JOINTMEETING NEWS

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The main entrance to Joint Meeting during Hurricane Sandy, shown above, is impassable. The flooded entrance prevented staff from entering or leaving.

Joint Meeting was Tested by Sandy, and Won!

On the evening of October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy made landfall affecting the area where the Joint Meeting wastewater treatment facility is located. Despite adverse weather conditions, the unprecedented storm surge and the simultaneous occurrence of the astronomical high tide, the Joint Meeting facility treated all of the raw sewage that entered the facility during the storm period. See page 4 for more on Sandy.

Upcoming Events

May 13-17, 2013. 98th Annual New Jersey Water Environment Association Annual Conference, Bally's, Atlantic City, NJ.

July 14-17, 2013. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 43nd Annual Summer Conference, Cincinnati, OH. Topic is Transformational Leadership — Changing the Game for the Next 40 Years of Clean Water.

October 5-9, 2013. Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 86th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

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

2013 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Ronald C. Rice
Chairperson, Newark
Theodore R. Green
Vice Chair/Secretary, East Orange
Howard Levison
Treasurer, South Orange

Members
Angela R. Garretson, *Hillside*
Lebby C. Jones, *Irvington*
Kathleen M. Leventhal, *Maplewood*
Thomas C. McDermott, *Millburn*
Andrew Casais, *Roselle Park*
Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*
James M. Florio, *Union*
Victor Cirilo, *West Orange*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

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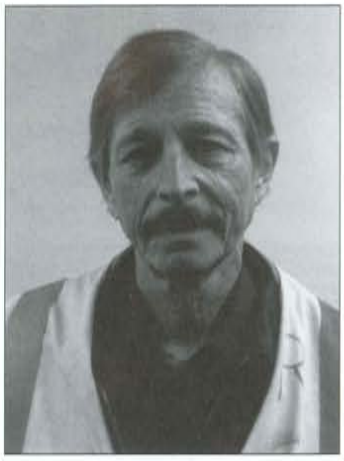
Employee News



Joint Meeting remembers **Ralph Concepcion**. The staff and management of Joint Meeting were saddened to learn that our friend and colleague Ralph Concepcion passed away suddenly in December 2012 after a brief illness. Ralph began at Joint Meeting in 1985 and contributed greatly to the Site Services Department. He knew early on that one of the greatest contributions you can make to an organization is to be there when they need you. Ralph was acknowledged for Perfect Attendance four consecutive years and then again for seven consecutive years. Ralph served as a quiet, steady and consistent force within the Site Services Department. He was dedicated to his colleagues at work, but most importantly, he was dedicated to his family, especially his children and grandchildren. We will all miss Ralph and extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends.



Miriam Ledee from our Administration Department had the distinct pleasure of joining her son and daughters in attending the annual United States Marine Corps Ball, commemorating the 237th Birthday of the Marine Corps in November 2012. Pictured (left to right) are Miriam, her son Master Sgt. Ben Alicea, and her daughters Sandy Padua and Waleska Diaz.

Jim Freedley was out for a bit due to health reasons, but we are very glad he has returned. He was greatly missed.

Morgan Frierson is presently out attending to some health issues. We wish Morgan a speedy recovery and look forward to him rejoining us.

Shift Supervisor **Chris Pabst** has been promoted to the position of Training Coordinator, succeeding Peter Kaciupski upon his retirement.

Recent Retirements



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** (right) wishes **Carlos Jimenez** all the best in his retirement and presents him with a safety helmet signed by the staff. Carlos has celebrated the last 34 years as one of Joint Meeting's most dedicated and loyal employees. He has been instrumental in working with new employees by helping them understand processes and making sure they do not develop bad habits early in their careers. Carlos decided to enjoy his family and retire from Joint Meeting effective March 1, 2013. We wish him a happy retirement and thank him for his dedicated service.



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** (right) congratulates **Peter Kaciupski** on his retirement with a token of appreciation, a safety helmet signed by the staff. Peter "Skip" Kaciupski began his career in November of 1979 as a Wastewater Operator. As a result of his high level performance, he was promoted to Shift Supervisor in 1988. In August 2010, Pete was promoted to the position of Training Coordinator. Although he performed well at every position, the Training Coordinator position was where he excelled. His personality, along with his operational experience and knowledge, allowed him to serve as a role model for new operators. Skip has been cited by his

supervisors as a "go-to guy." He has had many highlights in his career, specifically on Christmas Day 2004 when Joint Meeting lost power to the entire facility. In his role as the Shift Supervisor on duty, he maintained control of the situation and directed all personnel to perform appropriate tasks.

Skip will be moving on to pursue his other passion, sports. He has been an unapologetic, loyal and avid fan of the Jets, Rangers and Mets. We thank Skip for his service and wish him an enjoyable, well-deserved retirement.



