JOINTMEETING NEWS

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Safety Training

In early October, employees from the Maintenance and Site Services departments observed a demonstration of safety equipment utilized for confined space and fall protection situations. Performing the demonstration for staff were **Matt Tomkowski**, 3M Fall Protection Specialist, pictured above, and **John McShane** from Pendergast Safety.

Employees observing the demonstration were: **Rick Stafford**, Safety Manager; **Roman Wisniewski**, Maintenance Manager; **Glen Schoenig**, Assistant Maintenance Manager; **Mike Maffia**, Maintenance Supervisor; **Eugene Rivera**, Site Services Supervisor; **Tim Brown**, Maintenance Department; **Jaime Rivera**, Maintenance Department; **Jan Dmytrach**, Maintenance Department; **Antonio Diaz**, Maintenance Department; **Tom Shanks**, Maintenance Department; **Bill Forrai**, Maintenance Department; **Anthony Guest**, Site Services Department; **Fredy Gamboa**, Site Services Department; **Anthony Dinardo**, Site Services Department; and **Anthony Dones**, Site Services Department.

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

2021 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Donald DeAugustine
Chairperson, Hillside
Renee C. Burgess
Vice Chair/Secretary, Irvington
Mayor Victor De Luca
Treasurer, Maplewood

Members
Alicia Holman, *East Orange*
Richard Wasserman, *Millburn*
Anibal Ramos Jr., *Newark*
Joseph E. Petrosky, *Roselle Park*
William Haskins, *South Orange*
Marjorie Fox, *Summit*
Joseph M. Florio, *Union*
Bill Rutherford, *West Orange*

Executive Director
Hanifa Z. Johnson

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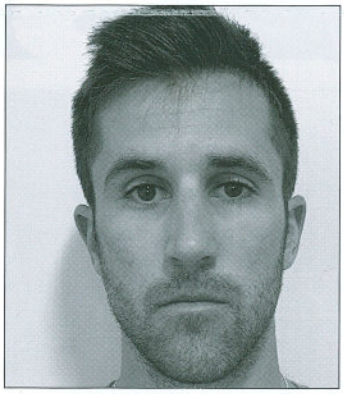
Employee News

New Employees

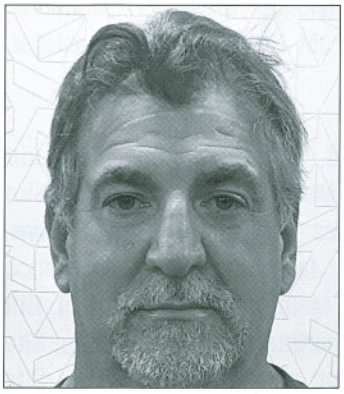
Robert Hughes, Electrician's Helper, graduated from Rutgers University in 2016. Prior to Joint Meeting, he worked for three years at Pilla Electric in Tinton Falls, NJ. Robert and his wife Shannon reside in Belford, NJ.



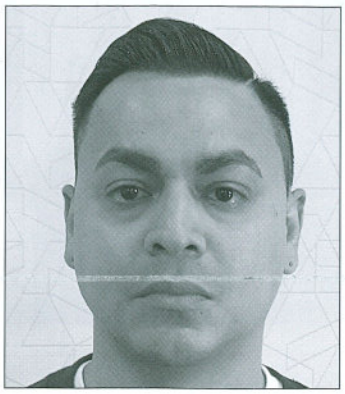
Anthony Dones, Site Services Worker, served honorably in the United States Army National Guard from 2017 to 2020. Prior to Joint Meeting, he worked for Specialty Kraft Converters in Edison, NJ. Anthony resides in Elizabeth with his wife Isabel and his daughters Naomi and Arya.



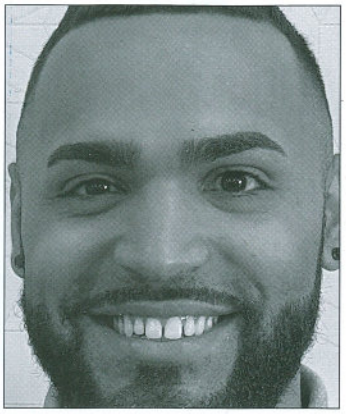
Bill Forrai, Maintenance Mechanic, came to Joint Meeting after working as a welder/mechanic for Environmental Improvement Company in Newark, NJ for more than 20 years. Bill resides in East Brunswick, NJ with his children Tyler and Kara.



