JOINTMEETING NEWS

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Paluch Receives WEF National Award

Executive Director **Samuel T. McGhee**, shown above left, congratulates **Jim Paluch**, Assistant Superintendent for Collection System Operations, for receiving the Water Environment Federation's Golden Manhole Award, which was announced at the 2009 WEFTEC Conference in Orlando, Florida this past October. Jim, who was previously honored with the NJWEA State Award in 2006, was given the WEF National Award in recognition of his continued involvement in the well-received WEF Collection System Committee Webcast Series of presentations dealing with various Collection System O&M issues.

Jim has been very active in the WEF as a member of the Collection System Committee in providing valuable information to other members regarding issues of infrastructure sustainability and awareness. Jim has been asked by the WEF to moderate all future webcasts concerning Collection Systems in an effort to ensure continuity and familiarity. Congratulations to Jim on this award!

Upcoming Events

July 20-23, 2010. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 40th Annual Summer Conference, San Francisco, CA. Topic is Sustainable Resources Management.

October 2-6, 2010. Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 83rd Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

November 16-19, 2010. 95th Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference at Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ, with workshops 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

2010 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Kathleen M. Leventhal, *Chairperson, Maplewood*
Edward A. Brewer, Jr. *Vice Chair/Secretary, Hillside*
Ronald C. Rice, *Treasurer, Newark*

Members
Sal M. Anderton, *West Orange*
Alicia Holman, *East Orange*
Lebby C. Jones, *Irvington*
Howard Levison, *South Orange*
Richard J. Madden, *Summit*
Thomas C. McDermott, *Millburn*
Modesto Miranda, *Roselle Park*
Anthony Terrezza, *Union*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

Farewell to Good Friends

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to several of our friends at JMEUC who have retired: Collection System Supervisor **Vincent Corsentino** (39 years), Assistant Superintendent **Jack Kennedy** (38 years), Dewatering Operator **Howard Zimmerman** (19 years), Human Resource Director **Richard Cirlincione** (18 years), Director of Finance & Administration **Gary Restivo** (13 years), and Site Services Worker **Charles Motley** (10 years). A few highlights about these dedicated individuals include:

- **Vinny Corsentino** assisted in the development of the Graphic Information System (GIS) and the New Jersey One-Call System. According to Superintendent Joe Bonaccorso, Vinny was a walking Joint Meeting Collection System expert and historian.

- **Gary Restivo** managed the establishment of new accounting software, supervised the agency's Security Department, and assisted in coordinating the NJEIT federal stimulus monies for Joint Meeting municipalities.

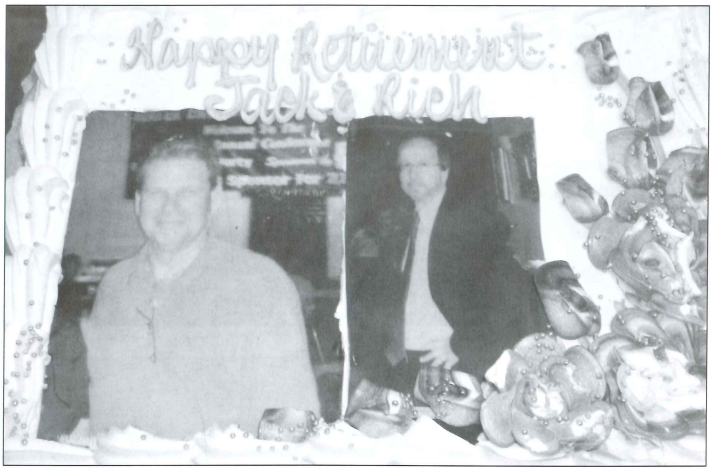
- **Rich Cirlincione** provided ongoing and consistent leadership, guidance, education and support for the employees of the facility. Rich would regularly attend training conferences in an effort to bring back new ideas that would benefit the employees and the facility's operation.

- **Howard Zimmerman** provided a consistent and high quality level of performance, including numerous Perfect Attendance Awards. He served as a mentor and an example for new employees joining the operation. One example of how well-admired and respected Howard was is when employees were asked to donate sick time, many employees collectively contributed more than 100 days to Howard.

- **Jack Kennedy** joined JMEUC as the facility Training Coordinator. Due to his fine performance, Jack was promoted from Training Coordinator to Assistant Superintendent. In his new role, he provided the knowledge, support and guidance to the staff on a daily basis. Jack was the recipient of the North Jersey NJWEA Service Award.