Arthur Gilmore retires after a decade of exemplary service. Arthur began his career at Joint Meeting in September 2003 as a Site Services Worker. Soon after, he began seeking greater challenges and became a Wastewater Operator. During his career with Joint Meeting, Arthur has been cited for his extraordinary performance during critical situations. His actions during the storm of October 2005 and Hurricane Irene in August 2011 served as a model for other employees. We thank Arthur for his service to Joint Meeting.

James Paluch Receives Award

The New Jersey Water Environment Association has selected **Jim Paluch**, Assistant Superintendent-Collection, as the recipient of the Joseph Bonaccorso Operator Educator Award. The award was established to recognize individuals for outstanding training provided to members of the Association in the Wastewater Treatment Field. The award will be presented during the Presidents' Luncheon at the annual conference in Atlantic City on Thursday May 16, 2013.

Our congratulations to Jim on this well-deserved award!

Perfect Attendance

During calendar year 2012, three employees had a perfect attendance record. Their records included no sick or absent days due to illness or injury and no occasions of lateness. The employees and their departments are:

Craig Halloran, Operations
Adewale Akinokun, Pre-Treatment
Francis Bonaccorso, Operations

Craig Halloran has reached this goal for seven consecutive years. It is with a combination of a good work ethic, dedication to his job, good health and good luck that Craig has been able to maintain his record all of these years.

The management of Joint Meeting wants to express its thanks for the accomplishment put forth by these three employees. They will receive special recognition as well as an opportunity to select a gift from our catalog as a token of our appreciation for their fine efforts. In addition, each of the above individuals with three or more consecutive years of perfect attendance will receive an additional personal day for 2013. It is our hope that other employees will strive to follow these examples.

Twelve employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 4th Quarter of 2012. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Matthew Bodzioch, Operations
Carlos Cabral, Sludge Handling, Team 4
Harby Guerrero, Sludge Handling, Team 4
Miguel Mejia, Dewatering, Team 2
Roscoe Scott, Sludge Handling, Team 2
Rodney Holman, Dewatering
Antonio Diaz, Mechanical Maintenance
Djavana Menter, Laboratory
Adris Hariprasad, Boiler Operations
Tony Rivers, Site Services
Pete Vlasakakis, Site Services
Louis Lawson, Security

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

Sandy *(continued from page 1)*

Not a single treatment tank overflowed even though waters from the Elizabeth River and the Arthur Kill began flowing into some of the tanks. Although there was an outage of PSEG power for several days, the treatment facility continued to operate on electrical power produced by the onsite Cogeneration Facility. The facility never shut down except for a very brief period of time that it took to start up the onsite generators. Some flooding of buildings occurred at the height of the storm. Damage assessments were initiated the next day following the storm. Repairs were also immediately started once the damages were identified. The Joint Meeting staff has been extremely diligent in repairing those portions of the plant that were adversely affected by Sandy.

Prior to the storm, the staff prepared the facility by relocating equipment to high ground, staging and testing emergency equipment, reviewing emergency and storm operational protocols and refreshing staff members on appropriate procedures. In most settings, there are instances where individuals are asked or even required to stay late or work overtime. The staff of the Joint Meeting is a unique one. Situations such as Superstorm Sandy resulted in the staff volunteering to stay late and/or stay overnight on site. The staff knew the needs of the facility and cared so much about the success of the Joint Meeting that members of the staff volunteered to stay overnight knowing that there may be a problem traveling to the facility if they were needed to return on an emergency basis. Those members of the staff of the Joint Meeting who stayed were physically not able to leave the facility due to floodwater depths in excess of five feet surrounding all points of egress and they knew that their families were home while they were tending to the needs of "THEIR" Joint Meeting.

During the storm, staff tended to the needs of the operation of the facility in spite of buildings flooding, power failures and hazardous conditions. Everyone watched out for everyone else and Supervisors led, as well as worked side-by-side with operators and laborers. When someone noticed that someone else had not slept for many hours, that person was encouraged to rest and get warm and dry. All personnel were kept safe by remembering their training and remembering that their safety and the safety of their coworkers were in each others' hands. When the storm came through so did the flows from the towns and cities served by the Joint Meeting. These flows were kept contained and were allowed to proceed through an unabridged treatment process.

The Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties can state without question that the monthly permit was met in October and November 2012 and on every individual day of those months including the day "Sandy visited." This led the Joint Meeting to adopt our credo, "When Sandy came, we didn't spill a drop."

Once again, our employees have stepped up to the plate and exceeded expectations. Our appreciation goes out to the employees for demonstrating their loyalty and dedication to the Joint Meeting and to the constituents to whom we provide service. — *Francis Bonaccorso and Stephen Dowhan contributed this article.*

Scores of Joint Meeting employees who demonstrated efforts above and beyond the call of duty during Hurricane Sandy were recognized by Executive Director Samuel McGhee and Superintendent Steve Dowhan. Many are shown in photos here.



