

JOINT MEETING NEWS

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VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2
FALL 2019



Bringing Our Knowledge to Canada

The Joint Meeting was sought out by our neighbors to the north. In a Google search, a member of the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Center (ROPEC) in Ottawa Canada found something interesting that the Joint Meeting has been doing for a while. ROPEC (pictured above) is a 545 million liter per day (144MGD) facility in Ottawa. The Joint Meeting produces a methane rich gas as a byproduct of the anaerobic digestion process. This gas is treated for impurities and used as a fuel for cogeneration of heat and electricity.

The ROPEC facility in Ottawa uses very similar wastewater treatment processes and noticed the similarities between ROPEC and JMEUC. Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso** and former Superintendent and current CME Project Manager **Joe Bonaccorso**, who collectively possess almost 70 years of wastewater operational and technical experience, were invited to participate in an activity to help guide the decision-making of the design of equipment to help protect the Canadian treatment plant during events like Superstorm Sandy which was experienced by the JMEUC. Fran and Joe, who have decades of experience throughout North America, spent the week meeting with experts in engineering, geotechnical, electrical, design, sustainability and process management. Please see page 5 for continuation of Canada article.

Upcoming Events

November 19-21, 2019. 104th Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ.

November 19-20, 2019. 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

2019 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers

Mayor Victor De Luca
Chairperson, Maplewood
Joseph M. Florio
Vice Chair/Secretary, Union
Jacquelyn E. Johnson
Treasurer, East Orange

Members

Donald DeAugustine, *Hillside*
Renee C. Burgess, *Irvington*
Mayor Dianne Thall-Eglow, *Millburn*
Anibal Ramos Jr., *Newark*
Joseph E. Petrosky, *Roselle Park*
Walter Clarke, *South Orange*
Stephen Bowman, *Summit*
Gerard Guarino, *West Orange*

Executive Director

Samuel T. McGhee

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Employee News

Serving Our Country

Our colleague, United States Air Force Master Sergeant **Donald Hemminghaus**, will be deploying once again to Afghanistan. Don is a trained medic and his skills are very much in demand. We wish him a safe deployment and look forward to his return.

Achievements

Operations Supervisor **Reneece Porter** has been inducted into the Union County, NJ chapter of the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame. Reneece is being recognized for her outstanding contribution to the sport of bowling in Union County.

Congratulations to IT Manager **Ray Jimenez**. Ray recently completed the undergraduate requirements in Information Sciences & Technology at Penn State University.

New Arrival

Boiler Supervisor **William Negron** celebrated the birth of his first granddaughter Lorelai Vargas. Lorelai weighed in at 5 lbs., 10 oz. and was 18.5 inches long. Willie's daughter Alexandria, husband Chris and baby are doing well.

New Appointment

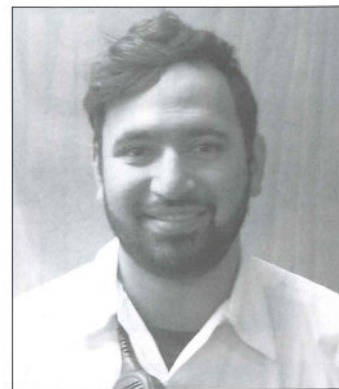
Congratulations to **Nathan Rogers** on his appointment as Public Agency Compliance Officer. Nathan has been with Joint Meeting for 19 years and has done an outstanding job in our Projects Department.

Promotions

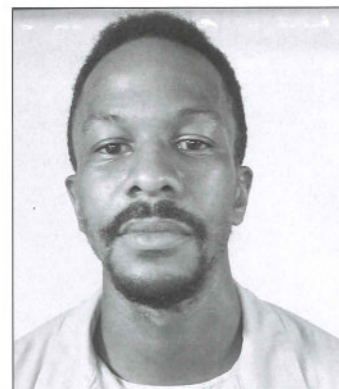
William Negron has been promoted to the position of Boiler Supervisor. He has been with Joint Meeting for six years and has done a great job. Willie takes over for retiring Boiler Supervisor Ron Helco.



