

# JOINT MEETING NEWS

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## Samuel T. McGhee Awarded Man of The Year

The Upsilon Phi chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has bestowed the honor of OMEGA Man of The Year to **Samuel T. McGhee**, Executive Director, shown above left. Mr. McGhee was recognized at the fraternity's annual achievement breakfast in December 2010 for his contribution to the local chapter as well as his dedication to public service. Mr. McGhee has served in various leadership positions including Chairman of Membership Intake Committee, Assistant Keeper of Finance, Achievement Committee Chairman and First Vice Basileus (President).

The Fraternity was established in 1911 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Its members have long been committed to serving as examples of achievement in the community.

## Upcoming Events

**July 19-22, 2011.** National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 41st Annual Summer Conference, Chicago, IL. Topic is Creating a First Class Public Utility.

**October 15-19, 2011.** Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 84th Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA.



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

### 2011 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

Theodore R. Green, *East Orange*  
Lebby C. Jones, *Irvington*  
Thomas C. McDermott, *Millburn*  
Joseph Accardi, *Roselle Park*  
Howard Levison, *South Orange*  
Richard J. Madden, *Summit*  
James M. Florio, *Union*  
Patricia Spango, *West Orange*

#### Executive Director

Samuel T. McGhee

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# Losing Good Friends

We bid farewell to several Joint Meeting employees who have retired: Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator **Cathy Martinson** (31 years), Wastewater Operator **Stan Wojcik** (26 years), and Site Services Worker **Frank Romeo** (14 years). In addition, Administrative Secretary **Ana Albuquerque** (31 years) and Assistant Superintendent Operations/Management **Alex Durand** (36 years) recently announced their retirements.

- **Cathy Martinson** joined Joint Meeting in May 1980 as a Lab Supervisor and was soon promoted to Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator/Laboratory Director. Cathy has overseen the growth of both departments: introducing data management capabilities, increasing efficiency and productivity, and managing the addition of a new laboratory/office building. Throughout her career with Joint Meeting, Cathy has been acknowledged on numerous occasions by the NJDEP for the excellent performance of the Industrial Pretreatment program and the laboratory.

- **Stan Wojcik** has been with Joint Meeting for 26 years and has served as an inspiration and a role model to all of the employees. He has been instrumental in working with new employees and has always set the example for others. Stan is always there when you need him, and we mean always. He has earned the unique distinction of receiving the Perfect Attendance Award for the last 12 consecutive years, 14 years in total.

- **Frank Romeo** joined Joint Meeting in October 1996 in the Site Services Department. Frank will be enjoying his retirement in Pennsylvania with his family. We wish Frank well in his much deserved retirement.

- **Ana Albuquerque** has decided to bring her career with Joint Meeting to a close after 31 years working for several Executive Directors. She looks forward to spending more time with her family. Ana has maintained the highest level of integrity, professionalism and excellence representing the office of the Executive Director. Her ability to successfully adapt to changing environments while providing consistency to the Executive Director's office has proven to be valuable to the employees and Joint Meeting. Ana's last day at Joint Meeting will be May 31st.

- **Alex Durand** has been part of the Joint Meeting family for over 36 years and has been an important part of the success of JM. Alex's own success in his career has been due to his belief in not only doing the job, but also doing it right. He takes great pride in his job and encourages others to be their best through nurturing and mentoring. Now Alex will have the opportunity to do what he loves best, spending time with his family.



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** (left) and Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso** (right) congratulate **Stan Wojcik** on his retirement after 26 years with Joint Meeting.



The cake from **Cathy Martinson's** retirement party "says it all."

We wish all of you the best in your future endeavors!





Superintendent **Joseph Bonaccorso** (left) and Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** (right) congratulate **Frank Romeo** on his retirement after 14 years with Joint Meeting.



**Ana Albuquerque** (left) and **Cathy Martinson** (right) shown with Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** last year when they both achieved their 30-year anniversary with Joint Meeting.

## Employee News

**C**ongratulations to all the new arrivals: Team 4 Dewatering Operator **Jessie Ordner** and his wife Lauren welcomed a new baby girl, Nora Jane Ordner. Nora weighed in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces and 20½ inches . . . Electrician **Aron Harris** and his wife Theresa welcomed their new baby boy, Sean Aaron Harris. Sean weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces . . . Utility Operator **Miguel Foster** welcomed his son, Miguel Eugene Foster II, to the world at Christmastime. New mom Tamiya, Miguel and Miguel II are all doing well. (Grandpa Mike Foster is also very happy.) . . . Team 1 Operator **Ryan Gerhard** and his wife Erin welcomed their daughter, Starr, to the world in March. Starr was 8 pounds, 6 ounces . . . Superintendent **Joe Bonaccorso** welcomed his new granddaughter, Rachel Grace Kelly, to the world last August.

