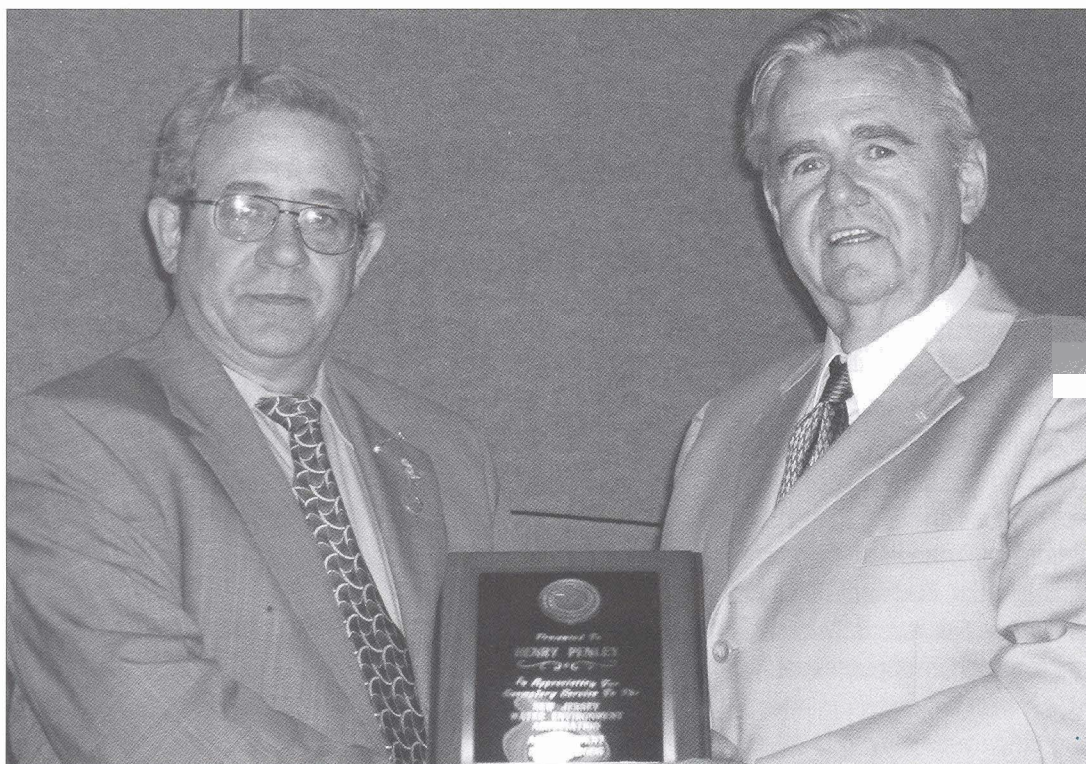


# JOINT MEETING NEWS

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VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1  
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## Bonaccorso Elected President of NJWEA

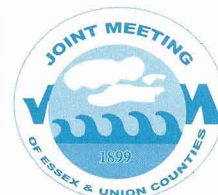
**Joseph Bonaccorso**, Superintendent of Joint Meeting since 1993, was elected President of the statewide New Jersey Water Environment Association. He will serve a two-year term. Mr. Bonaccorso previously held the position of President-Elect at the NJWEA for a two-year term. Outgoing President **Henry Penley**, right, congratulates Mr. Bonaccorso on his new position. See the full story on page 4.

## Upcoming Events

**July 18-21, 2006.** National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Annual Summer Conference in Seattle, WA. Topic is related to cross cutting clean water and drinking water issues.

**October 21-25, 2006.** 79th Annual WEFTEC Technical Exhibition and Conference in Dallas, TX.

**November 13-17, 2006.** 91st Annual League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, NJ, with seminars for municipal officials.