Carlo Vigliarolo has been promoted to the position of Operations Supervisor. He began with Joint Meeting in January 2019. Prior to JM, Carlo worked for three years as an operator at Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority. He possesses his S-2 Wastewater License and his Boiler Operator License. Carlo attended Brookdale College and resides in Jackson, NJ.



Jeffrey McGhee has been promoted to the position of Operations Supervisor. He began his career at Joint Meeting in July 2015. Prior to JM, Jeff worked for several years in the field of fundraising. He possesses his S-1 Wastewater License. Jeff attended Howard University and resides in Orange, NJ.



We wish all three gentlemen much success in their new positions.

New Employees

Mike Jackson, Operator in Training, is a resident of Piscataway, NJ. Prior to Joint Meeting, he worked for Givaudan in their distribution facility in Cranbury, NJ. Mike graduated from Piscataway High School.

Joseph Jacobi, Operator in Training, attended Syracuse University where he earned his B.S. Degree in Sports Management. After graduating, Joe worked for Bed Bath & Beyond for several years where he attained the position of Payroll Administrator. Joe resides in Fanwood, NJ.

Brianna Medina, Operator in Training, is a resident of Maplewood, NJ. She is a student at Kean University scheduled to graduate in December 2019 with a B.S. in Environmental Science. Brianna first learned about Joint Meeting after attending a tour of the facility while attending Kean.



Joint Meeting's new employees are, front row left to right, **Marcia Lezama**, **Anthony (AJ) Woodson**, **Joseph Polomene**, and **Briana Medina**; and, rear row, left to right, **Steven Van Deursen**, **Mike Jackson**, **Joseph Jacobi**, **Samuel McGhee III**, **David Smith**, **John Oliverio**, and **Erica Zavolas**.

Davie Smith, Operator in Training, served in the United States Air Force where he earned the rank of Sergeant. He was employed by Bear Stearns as a network analyst and then joined CEVA Logistics. David attended Essex County College and Chubb Institute. He is a resident of Irvington, NJ.

Joseph Polomene, Operator in Training, attended Sayreville War Memorial High School and the University of Delaware. He was previously employed by DSK Construction and Big Wally's Subs. Joe resides in South Amboy, NJ.

Anthony Woodson, Operator in Training, graduated from Union High School and Union County Vocational School where he specialized in Automotive Technology. He worked for FedEx as well as for S.V.S Global Logistics. Anthony resides in Union, NJ.

Marcia Lezama, Operator in Training, transferred from the Site Services Department after one year into the Operations Department in an effort to expand her career opportunities. Marcia has already completed the required classroom work for the OIT program.

Steven Van Deursen, Site Services Worker, is a graduate of Raritan Valley College where he obtained his Associates Degree. Before coming to Joint Meeting, he worked for Middlesex County Board of Social Services as a Senior Building Maintenance Worker. Steven is an active Volunteer Firefighter. He has also held leadership positions with the Boy Scouts of America. Steven resides in Old Bridge, NJ with his family.

Samuel McGhee III, Operator in Training, is a resident of Hillside, NJ. Upon graduating from Hillside High School, he attended Nashville State College. Once completing school, Sam then joined Outreach Calling, a professional Fundraising organization.

Erica Zavolas joins the Pretreatment Department as the Administrative Clerk. Prior to Joint Meeting, she worked for several years in the retail and account services industries. Erica earned her Associates Degree in Marketing from Gibbs College. She resides in Elizabeth, NJ with her husband.

John Oliverio, Electrician, has worked for over 20 years as an independent licensed electrician. Most recently, he was employed by Jacobs Engineering before coming to Joint Meeting. John and his wife reside in Hazlet, NJ.



Participants in safety training were rear row left to right, **Mike Maffia**, **Ray Tango**, and **Aron Harris**; and front row left to right, **Eugene Rivera**, **Jaime Rivera**, and **Rick Stafford**.

