

JOINT MEETING NEWS

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Another Friend Moves On

We send our thoughts and best wishes to **Ralph Scott**, another friend beginning a new phase of his life. Ralph began his career with Joint Meeting in August 1991 as a Maintenance Mechanic. From the very beginning, his contributions were noted and lauded. In 1992, within the first year of his employment, Ralph was acknowledged for his help in resolving a problem during the Dewatering Facility drier testing process. During the testing, a problem arose with the Centrate Pipeline for which his input and ideas assisted in bringing the process to a successful conclusion.

Throughout his career at Joint Meeting, Ralph's knowledge and input on a daily basis prevented problems from occurring and effectively managed changing conditions which could have resulted in operational concerns.

Ralph understood a basic premise of success at work: the importance of being at one's job. Ralph has been cited for his Perfect Attendance on numerous occasions throughout his career. Pictured above are Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, on the left, and **Ralph Scott**, on the right.

Upcoming Events

November 13-15, 2018. 103rd Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ.

November 13-14, 2018. New Jersey Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) at Bally's, 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

2018 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers

Mayor Victor DeLuca
Chairperson, Maplewood
Joseph Florio
Vice Chair/Secretary, Union
Jacquelyn Johnson
Treasurer, East Orange

Members

Christopher Mobley, *Hillside*
Renee C. Burgess, *Irvington*
Samuel Levy, *Millburn*
Anibal Ramos Jr., *Newark*
William Fahoury, *Roselle Park*
Howard Levison, *South Orange*
Stephen Bowman, *Summit*
Gerard Guarino, *West Orange*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

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Employee News

Nomination

Congratulations to **Michelle DeFrancis** on her nomination to the 2018 League of Municipalities Conference Resolutions Committee. The committee reviews resolutions submitted by various municipal governments. Michelle is also the current President of the Governmental Purchasing Association of NJ.

Promotions

Glen Schoenig, below left, has been promoted from his position as Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor to the position of Assistant Maintenance Manager. Glen began his career at Joint Meeting in 1984 as an Operator Trainee. After working as an Operator, he then transitioned into the Boiler Department. In 1996, Glen went into Mechanical Maintenance, and in 2011 he was promoted to Boiler Supervisor. In 2012 Glen was then promoted to Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor.

Mike Maffia, below right, has been promoted to Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor. Mike began his career with Joint Meeting in 1994 as a Site Services Worker. After a year in Site Services, he transitioned into the Operations Department as a Wastewater Operator. After Operations, Mike spent some time in the Security Department and then moved into Mechanical Maintenance. After several years in Mechanical Maintenance, he was promoted to Site Services Supervisor.



Eugene Rivera has been promoted to the position of Site Services Supervisor. Eugene began his career in May 2005 with Joint Meeting as a Wastewater Operator. He then moved to the Site Services department where he worked for six years before transferring to his most recent position as Maintenance Mechanic.



From left to right are Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, **Eugene Rivera**, **Joseph Wiewiorski**, **Andres Gallego Sanchez**, and Superintendent **Steve Dowhan**.

Joseph Wiewiorski has been promoted to Operations Shift Supervisor. Joe began with Joint Meeting in July 2015 as a Wastewater Operator. Since joining Joint Meeting, he has completed the Advanced Wastewater Operations course parts one and two, as well as obtaining his S-1 License.

Andres Gallego Sanchez has been promoted to the position of Collections System Supervisor. Andres started with Joint Meeting in July 2017 as a Wastewater Operator. He has completed the Advanced Wastewater Operations course parts one and two, as well as possessing his S2 and C2 licenses.



Miriam Ledee, above left, will be transitioning from her duties as the Joint Meeting receptionist to new and additional responsibilities in the Accounts Payable section. Miriam has been with Joint Meeting for 15 years. We wish her well in her new position.

Zachary Liming, above right, has been hired as a full-time permanent employee in the Projects Department. Zach will be assuming the duties of the newly created position of Project Technician. He has been working for Joint Meeting as a Summer Intern for the past four years while attending school at Rowan University. Zach graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Business Management.