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

### 2006 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

#### Officers

Lebby C. Jones  
*Chairperson, Irvington*  
Allan J. Rosen  
*Vice Chair/Secretary, South Orange*  
Anthony Terrezza  
*Treasurer, Union*

#### Members

Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*  
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, *Newark*  
Jacquelyn E. Johnson, *East Orange*  
Kathleen Leventhal, *Maplewood*  
Richard Matarante, *Roselle Park*  
Robert Parisi, *West Orange*  
Joseph Pinckney, *Hillside*  
Ellen Steinberg, *Millburn*

**Executive Director**  
Samuel T. McGhee

[www.jmeuc.com](http://www.jmeuc.com)



# Employee News

**T**hree new wastewater treatment operators were hired filling the utility operator positions: **Johnny Rodriguez**, **Curtis Brown** and **Jaime Rivera**. Johnny Rodriguez started with Joint Meeting in March 2006. He possesses an S-1 license and previously worked as an operator at the Township of Bernards Sewerage Authority . . . Curtis Brown worked for Penick Corporation in Newark for 19 years as a chemical operator before coming to Joint Meeting in the spring of 2006 . . . Jaime Rivera was an experienced operator with Reichhold Chemical in Newark and was also hired in March 2006.

In addition, **Mark Morris** was hired as a wastewater operator; he will be assigned to the sludge handling facility. Mark worked as a chemical operator for various companies for the past 12 years . . . **Millicent Walker** was hired to fill a vacancy in the Laboratory. She has a B.A. degree in Biology from Kean University and began work at Joint Meeting in April 2006.

Congratulations to **Mike Foster** who is celebrating his 10th anniversary this year as a Joint Meeting employee. He went from the Site Services Department to Administrative Clerk in 2005 . . . Farewell and hats off to **Eric Sanabria**, Site Services Supervisor, who left Joint Meeting after 16 years for brighter opportunities.

Due to various job bids, the following employees moved to other positions: **Mike Phillips** left the Laboratory for the Industrial Pretreatment Department; **Dan Comerie** successfully bid for a Mechanical Maintenance job as did **Jim Murdoch** . . . **Don Jantas** moved from Operations after almost 20 years to a Sewer Maintenance position . . . **Mike Maffia** was chosen as the Site Services Supervisor after Eric Sanabria resigned. Mike previously held jobs in the mechanical and site services departments . . . **Marcelo Kofman** left his sewer maintenance job and moved to a newly created position of collection system operator. **Tony Rivers** went from Operations to Site Services through a job bid . . . **Eugene Rivera** moved from Operations to Site Services.

Congratulations to **Glen Schoenig** who was appointed Fireman-in-Charge in the Boiler Department in 2005. He previously worked in the Mechanical Maintenance Department. . . . Also changing hats was **Glenn Connolly** who was promoted to Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor. Glenn has been with Joint Meeting since 1974 and previously worked as a Leadman in the Mechanical Maintenance Department.



Seen above from left are **Jaime Rivera**, **Curtis Brown** and **Johnny Rodriguez**, who work in the Operations Department. Jaime grew up in Newark and now lives in Sayreville. Johnny and Curtis started in March 2006 and are experienced operators with chemical operator and wastewater operator backgrounds, respectively.



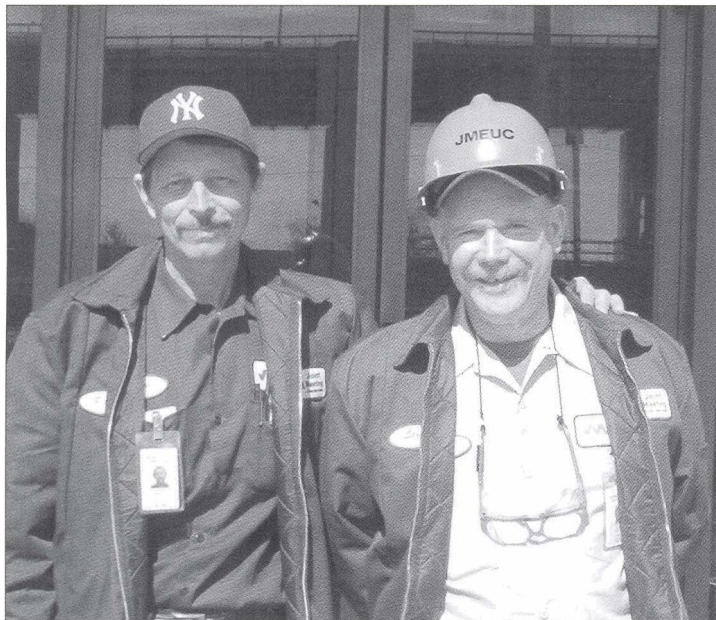
**Mark Morris** is training in Joint Meeting's sludge handling facility. Mark, who resides in Irvington, is an experienced operator who came to our facility with a chemical industry background.