Safety Training

The Joint Meeting has encouraged its staff to participate in First Aid, CPR, and AED training for several years. Recently, Joint Meeting identified the need to enhance the training content with additional subjects that will help keep its staff prepared to respond in the event of an on-site medical emergency. Joint Meeting has also invested in additional equipment to help aid in the rapid treatment of medical emergencies and to allow more time for the medical response professionals to arrive and successfully treat anyone in need at the facility. Joint Meeting guarantees that there is at least one person trained and certified in First Aid, CPR and AED operation on every shift by ensuring every shift supervisor is trained. In addition, the staff receives 16 hours of training in Competent Person Fall Prevention and Protection Training.

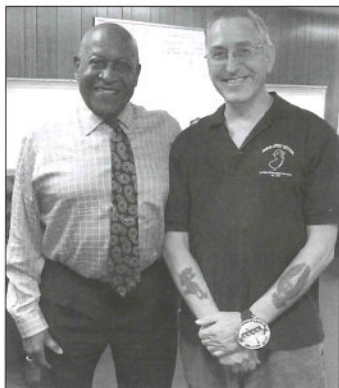
Retirements

We send our thoughts and best wishes to our friends and colleagues beginning a new phase of their lives, **Ron Helco** and **Diane Burkowski**.

Ron began his career with Joint Meeting in April 2001 as a Boiler Operator. Prior to coming to Joint Meeting, he served for 20 years in the United States Navy as a Chief Boiler Operator.

Throughout his career at Joint Meeting, Ron's knowledge and input on a daily basis prevented problems from occurring and effectively managed changing conditions, which could have resulted in operational concerns. We have also had the occasion to see Ron demonstrate his advanced bowling skills.

Ron, through his outstanding performance, was promoted to Boiler Supervisor. During his tenure, he was cited for his dedication on numerous occasions, including the February 2003 Blizzard, the Storm Event of October 2005 and Hurricane Sandy in October 2012.



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, on the left, congratulates **Ron Helco** on his retirement.

Diane began her career with Joint Meeting in a dual role as a Secretary/Receptionist. She brought with her many years of Administrative experience, which helped her acclimate to the busy work environment. Diane remained an important piece of the Administration until an opportunity presented itself in the Pretreatment Department. Diane accepted her new responsibilities and was happily accepted by her new colleagues.

Diane was never shy about her love for animals. She selflessly donated much of her time to local animal shelters.

We wish Ron and Diane a happy and healthy retirement.



Perfect Attendance

Seven employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 2nd Quarter of 2019. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Altarek Cummings, Operations
Harby Guerrero, Operations
Charles Guest, Site Services
Paul Hunt, Pre-Treatment
James Mulroony, Operations
John Petito, Pre-Treatment
Tom Shanks, Mechanical Maintenance

Six employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 3rd Quarter of 2019. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Marlon Echeverria, Operations
Aron Harris, Electrical
Keith Kilgore, Boiler
John Petito, Industrial Pretreatment
Tony Rivers, Site Maintenance
Carlo Vigliarolo, Operations

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



Bring Kids to Work Day

In April 2019, Joint Meeting had the pleasure of hosting family members of our employees. Pictured in the rear row left to right are **Eugene Rivera**, **Justin Rivera**, **Jessie Ordner**, **Stephen Pascucci Jr.**, and **Steve Pascucci**. In the front row left to right are **Joel Altman**, **Rebekah Altman**, **Adewale Akinokun**, **Folakemi Akinokun**, **Nora Ordner**, and **Brooke Pascucci**.

Summer Help

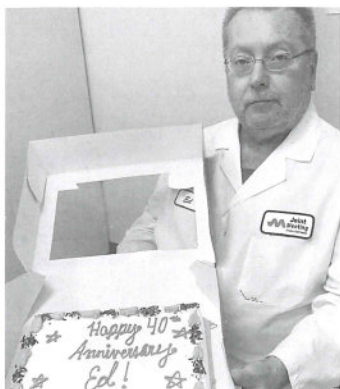


Joint Meeting was proud to host college interns for the summer. Pictured left to right are **Nicholas Kowalski**, **Mahagony Pullen**, Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, **Rebekah Altman** and **Justin Vieira**.

