JOINTMEETING NEWS

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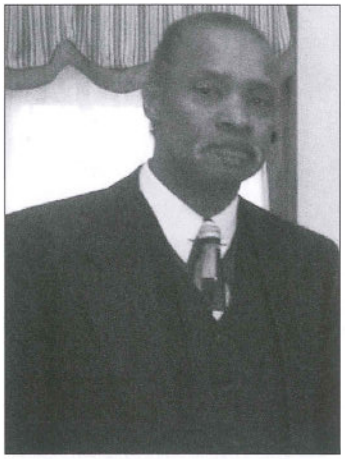


Loss of a Friend

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our friend and colleague **Daniel Comerie**. Dan worked as a Maintenance Mechanic assigned to the plant Dewatering facility. Dan began his career at Joint Meeting as a Wastewater Operator where he learned the various aspects of the plant. Prior to Joint Meeting, he was employed by Exxon Chemical and NJ Natural Gas.

After five years as an Operator, Dan was interested in seeking new work challenges. He then took the knowledge he had attained and transferred to the position of Maintenance Mechanic. Being an Operator initially allowed Dan to be very effective as a Mechanic. In 2011, Dan was appointed Lead Mechanic. He was primarily assigned to the Dewatering facility, across the street from the main plant. Dan, along with his partner Ralph Scott, worked tirelessly to maintain the facility in peak operating condition.

In addition to Dan's duties as a Mechanic, he also served as the on-site union representative for Teamsters, Merchandise Drivers Local 641. Dan worked effectively with management, as well as with the union members to ensure the plant operated efficiently and effectively.

Upcoming Events

May 16-20, 2016. 101st Annual New Jersey Water Environment Association Annual Conference, Bally's, Atlantic City, NJ.

July 10-13, 2016. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 46th Annual Summer Conference, Denver, CO.

September 24-28, 2016. Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 89th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

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

2016 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Howard Levison
Chairperson, South Orange
Carl Hokanson
Vice Chair/Secretary, Roselle Park
Richard Sun
Treasurer, Summit

Members
Quilla E. Talmadge, *East Orange*
Sip T. Whitaker, *Hillside*
Renee C. Burgess, *Irvington*
Victor DeLuca, *Maplewood*
Robert J.Tillotson, *Millburn*
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, *Newark*
Joseph Florio, *Union*
Victor Cirilo, *West Orange*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

www.jmeuc.com

Employee News

New Arrivals

Superintendent **Stephen Dowhan** welcomed his third grandchild, Lily Ann, into the world on March 9, 2016. Mom, Steve's daughter Rachel, and Lily Ann are doing well.

Friends Move On

Once again, we are wishing several of our dear friends and colleagues best wishes as they leave Joint Meeting to begin retirement. Those leaving are **Morgan Frierson** (Operations), **James Gibson** (Maintenance), **Carlos Cabral** (Operations), **Ralph Madera** (Operations), **Craig Halloran** (Operations) and **Mike Richardson** (Projects).

Carlos Cabral, Operations, began his 35-year career in the Operations Department. During his time at Joint Meeting, Carlos served as a role model by setting the example for other employees with Perfect Attendance recognition and his dedication during emergencies such as the 2005 Storm Event, the 2010 Snow Emergency and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Morgan Frierson, Operations, dedicated 25 years of his life to Joint Meeting. During that time, Morgan served as one of the more knowledgeable Operators in the facility, an inspiration to many employees, and a mentor to new employees coming on board. During his career, he was cited on numerous occasions for his Perfect Attendance, as well as for his dedication during emergency situations such as Hurricane Irene in 2011.

James Gibson, Maintenance, started his career at Joint Meeting as a Wastewater Operator. James worked as an Operator for 11 years before transitioning to the Site Services Department. In his 25 years at Joint Meeting, he served as a great example of dedication by being acknowledged on several occasions for Perfect Attendance and going above and beyond the call of duty, specifically in the Storm Event of 2005.

Craig Halloran, Operations, began his 29-year career at Joint Meeting as a Wastewater Operator. After learning many aspects of the facility, Craig was promoted to Operations Shift Supervisor. During his tenure, he worked very closely with his staff to ensure that they were knowledgeable in their duties and that they performed them at a level of excellence. Craig set an example for employees by maintaining Perfect Attendance on several occasions and by making himself available during emergencies such as the 2005 Storm Event, the 2010 Snow Emergency and Hurricane Irene in 2011.

Ralph Madera, Operations, served as one of our most knowledgeable and dedicated employees. In his distinguished 37-year career with Joint Meeting, Ralph demonstrated his dedication through his training of new staff, commitment to maintaining a great attendance record, and dedication in special event circumstances including the Storm Event in 2005.