- According to Site Maintenance Supervisor Mike Maffia, **Charles (Rocky) Motley** was one of the most dedicated and reliable employees Mike ever had. One of the highlights of Rocky's tenure was the opening of the new laboratory building. Rocky was assigned to it and he took care of the lab, as well as any other building, like it was his own.

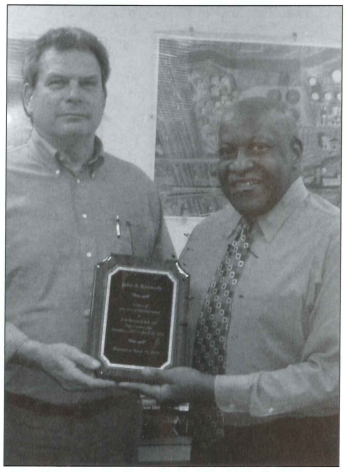
Thank you all for your dedication and service to the Joint Meeting. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.



Cake from retirement party features **Jack Kennedy** (left), Assistant Superintendent, and **Rich Cirlincione**, Director of Human Resources.



Executive Director **Sam McGhee** (right) presents plaque to **Rich Cirlincione**.



Jack Kennedy (left) receives plaque from Executive Director **Sam McGhee**.

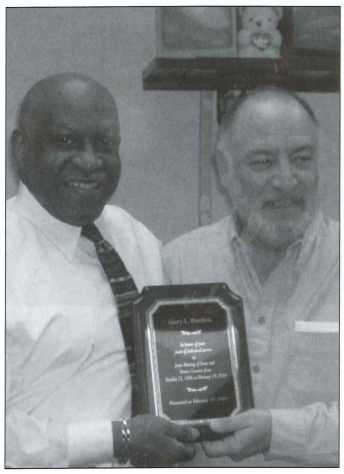


Charles Motley (center) is presented with a plaque from Superintendent **Joe Bonaccorso** (left) and Executive Director **Sam McGhee** (right).

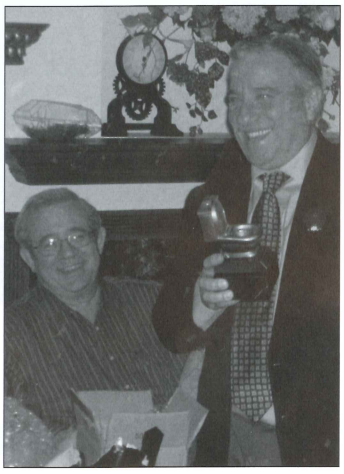
Employee News



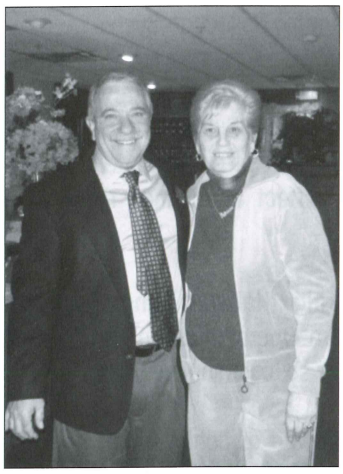
From left to right are Deputy Executive Director **Ralph LaMendola**, **Rich Cirlincione**, Executive Director **Sam McGhee**, **Jack Kennedy**, and Superintendent **Joe Bonaccorso**.



Executive Director **Sam McGhee** (left) presents a plaque to **Gary Restivo**.



Vince Corsentino (right) admires his retirement gift while Superintendent **Joe Bonaccorso** looks on.



Enjoying his retirement party are **Vince Corsentino** and **Pat Rufolo**, Assistant Secretary/Financial Assistant.

Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** was unanimously appointed by Chairperson **Kathleen Leventhal** and the Board of Directors to another four-year term to lead the Joint Meeting. Congratulations to Mr. McGhee on his reappointment!

As a result of **Vince Corsentino** retiring, the "New & Improved" Collection System Division under **Jim Paluch** now includes **Marcelo Kofman**, promoted to Collection System Supervisor and **Robert Surman**, now assigned as a Collection System Operator . . . **Devlon Phillips** moved from Site Services worker to Maintenance Mechanic . . . **Malika Johnson** began her career as an intern during the summer of 2009 working in the Collections division. Malika did such a great job, that she was offered full-time employment effective February 2010 and is assigned to the Maintenance Department. Welcome Malika!

Congratulations to Operation Supervisor **Roger Marques** and his wife Jenny, who are the proud parents of a new baby girl born earlier this year.