Nicholas was assigned to the IT Department. He attends NJIT in Newark, NJ where he is pursuing his B.S Degree in Information Technology. **Mahagony** was assigned to the Operations Department. She graduated from the STEM school in East Orange, NJ and is currently attending Kean University. **Rebekah** was assigned to the Maintenance Department. She recently graduated from David Brearley High School in Kenilworth, N.J. Rebekah is enrolled in Union County College and is in the STARS program. **Justin** was assigned to our Site Services Department. He is attending Rowan University where he is pursuing his degree in Geology.

We hope the experience these students gained will prove valuable to them in the future.

Special Anniversary



Ed Kobovitch, Laboratory Technician, celebrates 40 Years at Joint Meeting.

Canada (continued from page 1)

The combined knowledge and experience that was recognized by our Canadian colleagues proved to be very helpful to their design process. Fran and Joe spent the week sharing their operational and technical experience, as well as sharing the successes of the JMEUC team. Fran and Joe's experience in working with the JMEUC team to have a successful cogeneration operation and storm response served as a perfect example to design and deliver a new system and operational approach for the Canadian team to help ensure the plant's effective and reliable operation, electrical system upgrades and modifications.

As a result of Fran and Joe's visit, Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties has once again been internationally highlighted as a leader in wastewater treatment and infrastructure resiliency and protection of public health.

Students Help Clean Along Passaic River



Students from Woodland Park's Memorial Middle School participated in the annual Passaic River clean up on June 13, 2019. They were chosen by interest and teacher recommendation. Students walked from the school to the Passaic River in the area of McBride Avenue and Browertown Road and policed the area and the river bank for litter and debris. They were guided by Joint Meeting's Assistant Superintendent **Fran Bonaccorso** (far left), past president of the NJ Water Environment Association; and Tom Greci (second from left), past state president of the NJWEA. While on the outing the students and guides discussed environmental issues such as hydrologic cycles, pests to be aware of and local plants. They also did water sampling and testing. The NJWEA is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the water environment.

— Photo courtesy of the Woodland Park School District. Article courtesy of North Jersey.com.

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 **Walter Clarke** from South Orange to the Board of Directors. Mr. Clark replaces **Howard Levison**. We thank Mr. Levison for his service to the Board of Directors.

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

40 YEARS

Edward Kobovitch, Lab Technician

35 YEARS

Glen Schoenig, Assistant Maintenance Manager

30 YEARS

Christine Ginn, Laboratory

25 YEARS

Michael Maffia, Mechanical Maintenance

15 YEARS

Lenny Bucher, Mechanical Maintenance

10 YEARS

Christopher Pabst, Projects Department

Allen Patterson, Operations

John Petito, Industrial Pretreatment

5 YEARS

Shawn Adams, Operations

Sorin Astalus, IT

Jason Ball, Operations

William Cobb, Boiler Operations

Brian More, Operations

Michael Pelayo, Operations

Kellyann Quinn, Operations

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Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

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FAX (908) 353-7925

Joint Meeting Administrative Staff

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

Deputy Executive Director
Hanifa Johnson

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
Christopher Pabst

Purchasing Officer
Michelle DeFrancis

Asst. Board Sec./Financial Asst.
Position Vacant

*Asst. Superintendent
Operations/Maint.*
Francis Bonaccorso

*Asst. Superintendent
Collection System*
Jim Paluch

Operations Manager
Glen Riscen

Maintenance Manager
Roman Wisniewski

Safety Officer
Richard Stafford

Administrative Office Manager
Grace Quintero

IT Manager
Ray Jimenez

Board Committees 2019

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2019 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Gerard Guarino
Renee C. Burgess
Donald DeAugustine
Dianne Thall-Egloff

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Renee C. Burgess
Joseph E. Petrosky
Anibal Ramos Jr.
Dianne Thall-Egloff

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
Walter Clarke
Joseph M. Florio