New Employees



Some of Joint Meeting's new employees are, front row left to right, **Altarek Cummings**, **James Mulroony**, and **Andre Williams**; and, rear row left to right, **Arkadiusz Plonsski**, **Brian Hernandez**, **Liam Campbell**, and **Kevin Meyers**.

Liam Campbell, Wastewater Operator in Training, comes to Joint Meeting after spending several years in the service industry with national restaurant chains. Liam resides in Parlin, NJ.

Brian Hernandez, Wastewater Operator in Training, begins his career at Joint Meeting after working for Amazon Direct, Thruway Direct, and Pool Perfection. Brian lives in Rahway, NJ.

Kevin Meyers, Wastewater Operator in Training, joins us after working for the City of Linden for the last nine years where he was assigned to the Department of Public Works. Kevin lives in Linden, NJ.

James Mulroony, Wastewater Operator in Training, has previously worked for the City of Clifton's Boys & Girls Club as a counselor and for the Borough of Woodland Park, also as a camp counselor. James is a resident of Woodland Park, NJ.

Arkadiusz Plonski, Wastewater Operator in Training, begins his career at Joint Meeting after working as an accountant for a public accounting firm and an office manager for a graphics company. Eric earned his B.S. Degree in Accounting from Caldwell University. He resides in Florham Park, NJ.

Andre Williams, Wastewater Operator in Training, spent several years with the Stanley Steemer organization as a lead technician. Andre resides in Newark, NJ.

Altarek Cummings, Wastewater Operator in Training, comes to Joint Meeting after working for several years as the Warehouse Supervisor for Prime Meat in Newark, NJ. Prime Meat is one of

the largest suppliers of Kosher meat in the tri-state area. Prior to this, Altarek was employed for 14 years by Aramark Uniform Service. He resides in Newark, NJ with his family.

Giovannie Cruz, Security Officer, below left, spent several years as a client relations representative in Florida working in the Hospitality Industry for Universal Studios as well as in the Property Management Industry. Giovannie resides in Elizabeth, NJ.

Susan Serrano, below right, is the newest member of our Administrative staff. Prior to coming to Joint Meeting, Susan worked for several years as a Secretary for Bethsaida Church in Newark, NJ. Susan and her family reside in Newark.



Transfers

We want to congratulate the following employees for their new positions.

Chris Stafford will be transferring from his position in the Industrial Pretreatment Department to the Collections Department.

Paul Hunt and **John Petito** will be transferring from the Operations Department to the Industrial Pretreatment Department.

We wish all the employees success in their new positions.



New transfers pictured from left to right are **John Petito**, **Chris Stafford** and **Paul Hunt**.

Joseph Bonaccorso Receives Fellow from Water Environment Federation

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has announced its 2018 WEF Fellows selected from distinguished WEF members. This prestigious designation recognizes members' achievements, stature, and contributions in the water profession. Former Joint Meeting Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso**, representing the New Jersey Water Environment Association, is one of this year's recipients.

"The impressive accomplishments of this year's WEF Fellows have made a profound impact in the water profession," said WEF Executive Director Eileen O'Neill. "We are honored to recognize their efforts to preserve and enhance the global water environment."

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program underscores WEF's role as a valuable water quality resource, which is due in large part to the expertise of its diverse membership. WEF Fellows are recognized in various areas of expertise including, but not limited to design, education, operations, regulation, research, utility management and leadership.

The 2018 WEF Fellows were recognized during WEFTEC® 2018, WEF's 91st annual technical exhibition and conference, which took place from September 29 to October 3 in New Orleans. For more information, visit <http://www.wef.org/weffellowsprogram/>.

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 34,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, its mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.



Columbia High School students at Joint Meeting tour.



Students from Hillside tour Joint Meeting.

Students Tour Joint Meeting

Joint Meeting once again opened its doors to the youth of America by providing a tour of the facility for the students of Columbia High School in Maplewood, NJ and Hillside High School in Hillside, NJ. The staff providing the tour included Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Maintenance, **Francis Bonaccorso**, pictured far right, in both photos.