Jonathan Arevalo, Operator in Training, most recently worked as a Service Manager for Clarity Water Technologies in Nanuet, NY. Prior to Clarity, he was employed as an Application Engineer for Barclay Water Management. Jonathan resides in Wallington, NJ with his wife Magdalena and son Jonathan.



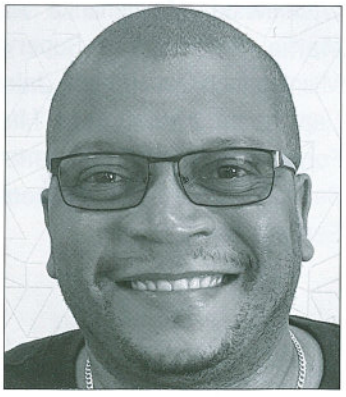
Jean Cabral, Laboratory Assistant, graduated from Montclair State University with a B.S degree in Biology. Before coming to Joint Meeting, he worked as a Lab Analyst for Iris Environmental Laboratories and EMSL Analytical. Jean resides in Elizabeth, NJ.



Kyle Lewis, Operator in Training, came to Joint Meeting after working for several years at Texas Roadhouse restaurant in Old Bridge, NJ. Most recently, Kyle attended Kean University in Union, NJ where he studied Biology. Kyle resides in Sayreville, NJ.



Christopher Milliner, Operator in Training, was most recently employed for several years by Performance Food Group and Innovative Distribution Services, both in Elizabeth, NJ. Christopher resides in Elizabeth, NJ with his wife Shanyne.



Marla Slater, Operator in Training, came to Joint Meeting after working for several years in the transportation field, most recently with Access Link First Transit. Access provides transportation for clients with disabilities. Marla also assisted in training new employees who joined Access. Marla resides in Jersey City, NJ with her children Makiya, Davil and Kimora.



New Family Members

Cesar Jurado, Projects Department, and his partner welcomed their second daughter Mila into the world on September 30, 2021 via C-section. Mila weighed 5 lbs. 6 oz. and was 18 inches long. She joins her sister Mikaela, who is holding the new baby. Mom and baby are both doing well. Congratulations to the proud parents.



Michael Pelayo, Operations Department, and Holly Kane celebrated the birth of their daughter Layla on October 1, 2021. Layla weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18 inches long. We wish them much happiness!



Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

40 YEARS
Joel Altman, Assistant Maintenance Manager

30 YEARS
Roman Wisniewski, Maintenance Manager

25 YEARS
Antoni Wyczesany, Instrumentation Foreman
Joseph Ratz, Boiler Operator

20 YEARS
Aron Harris, Electrical Supervisor
Dave Vieira, Pre-Treatment Analyst

15 YEARS
Adris Hariprasad, Electrician

10 YEARS
Krzysztof Kielian, Maintenance Mechanic

5 YEARS
Eric Dowhan, Operations Supervisor
Laquan Robinson, Boiler Operator

New Ways to Access Your Health Benefits Online

The New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) and the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB) are excited to announce a new portal, **Benefitsolver**, for accessing all your health benefit enrollment needs, including the fall Annual Open Enrollment period.

What You Need to Know

Through Benefitsolver, you can access information about your health benefits and complete your enrollment applications online. You'll be able to add new dependents and upload documentation right to the website, as well as confirm your coverage and get links to all your health benefit vendors. You'll have multiple ways to access the new portal including 24/7 access via a new mobile app.

What You Need to Do

Beginning June 1, 2021, you will be able to log in to review your health benefit information. *

Navigate to: **http://mynjbenefitshub.nj.gov**

a. Click Register
b. Enter Social Security Number and Date of Birth
c. Enter Company Key = SHBP/SEHBP
d. Click Continue

Once you're on the Benefitsolver website, you will be asked to enter your personal email address so we can keep in touch with you — send you reminders, confirmations of enrollment, and important information about how to get the most out of your benefits.