Executive Director **Samuel T. McGhee** is pleased to announce the following promotions: **Mike Phillips** has been promoted to the position of IPP Manager. He is assuming the position made available by the retirement of Cathy Martinson. Mike joined Joint Meeting in 1986 as an Operator and then moved into the positions of Lab Technician, Lead Lab Technician, Field Supervisor and, finally, Pretreatment Officer . . . **Adewale (Wale) Akinokun** has been promoted to the newly created position of Assistant Manager of the IPP Department. Wale has been with Joint Meeting since 2002 in the position of Pretreatment Officer . . . **David Viera** has been appointed to the position of Analyst I in the Industrial Pretreatment Department. He has been with Joint Meeting since 2001 in the capacity of Laboratory Technician. David graduated from Richard Stockton College with a B.S. degree in Marine Science. Our best wishes to all three gentlemen in their new responsibilities.

## Tour of Duty

**Don Heminghaus**, a Sewer Maintenance Worker, has been notified that he will again be deployed by the United States Air Force sometime this spring. It has not been determined where he will be going. This will be the third time that Don will be deployed.

The staff and management of Joint Meeting are extremely proud of Don for his dedicated service to our country. We wish him a safe tour of duty.



# Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

**W**astewater Operator **Carlos Cabral**, Laboratory Supervisor **Vinny Makfinsky**, and Collection System Operator **Robert (Bob) Surman** celebrated their 30th anniversaries with Joint Meeting.

Carlos joined Joint Meeting as an Operator in Training. Upon completion of his training, he settled into a permanent position. Carlos has worked various shifts and, being an experienced operator, he has been instrumental in the training of newly hired operators. Carlos has been acknowledged for his perfect attendance on numerous occasions and for the dedication he demonstrates to the employees and the facility.

Vinny began his career at Joint Meeting as an Operator Trainee. After a year as an Operator, he decided to join the Laboratory Department as a Technician. Vinny spent several years learning the complexities of the lab department as a Lab Technician before being promoted to the position of Laboratory Supervisor. Vinny has been responsible for the day-to-day activities of the lab since June 1995.

Bob joined the Joint Meeting family in July 1987 as an Operator Trainee. After spending 15 years learning the operations of the facility, he began seeking new challenges and assumed the position of Maintenance Mechanic. Bob held this position for 14 years before seeking out his current position of Collection System Operator.

Congratulations to all three dedicated employees for their years of hard work. Other employees reaching service milestones are:

## 25 YEARS

**Ralph Conceptione**, Wastewater Operator  
**Don Jantas**, Sewer Maintenance Inspector  
**Joe Mazza**, Wastewater Operator  
**Mike Phillips**, Industrial Pretreatment Manager

## 20 YEARS

**Eduardo Aya**, Electrician  
**Paul Cuttino**, Operations Manager II  
**Morgan Frierson**, Wastewater Operator  
**Santos Garcia**, Wastewater Operator  
**James Gibson**, Site Services Worker  
**Manny Roman**, Wastewater Operator  
**Zygmunt Szczesny**, Electrician

## 15 YEARS

**Michael Foster**, Administrative Clerk  
**Joseph Ratz**, Boiler Operator

## 10 YEARS

**Julio Cabrera**, Laboratory Technician  
**Dan Comerie**, Mechanic  
**Aron Harris**, Electrician  
**Ron Helco**, Mechanic  
**Don Heminghouse**, Sewer Maintenance Inspector  
**Jeff Kutakoff**, Security Officer  
**Jim Murdoch**, Mechanic  
**Brian Reddy**, Pretreatment Officer  
**Nathan Rogers**, Senior Asst., Project Coordinator

## 5 YEARS

**Curtis Brown**, Wastewater Operator  
**Miguel Foster**, Wastewater Operator  
**Mark Morris**, Wastewater Operator  
**Jaime Rivera**, Site Services Worker  
**Millicent Walker**, Laboratory Technician

## Joint Meeting Earns Platinum Award

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has again recognized the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties by awarding it its Platinum Award. The Platinum award signifies five consecutive years as a Gold Award recipient. This is also the eighth 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, 2009 and 2010. In addition, Joint Meeting has captured 10 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.



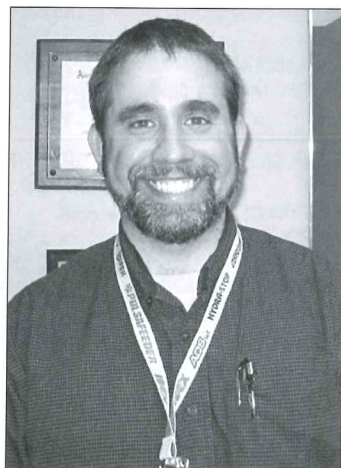
## New Faces at Joint Meeting

Executive Director Samuel McGhee is pleased to introduce **Anthony Terrezza** as the new Director of Administration and Finance. Anthony brings over 40 years of experience in Management, Administration and Finance to Joint Meeting. He most recently served as President and Chief Financial Officer of Planet Honda Automobile in Union, NJ. Anthony also brings many years of finance administration in the public sector, overseeing the preparation of municipal budgets.