## Wojcik and Concepcion Set Attendance Records

**Stan Wojcik** has been recognized numerous times in the past for his excellent attendance record. Stan, who began with Joint Meeting in March of 1985, has served for 21 years as a wastewater treatment operator. But in 2005 he reached a great new milestone not previously achieved by anyone at Joint Meeting — he had perfect attendance for six consecutive years. In addition, Site Services Worker **Ralph Concepcion** has consistently been an award winner for perfect attendance. In 2005, he attained the goal of perfect

attendance for the fifth consecutive year. Like Stan, Ralph started at Joint Meeting in 1985. He worked first as a wastewater operator and later moved to the Site Services Department.

Others who made perfect attendance in calendar year 2005 were Boiler Operator **Clyde Lauderdale**, Operations Supervisor **Craig Halloran**, and Collection System Supervisor **Vincent Corsentino**. Congratulations to all of them on their achievement.



**Stan Wojcik**, a wastewater treatment operator, at right, received recognition for having perfect attendance for six consecutive years. Site services worker **Ralph Concepcion**, at left, has gone five straight years with a perfect attendance record. Great job!

## Medicare Part D How does it work?

**O**n January 1, 2006, Medicare offered a new prescription drug coverage to people with Medicare, called Medicare, Part D. You must be 65 years old to enroll in Medicare and Medicare Part D. You can still be working or you can be retired. There is a monthly premium, which costs approximately \$40 per month.

The New Jersey State Health Benefits Program also offers prescription coverage, which is equal to or better than Medicare Part D coverage. Active employees can enroll in Medicare Part D, but your employer paid health plan is primary. However, when you retire, you have to choose one or the other plan.

Under Medicare Part D, there is a \$250 annual deductible. Then 75 percent of your drug costs are paid by Medicare up to \$2,250. You would pay the next \$2,850. Your plan then pays 95 percent of costs until the end of the calendar year with no dollar limit.

By contrast, all of our State Health plans have prescription coverage. Active employees in the traditional plan receive 80 percent reimbursement and NJ Plus up to 90 percent. Employees in HMOs pay \$5 for generic and \$10 for preferred brand name drugs. Retirees in the State Health plans pay \$7 for generic and \$14 for preferred brand name drugs. Retirees in HMOs pay the same as when they were active.

Currently, Joint Meeting employees with 25 years of pension credit in PERS, the last 10 years of which are at Joint Meeting, receive company paid health insurance with prescription coverage. Retirees from Joint Meeting who do not meet these qualifications still can sign up for health insurance including prescription coverage, but they would pay a monthly premium that would be deducted from their monthly pension check.

There is no penalty assessed for joining Medicare Part D late provided you are already enrolled under a New Jersey State Health Plan coverage. However, if you opt to join Medicare Part D, your coverage with the state plan will terminate.

More information regarding Medicare Part D, as well as information pertaining to the interaction of Medicare Part D and the New Jersey State Health Plan is available at:

[www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)

1-800-MEDICARE

[www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/shbp.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/shbp.htm)

1-609-292-7524



# NJWEA Awards

Joint Meeting Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso** was elected the new President of the New Jersey Water Environment Association at its annual conference held at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City from May 1 to May 5, 2006.

Mr. Bonaccorso has been Superintendent since 1993. Prior to that, he was Joint Meeting's Maintenance Manager. Before coming to Joint Meeting, he served Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners Treatment Plant in many capacities, including Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance as well as being involved with construction oversight, start-up, commissioning and operation of various facilities.

A graduate of Providence College, he completed his master's degree course work in Environmental Engineering at NJIT and holds S4, C4 and N4 NJDEP operator licenses.