Robert Sforza, JMEUC Purchasing and Procurement Officer, has stepped down as the Executive Director of the Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey. The GPA, with over 450 members, led the charge and secured the passage of legislation P.L. 2009, c.166, which amended the Local Public Contract Law and redefines the requirement for Qualified Purchasing Agents. The statute creates incentives for governmental entities to have a Qualified Purchasing Agent. Robert served as Executive Director from 2004 to 2009.

Don Heminghaus, who has returned from another tour of military service in Afghanistan, has commenced working as a member of the Industrial Pretreatment Sampling Crew. Our deep appreciation goes to Don for his service to our country.

The exempt positions of Health and Safety Officer, Director of Administration & Finance, and Training Coordinator have been posted for internal candidates who are qualified and may be interested in applying.

Our employee safety record continues to improve each day. JMEUC is up to over 260 consecutive days without a lost time injury. Keep up the good work.

Robert Barry Joins Joint Meeting as HR Director

Executive Director **Sam McGhee** is pleased to introduce **Robert (Bob) Barry** as the new Director of Human Resources. Bob brings with him over 25 years of experience in Human Resource Management, Employee Training and Development, Labor and Employee Relations, and Operations Management.

Bob received his Bachelors Degree from Thomas Edison State College and his Masters Degree from Seton Hall University. He has obtained his SPHR Certification from the Human Resource Institute. Bob is also an active member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the American Society for Industrial Security.

Bob is very happy to be joining the JMEUC and is looking forward to meeting all of the employees. Bob would like everyone to know he has an open door policy and is looking forward to this great opportunity.

We welcome Bob to the JMEUC family.



Seen above with Executive Director **Sam McGhee** (center) are two staff members who brought family to Joint Meeting: **Steve Pascucci** with his daughter Brooke, and **Miriam Ledee** with her grandson Justin Diaz.

Staff Brings Kids to Work

Joint Meeting celebrated the national Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work® program, by inviting employees to bring their children to the facility on Thursday, April 22, 2010. The program began in 1993 with Take Our Daughters to Work and, in 2003, was expanded to include sons.

New Agreement Between Teamsters and Joint Meeting

The members of local 641 ratified a new contract period covering January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012. Some of the highlights of the new agreement include a 2 percent increase to employees in each year of the agreement, an increase in weekend differential, and an increase in the frequency of safety committee meetings.

Effective May 21, 2010, new legislation (Cpt 2, P.L. 2010) signed by Governor Chris Christie requires state employees to contribute 1.5 percent of their annual base salary toward the cost of their medical and/or prescription drug coverage upon the expiration of any labor agreement. The contribution is in addition to any premium paid for dental, vision or other health benefit.

However, due to successful negotiation between Local 641 and JMEUC and ratification prior to the May 21st date, employees will only have to pay .5 percent for the first year, 1 percent for the second year and 1.5 percent for the third year, equaling the maximum statutory obligation.

The pay increases will be retroactive to January 1, 2010. The benefit contributions will be effective after May 21, 2010.

2009 Annual Perfect Attendance Awards

Three employees had perfect attendance records for the 2009 calendar year. The employees and their departments are:

Craig Halloran, Operations Supervisor, Team 3
Jim Paluch, Assistant Superintendent for Collection System
Stan Wojcik, Sludge Handling, Team 5

Stan Wojcik, an Operator in Joint Meeting's Sludge Handling Facility, just completed his tenth consecutive year of perfect attendance, a Joint Meeting record since these perfect attendance recognition awards began over 20 years ago.

Operations Team Supervisor Craig Halloran and Assistant Superintendent for Collection System Operations Jim Paluch both have achieved perfect attendance for six consecutive years.

Winners are presented with a certificate of achievement and can select a gift from a wide array of gifts as a small token of Joint Meeting's appreciation for reaching a difficult goal. Congratulations Stan, Craig and Jim!



Students and faculty from Our Lady of Czestochowa School in Jersey City meet with Joint Meeting Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso** for a tour of the facility.

Local Students Tour Joint Meeting

Thirty-five students from Our Lady of Czestochowa School in Jersey City, along with their principal and two teachers, were treated to a tour of the Treatment Plant by Joint Meeting Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso** on May 4, 2010. The focus of the tour was Wastewater Treatment and its relationship to the Hydrologic Cycle. The tour consisted of a classroom presentation and a walk around the various processes of the facility.

The students, who had earlier participated in an essay contest sponsored by the New Jersey Water Environment Association, were intrigued by the topic and requested a tour of our facility.

Educational institutions that are interested in touring the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey should contact Joseph Bonaccorso at 908-353-1313.