From there, download the MyChoice Mobile App so you can have your benefits at your fingertips — even take a picture of your insurance cards and store them in the app, so you're never without them!

Don't worry, your personal information is safe with us, we don't share this with outside vendors.

If you have questions regarding your benefits, please see your employer or call the NJDPB Office of Client Services at 609-292-7524.

If you have trouble accessing the Benefitsolver website, please see your Human Resources Representative.

* You may also be able to access Benefitsolver via your myNewJersey account at **https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/**

Pensions and Benefits

If you have not done so, all employees must 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:

https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbos-register.shtml

Registration requires several steps — new users should read and carefully follow the MBOS Registration Instructions. You may call the MBOS Help desk at 609-292-7524.

If further assistance is required, please contact Human Resources.



Christopher Pabst Receives Service Award

The T. William Cleveland Meritorious Service Award was bestowed on **Christopher Pabst**, Project Manager, on November 4, 2021 at The Fiesta in Wood-Ridge, NJ. The award is given annually to a person who has provided extraordinary service to the NJWEA North Section. Previous recipients of the award select the current honoree.

The award is named after T. William Cleveland, Jr. who retired in 1978 after serving at the Licensed Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator for The Township of Livingston for 38 years. Cleveland received the first award in 1974.

The photo above shows Christopher after receiving the award. From left to right are **Joseph Bonaccorso**, **Francis Bonaccorso**, **Terence McHugh**, **John McNamara**, **Christopher Pabst**, **Ramon Vara**, **John J. Lagrosa**, **Robert Fischer**, **Robert DeBlock**, **John Corkery**, and **Frank Pestana**.

We congratulate Christopher on this achievement and are proud that one of Joint Meeting's employees was honored in this way.

Helping One Another

One of our colleagues, **Steven Van Deursen** from the Maintenance Department, recently suffered a tragic loss resulting from a fire, which completely devastated his family home. Fortunately, there were no injuries. However, as you could imagine, personal and sentimental items, important documents, pictures, and the sense of "home" were lost.

One of the bright spots were fellow employees of Joint Meeting. Employees did not hesitate to donate financial resources, time and energy, clothing and food for Steve, his wife and two children. Steve and his family are currently living with relatives while they go through the process of rebuilding and establishing their home. Employees continue to contribute to help Steve move forward.

Steve has expressed his gratitude and is thankful to all of his friends and colleagues at Joint Meeting.

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.

Perfect Attendance

Ten employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 2nd Quarter of 2021. Those individuals achieving a record of no sick time and no absences are:

Jan Dmytrach, Mechanical Maintenance
Darrell Finley, Security
James Foy, Boiler Department
Harby Guerrero, Operations Department
Paul Hunt, IPP Department
Brian More, Operations Department
Manisha Patel, Laboratory
John Petito, IPP Department
Joe Polomene, Operations Department
Chris Stafford, Collections Department

Five employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 3rd Quarter of 2021. Those individuals achieving a record of no sick time and no absences are:

John Petito, IPP Department
Carlos De La Cruz, Operations Department
James Mulroony, Operations Department
Adris Hariprasad, Electrical Department
Hector Reveron, Mechanical Maintenance Department

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

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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
Hanifa Z. Johnson

Chief Engineer
Position Vacant

Superintendent
Stephen Dowhan

Director of Admin. and Finance
Daniel Gonzalez

Director of Human Resources
Robert Barry

Industrial Pretreatment Manager
Michael Phillips

Project Manager
Christopher Pabst

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
Bart Brophy

Maintenance Manager
Roman Wisniewski

Safety Officer
Richard Stafford

Administrative Office Manager
Grace Quintero

IT Manager
Ray Jimenez

Board Committees 2021

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2021 are:

Operations Committee
Chair: Renee C. Burgess
William Haskins
Bill Rutherford
Richard Wasserman

Public Relations Committee
Chair: William Haskins
Renee C. Burgess
Joseph E. Petrosky
Richard Wasserman

Finance and Budget Committee
Chair: Joseph M. Florio
Victor De Luca
Marjorie Fox
Bill Rutherford

Personnel and Procurement Committee
Chair: Anibal Ramos Jr.
Victor De Luca
Joseph M. Florio
Alicia Holman