Mr. Bonaccorso has taught wastewater courses for more than 20 years, has served on the NJDEP Advisory Committee on Operator Training since 1985, and has been Chairman of the Committee for many terms.

He has been active in the NJWEA for 29 years and has served on many of its committees, such as the Education Advisory Committee and the Scholarship Com-

mittee. He was also President of the North Section of NJWEA.

At the conference, several Joint Meeting employees received recognition. **Steve Dowhan, John McNamara** and **Ramon Vara** were given certificates of appreciation for their work on the 2006 Conference Committee. Collection System Engineer **James Paluch** was presented with the Golden Manhole Society Award. The Golden Manhole Society is an honor service society.

Project Coordinator John McNamara was given the NJWEA-North Section Service Award. John has been with Joint Meeting for 28 years and has been an active member with registration, the golf committee and with workshops.

Finally, one individual a year is selected from the entire state for the William D. Hatfield Award. This year Joint Meeting's Senior Project Manager Stephen Dowhan was honored. This award is given to individuals for their outstanding performance and professionalism. Steve has dedicated 32 years to the wastewater treatment field and to NJWEA, having served as President of the North Jersey Section. He has a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering.

## Lebby Jones Voted Board Chairperson

**Hon. Lebby C. Jones**, Councilwoman from Irvington, was chosen to fill her third term as Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties Board of Directors at the January 2006 monthly board meeting. She replaces Hon. Anthony Terrezza of Union who just completed two consecutive one-year terms as Chairperson in 2005. Ms. Jones also served as Chairperson in calendar years 2002 and 2003.

Ms. Jones has served on the Joint Meeting Board continuously since 1998 as a member and also in many other capacities, including Vice Chairperson and as a member of many board committees.

The Board also changed the makeup of the committees. Newcomer **Hon. Ellen Steinberg** of Millburn was appointed to the Operations Committee. **Hon. Dave A. Bomgaars** from Summit was placed on the Public Relations Committee. **Hon. Kathleen M. Leventhal** of Maplewood will serve on the Public Relations and Finance & Budget Committees. **Hon. Richard Matarante** from Roselle Park will sit on the Public Relations Committee. **Hon. Anthony Terrezza** will be the Chairperson of the Operations Committee.



**Millicent Walker** was recently hired as a Lab Tech to replace **Mike Phillips**, who moved to the Industrial Pretreatment Department. Millicent had previously worked as a Lab Tech for Accutest prior to coming to Joint Meeting.

# Employees Reach Service Milestones

Thirty-nine employees are reaching service milestones with Joint Meeting during calendar year 2006. They are:

## 35 YEARS

**Jack Kennedy**, Asst. Superintendent Maint./Operations  
**Pat Rufolo**, Asst. Board Secretary

## 25 YEARS

**Joel Altman**, Asst. Maint. Manager  
**Carlos Cabral**, Wastewater Operator  
**Dan LoPiccolo**, Site Services Worker  
**Vincent Makfinsky**, Lab Manager  
**Bob Surman**, Maintenance Mechanic

## 20 YEARS

**Don Jantas**, Sewer Maint. Worker  
**Mike Phillips**, Environmental Officer  
**Manny Pinho**, Wastewater Operator  
**Ramon Vara**, Operations Trainer

## 15 YEARS

**Ed Aya**, Electrician  
**Joseph Bonaccorso**, Superintendent  
**Tony Bongiorno**, Maintenance Mechanic  
**Richard Cirlincione**, Director of Human Resources  
**George Garcia**, Wastewater Operator  
**Oscar Javier**, Electrician  
**Ray Majewski**, Wastewater Operator  
**Manny Roman**, Wastewater Operator  
**Ralph Scott**, Maintenance Mechanic  
**Ziggy Szczesny**, Electrician  
**Roman Wisniewski**, Plant Maintenance Supervisor

## 10 YEARS

**Mike Foster**, Administrative Clerk  
**Tom Ksepka**, Maintenance Mechanic  
**Joe Ratz**, Boiler Operator  
**Gary Restivo**, Director of Admin./Finance  
**Glen Riscen**, Maintenance Mechanic  
**Frank Romeo**, Site Services Worker  
**Bob Sforza**, Purchasing Officer  
**Tony Wyzcesany**, Electrician