Cited for extraordinary efforts by Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** and Superintendent **Steve Dowhan** (not pictured) are (left to right) **Joseph Branche**, Site Services Worker; **Kaz Kowalski**, Site Services Worker; **Thomas Shanks**, Maintenance Mechanic; **Mike Maffia**, Site Services Supervisor; **Jan Dmytrach**, Maintenance Mechanic; **Jaime Rivera**, Maintenance Mechanic; **Eugene Rivera**, Maintenance Mechanic; **Shawn Kaciupski**, Wastewater Operator; **Harby Guerrero**, Wastewater Operator; **Edmund Patterson**, Electrical Supervisor; **Samuel McGhee**; **Oscar Javier**, Electrician; **Carmine Cristiano**, Wastewater Operator; **Carlos Cabral**, Wastewater Operator; **Matthew Bodzioch**, Wastewater Operator; **Jack Howard**, Wastewater Operator; and **Krzysztof Kielian**, Wastewater Operator (not pictured).

Other employees congratulated for their extraordinary work during the Sandy storm are Wastewater Operator **William Anderson**, Boiler Supervisor **Ron Helco**, Assistant Maintenance Manager **Joel Altman**, and Shift Supervisor **Chris Pabst**.



Samuel McGhee (left) with Ron Helco.



William Anderson (left) with Samuel McGhee.



Left to right, Chris Pabst, Samuel McGhee and Joel Altman.



Also recognized by Samuel McGhee (far right, back row) were, front row left to right, Adris Hariprasad, Boiler Operator; Carlos Jimenez, Wastewater Operator; and Melanie Follmer, Lab Technician. Back row left to right, are Francis Bonaccorso, Assistant Superintendent; Edmund Patterson, Electrical Supervisor; John Petito, Wastewater Operator; Roger Marques, Operations Manager; Glen Riscen, Shift Supervisor; Ed Kobovitch, Lab Technician; Antoni Wyczesany, Instrumentation Foreman; Dave Shapiro, Lab Technician; and Jessie Ordner, Wastewater Operator.

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

30 YEARS

James Freedley, Wastewater Operator

20 YEARS

Adewale Akinokun, Asst. Manager-Pretreatment Department
Roger Marques, Operations Manager II

10 YEARS

Phyllis Dues, Pretreatment Department

Project Coordinator John McNamara is currently holding the record for years of service to Joint Meeting. He has 35 years. Right behind him is Wastewater Operator Ralph Madera with 34½ years.

WAVE Award Goes to Joint Meeting

The Association of Environmental Authorities has chosen to honor Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties with a Member Organization Wave Achievement Award. This award is given in recognition of excellence in the public water/wastewater/solid waste/recycling sector in New Jersey. The award is due to the outstanding work of Joint Meeting employees prior to, during and after Hurricane Sandy, which was documented for the AEA by Assistant Superintendent Francis Bonaccorso.

The award was presented to Superintendent Steve Dowhan and Assistant Superintendent Francis Bonaccorso at the AEA Spring Conference on March 13, 2013. Congratulations to all of the Joint Meeting's employees who strive for excellence every day and make recognition by an award such as this possible.

Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Member

Andrew Casais has been appointed by the Borough of Roselle Park to fill the position of outgoing board member Tanya Torres. Mr. Casais presently serves as the First Ward Councilman for Roselle Park. He also serves as a member of the Borough's Finance and Public Services committees as well as the Council Liaison to the municipal technology committee, local access television committee, and historical society. Joint Meeting is pleased to welcome Mr. Casais to the Board of Directors. We thank Ms. Torres for her service to the Board.

Pensions and Benefits

If you have not done so, all employees should 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:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml

Registration requires several steps. New users should read and carefully follow the MBOS *Registration Instructions*. You may call the MBOS Help Desk at 609-777-0534.

Important telephone numbers:

Teamster Local 575 Welfare Fund, 201-592-6800

Pensions and Benefits, 609-292-7524

www.jmeuc.com

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
Samuel T. McGhee

Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Position Vacant

Superintendent
Stephen Dowhan

Director of Admin. and Finance
Anthony Terrezza

Director of Human Resources
Robert Barry

Industrial Pretreatment Manager
Michael Phillips

Project Manager
John McNamara

Purchasing Officer
Robert Sforza

Asst. Board Secr./ Financial Asst.
Position Vacant

Asst. Superintendent Operations/Maint.
Francis Bonaccorso

Asst. Superintendent Collection System
Jim Paluch

Operations Manager
Steven Feller

Safety Officer
Richard Stafford

Board Committees 2013

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2013 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Dave A. Bomgaars
Victor Cirilo
Howard Levison
Kathleen M. Leventhal

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Joseph M. Florio
Angela R. Garretson
Dave Bomgaars
Howard Levison

Finance and Budget Committee

Chair: Howard Levison
Thomas C. McDermott
Lebby C. Jones
Joseph M. Florio

Personnel and Procurement Committee

Chair: Kathleen M. Leventhal
Angela R. Garretson
Dave A. Bomgaars
Lebby C. Jones