Reminders

Employees who are experiencing changes in family status (new child, divorce, etc.) that may affect their health benefits are encouraged to contact Human Resources if they have questions or concerns.

Employees who may be scheduling leave for medical procedures should speak to Human Resources as soon as they have information about their leave. HR will be happy to provide assistance and guidance concerning available paid leave, disability, FMLA and address any concerns the employee may have.

Joint Meeting Earns Fourth Consecutive NACWA Gold

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has again recognized the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties by awarding it its fourth consecutive Gold Award. This is also the seventh Gold Award that Joint Meeting has earned from NACWA.

The Gold Award is given to sewerage agencies that have met one hundred percent total compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System requirements with no violations to their New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) permit.

Joint Meeting has won Gold Awards in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008 and now for 2009. In addition, Joint Meeting has captured ten Silver Awards beginning in 1993. The Silver Award recognizes facilities that have had fewer than five NJDEP permit excursions in a calendar year.

As in the past, Joint Meeting could not have won this recognition without the hard work of Joint Meeting employees. The day-in and day-out work of the employees in all of the operational and maintenance departments has contributed to Joint Meeting's success. Congratulations are extended from management to all of our Joint Meeting employees for their continued support and effort that make Joint Meeting outstanding in the wastewater field.

New Appointments to the Joint Meeting Board

The Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties Board of Directors announced the newly elected officers for 2010 at its January 2010 reorganizational meeting. Ms. **Kathleen Leventhal** of Maplewood was elected as the new Chairperson. Ms. Leventhal serves as the Vice Mayor of Maplewood and is Chair of the Township's Recreation and Human Services Committee, Code Enforcement Committee and President of the Maplewood Board of Health. Ms. Leventhal replaces Mayor **Anthony Terrezza** of Union as Chairperson. Mayor Terrezza will remain a Board member and serve on the Finance and Budget Committee.

The Board also elected **Edward A. Brewer, Jr.** of Hillside as Vice Chair/Secretary. Mr. Brewer was also appointed as Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee and a member of the Personnel and Procurement Committee. **Ronald Rice** of Newark was re-elected as Board Treasurer.

In other action, East Orange has designated Ms. **Alicia Holman** to serve on the Board, filling the seat of William Holt. Ms. Holman was also appointed as a member of the Operations Committee. The Township of Millburn has appointed Mayor Thomas McDermott to the Board. Mayor McDermott replaces James Suell and will serve as a member of the Finance and Budget Committee. The Township of Roselle Park has appointed **Modesto Miranda** to replace **Michael Yakubov** as a Board member. Mr. Miranda was also appointed to the Public Relations Committee. Mr. Yakubov will remain an alternate member. The Township of Summit has appointed **Richard Madden** to serve as a Board member, replacing Dave Bomgaars. Mr. Madden has also been appointed to sit on the Public Relations Committee.

A warm welcome is extended to our new Board members and best wishes to ongoing members in their new responsibilities.

NJWEA Scholarship Award Program

The New Jersey Water Environment Association (NJWEA) announced the continuation of its Scholarship Awards Program, named in honor of Dr. Raymond Manganelli, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science at Rutgers University, and former Chair of the Association's Student Programs and Scholarship Awards Committees. Every year, 23 scholarship awards are available, each from $2,000 to $2,500 and totaling more than $43,500 annually. Joint Meeting Superintendent Joe Bonaccorso, Past President of the NJWEA, recently attended the awarding of scholarships to students at Rutgers University on behalf of the Raymond Manganelli Scholarship Awards Program. One of the scholarships offered is named in honor of Joe.

Scholarship information along with applications can be found on the NJWEA website, www.njwea.org.

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
Position vacant

Director of Human Resources
Robert Barry

Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator
Cathy Martinson

Sr. Project Manager
Stephen Dowhan

Purchasing Officer
Robert Sforza

Asst. Board Secr./Financial Asst.
Patricia Rufolo

Asst. Superintendent Operations/Maint.
Alex Durand

Asst. Superintendent Collection System
Jim Paluch

Operations Manager
Ramon Vara

Safety Officer
Terry Cole-Kelly

Board Committees 2010

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2010 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Sal M. Anderton
Ronald C. Rice
Howard Levison
Alicia Holman

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Howard Levison
Modesto Miranda
Richard Madden
Alicia Holman

Finance & Budget Committee

Chair: Edward A. Brewer, Jr.
Thomas C. McDermott
Lebby C. Jones
Anthony Terrezza

Personnel & Procurement Committee

Chair: Ronald C. Rice
Edward A. Brewer, Jr
Sal M. Anderton
Lebby C. Jones