## 5 YEARS

**Julio Cabrera**, Lab Technician  
**Dan Comerie**, Maintenance Mechanic  
**Dave Friedland**, Wastewater Operator  
**Aron Harris**, Electrician  
**Ron Helco**, Maintenance Mechanic  
**Jeff Kutakoff**, Security Guard  
**Bob Leskin**, Boiler Operator  
**Brian Reddy**, Environmental Officer  
**David Vieira**, Lab Technician  
**Tim Walker**, Boiler Operator

These thirty-nine employees represent about one-third of the total number of Joint Meeting employees. Our congratulations to all of the above listed employees who have served Joint Meeting in their various capacities these years. Best wishes to them for their continued service in the future. Their skills are invaluable to the proper running of the facility and they are to be commended for their dedication and service to Joint Meeting.



**Jack Kennedy** and **Pat Rufolo** reached their 35th service year mark in 2006. Ms. Rufolo serves as Asst. Board Secretary and she is the financial assistant for Joint Meeting. Jack Kennedy oversees the operations and maintenance departments in the capacity of Assistant Superintendent. Both have served Joint Meeting well during their tenures.



# Teamster's Local 418 Ratifies New Labor Contract

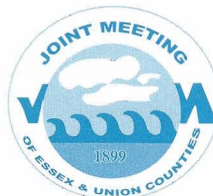
**T**eamster's Local 418 Automatic Sales, Servicemen and Allied Workers, which represents Joint Meeting's blue collar and technical employees, ratified a new four year collective bargaining agreement in February 2006. After Joint Meeting's Board of Directors approval, the contract took effect on March 14, 2006. The agreement covers the calendar years 2006 through 2009.

The agreement calls for annual salary increases of 3.5 percent in 2006, 4 percent in 2007, 4 percent in 2008 and 4 percent in 2009. In addition, employee annual stipends for holding various certifications and licenses were increased and on-call pay among the maintenance departments for electricians and site services workers was made consistent with that of mechanics. Tighter restrictions on sick time use will also be in effect to reduce hook-ups of sick time use with holidays.



Senior Project Manager **Steve Dowhan**, left, received the William T. Hatfield Award for outstanding performance from NJWEA Executive Director **Jack Lagrosa** on May 4, 2006 at the Annual NJWEA Conference in Atlantic City.

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## Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

Wastewater Treatment Plant &  
Administrative Offices  
500 South First Street  
Elizabeth, N.J. 07202  
(908) 353-1313  
FAX (908) 353-7925

## Joint Meeting Administrative Staff

*Executive Director*  
Samuel T. McGhee

*Deputy Executive Director/  
Chief Engineer*  
Ralph LaMendola, P.E.

*Superintendent*  
Joseph Bonaccorso

*Director of Admin. and Finance*  
Gary Restivo

*Director of Human Resources*  
Richard Cirlincione

*Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator*  
Cathy Martinson

*Sr. Project Manager*  
Stephen Dowhan

*Purchasing Officer*  
Robert Sforza

*Asst. Board Sec./Financial Asst.*  
Patricia Rufolo

*Asst. Superintendent  
Operations/Maintenance*  
Jack Kennedy

*Asst. Superintendent  
Collection System*  
Jim Paluch

*Operations Manager*  
Alex Durand

*Safety Officer*  
Terry Cole-Kelly

## Board Committees 2006

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the first half of 2006 are:

### Operations Committee

*Chair:* Anthony Terrezza  
Jacquelyn E. Johnson  
Joseph Pinckney  
Ellen Steinberg

### Public Relations Committee

*Chair:* Jacquelyn E. Johnson  
Dave A. Bomgaars  
Kathleen M. Leventhal  
Richard Matarante

### Finance & Budget Committee

*Chair:* Allen J. Rosen  
Jacquelyn E. Johnson  
Kathleen M. Leventhal  
Robert Parisi

### Personnel & Procurement Committee

*Chair:* Gayle H. Chaneyfield Jenkins  
Robert Parisi  
Allan J. Rosen  
Anthony Terrezza