Get Well

We would like to extend our best wishes to AVA Consultant **Ralph LaMendola**. Ralph suffered an injury when he fell at home and is expected to be out of the office for a few months. On the positive side, Ralph is on the phone and utilizing email with the office on a daily basis. We look forward to seeing Ralph in person very soon.

Perfect Attendance

Ten employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 2nd Quarter of 2018. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

William Cobb, Boiler Department
Shelton Colbert, Operations
Jan Dmytrach, Mechanical Maintenance
Marlon Echeverria, Operations
Yuval Ghitelman, Operations
Harby Guerrero, Operations
Djavana Menter, Laboratory
John Petito, Operations
Rupert Pineda, Operations
Andres Gallego Sanchez, Collections Department

Eight employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 3rd Quarter of 2018. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Tim Brown, Maintenance
Julio Cabrera, Laboratory
William Cobb, Boiler
Marlon Echeverria, Operations
Yuval Ghitelman, Operations
Harby Guerrero, Operations
Manisha Patel, Laboratory
Hector Reveron, Maintenance

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

Help is Available

Joint Meeting maintains an Employee Assistance Program administered by Barnabas Health. The program provides assistance to employees and their families. The program is called ONESOURCE and can be reached at 1-800-300-0628. The service is confidential and is available 24 hours, seven days per week, 365 days a year. The clinicians offer referral, counseling and crisis intervention. Employees needing assistance obtaining these services may also contact Human Resources.

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

15 YEARS

Miriam Ledee, Administration
Beatriz Rubio, Administration

10 YEARS

Shawn Kaciupski, Operations

5 YEARS

Darius Mayes, Operations
William Negron, Boiler Department
Hector Reveron, Mechanical Maintenance
Raymond Tango, Site Services Department

A Special Visit from Summit

Recently, **Stephen Bowman**, Joint Meeting's Board Member from the City of Summit, along with Summit's Mayor **Nora Radest** visited Joint Meeting. The Mayor and Mr. Bowman took a tour of the facility to learn more about its operation.



Pictured left to right are **Stephen Bowman**, Joint Meeting Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, Summit Mayor **Nora Radest**, and Joint Meeting Superintendent **Steve Dowhan**.

Joint Meeting Welcomes a New Board Member

The Joint Meeting Board of Directors announced that one new member has joined the Board.

Joint Meeting is pleased to welcome **Anibal Ramos Jr.** from Newark to the Board of Directors. Mr. Ramos replaces **Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins**. We thank Ms. Chaneyfield Jenkins for her service to the Board of Directors.

Nationwide Retirement Solutions

Nationwide Retirement Solutions now offers a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan to our employees. A 457 Deferred Compensation Plan is a supplemental retirement-savings program that offers a tax-advantaged way to invest for additional retirement income.

Contributions are made pre-tax of federal income tax. In addition, employees who may be reaching the point in their career when retirement is close may make a pre-tax contribution of unused sick or vacation days at the time of retirement. Enrollment and changes can take place throughout the year at any time. If there are any questions, please contact Human Resources Director Robert Barry.

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Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

Wastewater Treatment Plant
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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
Stacey Shultz

Director of Human Resources
Robert Barry

Industrial Pretreatment Manager
Michael Phillips

Project Manager
Jason Kohlhepp

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

Administrative Office Manager
Grace Quintero

IT Manager
Ray Jimenez

Board Committees 2018

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2018 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Gerard Guarino
Renee C. Burgess
Samuel D. Levy
Christopher D. Mobley

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Renee C. Burgess
William Fahoury
Samuel D. Levy
Anibal Ramos Jr.

Finance and Budget Committee

Chair: Joseph M. Florio
Stephen Bowman
Gerard Guarino
Jacquelyn E. Johnson

Personnel and Procurement Committee

Chair: Jacquelyn E. Johnson
Renee C. Burgess
Joseph M. Florio
Howard Levison