Anthony has dedicated many years to public service in the Union County area, serving as Mayor and Committeeman for the Township of Union. He has also been the recipient of numerous awards, including UNICO "Man of The Year," Boys' Towns of Italy "Man of The Year," and Knights of Columbus "Lay Person of the Year." We are pleased Anthony has joined us and we welcome him to the JMEUC family.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of **Francis Bonaccorso** to the position of Assistant Superintendent Operations/Maintenance. Fran has over 12 years industry experience, most recently serving as the Assistant Superintendent at Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority. Fran received a B.S. degree in Biology from Seton Hall University and is also an instructor of Water and Wastewater Treatment Operations at Hudson County Vocational School. Fran holds his S-4 license in Wastewater Treatment Operations.

Fran is working closely with Alex Durand to ensure a seamless transition upon Alex's retirement. Best of luck to Fran in his new position.



Joint Meeting welcomes two new employees, **Anthony Terrezza** (on the left) and **Francis Bonaccorso** (on the right).

## Perfect Attendance

During calendar year 2010, six employees had a perfect attendance record. The employees and their departments are:

**Carlos Cabral**, Sludge Handling, Team 4  
**Paul Cuttino**, Operations  
**Craig Halloran**, Operations Supervisor, Team 3  
**Marcelo Kofman**, Collection System  
**Jim Paluch**, Assistant Superintendent for Collection System  
**Stan Wojcik**, Sludge Handling, Team 5

Sixteen employees achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2011. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

**Curtis Brown**, Sludge Handling, Team 1  
**Carlos Cabral**, Sludge Handling, Team 4  
**Carmine Christiano**, Sludge Handling, Team 3  
**Antonio Diaz**, Site Services  
**Nelson Fairchild**, Mechanical Maintenance  
**George Garcia**, Dewatering, Team 1  
**James Gibson**, Site Services  
**Harby Guerrero**, Sludge Handling, Team 4  
**Ron Helco**, Mechanical Services  
**Jack Howard**, Sludge Handling, Team 4  
**Carlos Jimenez**, Secondary Team 3  
**John Petito**, Dewatering, Team 5  
**Jaime Rivera**, Site Services  
**Manny Roman**, Dewatering, Team 3  
**Ralph Scott**, Mechanical Services  
**Stan Wojcik**, Sludge Handling, Team 5

Eight employees achieved a perfect attendance record for the 4th quarter of 2010. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

**Carlos Cabral**, Sludge Handling, Team 4  
**Nelson Fairchild**, Mechanical Maintenance  
**James Gibson**, Site Services  
**Harby Guerrero**, Secondary, Team 1  
**Tony Rivers**, Site Services  
**Ziggy Szczesny**, Electrical  
**Pete Vlasakakis**, Site Services  
**Stan Wojcik**, Sludge Handling, Team 5



# New Appointments to the Joint Meeting Board

The Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties Board of Directors announced the new leadership appointments as well as appointments to Committees for the 2011 calendar year. **Ms. Kathleen Leventhal** of Maplewood, **Edward A. Brewer, Jr.** of Hillside, and **Ronald Rice** of Newark continue as Chairperson, Vice Chair/Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively.

**Theodore Green** has been appointed by the City of East Orange to fill the position of outgoing board member Ms. Alicia Holman. Mr. Green will serve on the Operations Committee.

Roselle Park has appointed its Mayor, **Joseph Accardi**, to the Joint Meeting Board. He replaces Modesto Miranda who previously served on the Board. Mr. Miranda is now an Alternate Member of the Board. Mayor Accardi will serve on the Public Relations Committee.

We welcome Mr. Green and Mayor Accardi to the Board and thank Ms. Holman and Mr. Modesto for their service.

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## Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

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& 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*  
Anthony Terrezza

*Director of Human Resources*  
Robert Barry

*Industrial Pretreatment Manager*  
Michael Phillips

*Sr. Project Manager*  
Stephen Dowhan

*Purchasing Officer*  
Robert Sforza

*Asst. Board Secr./ Financial Asst.*  
Patricia Ruffolo

*Asst. Superintendent  
Operations/Maint.*  
Alex Durand

*Asst. Superintendent  
Collection System*  
Jim Paluch

*Operations Manager*  
Ramon Vara

*Safety Officer*  
Richard Stafford

## Board Committees 2011

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2011 are:

### Operations Committee

*Chair:* Patricia Spango  
Ronald C. Rice  
Howard Levison  
Theodore R. Green

### Public Relations Committee

*Chair:* Howard Levison  
Joseph Accardi  
Patricia Spango  
Joseph M. Florio

### Finance and Budget Committee

*Chair:* Edward A. Brewer, Jr.  
Thomas C. McDermott  
Lebby C. Jones  
Joseph M. Florio

### Personnel and Procurement Committee

*Chair:* Ronald C. Rice  
Edward A. Brewer, Jr.  
Richard Madden  
Lebby Jones