See related photo on page six.



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, second from right, celebrates milestone years at Joint Meeting with, from left to right, **Marcelo Kofman** (35 years), **Edward Kobovitch** (35 years), and **Glen Schoenig** (30 years).

Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

The Joint Meeting Board of Directors announced that two new members have joined the Board.

Joint Meeting is pleased to welcome back Ms. **Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins** to the Board of Directors. Ms. Chaneyfield-Jenkins replaces representative **Ronald Rice** for the City of Newark. We thank Mr. Rice for his service to the Board of Directors.

Joint Meeting is pleased to welcome Ms. **Renee Burgess** from the City of East Orange to the Board of Directors. Ms. Burgess replaces **Lebby Jones**. We thank Ms. Jones for her service to the Board of Directors.

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. The Gold Peak Performance Award recognizes NACWA member agency facilities for outstanding compliance of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits for 2013. Award recipients were recognized at NACWA's Summer Conference and Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to the staff and management on this award.

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

Sr. Project Manager
John McNamara

Purchasing Officer
Michelle DeFrancis

Asst. Board Secr./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 2014

Operations Committee

Chair: Sandra Haimoff
Renee C. Burgess
Howard Levison
Kathleen M. Leventhal

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Lonnie P. Hughes
Renee C. Burgess
Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins
Ryan Kelly

Finance and Budget Committee

Chair: Howard Levison
Sandra Haimoff
Lonnie P. Hughes
Mike McTernan

Personnel and Procurement Committee

Chair: Kathleen M. Leventhal
Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins
Ryan Kelly
Salonia Saxton