Mike Richardson, Projects, has served in several important roles in his 34 years with Joint Meeting. Mike began his career, like many others, as an Operator and learned all of the aspects necessary to be an effective employee. He was later promoted to Supervisor and then promoted to Operations Manager II. After working in Operations, Mike took his knowledge and experience and transitioned into the Projects Department, where he completed his career. He served as an important resource in emergencies such as during Hurricane Irene in 2011.



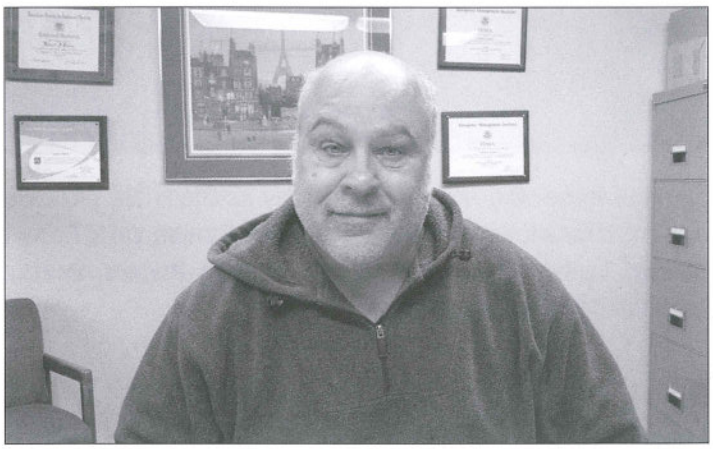
Pictured left to right are **Carlos Cabral**, Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, and **James Gibson**.



Pictured left to right are **Craig Halloran**, **Samuel McGhee**, and **Mike Richardson**.



Morgan Frierson, on the right, is congratulated by Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**.



New retiree, **Ralph Madera**.



Annual CPR/First Aid Safety Manager **Rick Stafford** spearheaded the annual CPR & First Aid training for staff members. Pictured is **Adris Hariprasad** (Electrical) being "treated" by his colleague **Jane Martynova** (Laboratory).

Our Staff Have Skills

Employees of Joint Meeting were treated to a night of bowling and food, courtesy of Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**. The event took place in March at Jersey Lanes in Linden, NJ. Thirty-five of the best and brightest turned out to demonstrate their skills and have some fun outside of work. Employees from Operations, Maintenance, Laboratory, Collections and Administration were well represented.

There were many highlights from the evening. **Lenny Bucher** led the group by coming in with the highest score of 212. Lenny proved that he has skills bowling not only right-handed, but also left-handed.

More highlights include: **Reneece Porter**, Operations, with a score of 195; **Bob Surman**, Collections, 178; **Glenn Schoenig**, Maintenance, 173; **Shawn Kaciupski**, Operations, 161; **Joel Altman**, Maintenance, 155; **Rick Stafford**, Administration, 154; **Chris Pabst**, Administration, 152; and **Derrick Williams**, Maintenance, 147.



Pictured in the front row is **Marcelo Kofman**; in the center row left to right are **Humbertt Mortola**, **Beatriz Rubio**, **Ray Jimenez** and **Malika Johnson**; in the rear row are **Sorin Astalus**, **Mike Foster**, **Willie Negron** and **Eugene Rivera**.

Perfect Attendance

During calendar year 2015, three employees had a perfect attendance record. The records included no sick or absent days due to illness or injury and no occasions of lateness. The employees are:

Francis Bonaccorso, Asst. Superintendent Operations & Maintenance
Marcelo Kofman, Collections Systems
Pete Vlasakakis, Site Services

Eighteen employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 4th Quarter of 2015. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Curtis Brown, Operations
Julio Cabrera, Laboratory
Jim Freedley, Operations
Adris Hariprasad, Electrical
Aron Harris, Electrical
Donald Heminghaus, Sewer Maintenance
Rudy Johnson, Security
Kaz Kowalski, Site Services
Louis Lawson, Security
Jane Martynova, Laboratory
Darius Mayes, Operations
William Moore, Operations
Tony Rivers, Site Services
Ralph Scott, Maintenance
Roscoe Scott, Operations
Robert Surman, Collections
Pete Vlasakakis, Site Services
Millicent Walker, Laboratory

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

Holiday Luncheon

Joint Meeting employees were able to enjoy a holiday luncheon together thanks to Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**. Mr. McGhee has sponsored the luncheons for the past few years in an effort to let employees enjoy the holidays with their "work" families. Joining us this year were some of our favorite retirees.



Some of those who enjoyed the holiday luncheon are pictured, clockwise from lower left: **Steve Pascucci**, **Ramon Vara**, **Robert Sforza**, **Theresa Teti**, **Joel Altman**, **Nathan Rogers**, **Beatriz Rubio** and **Malika Johnson**.



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, fifth from the left, joins Joint Meeting retirees, left to right, **Adolph Kofman**, **Vinny Corsentino**, **Ramon Vara**, **Phyllis Dues**, **Bob Sforza**, **Glenn Connolly** and **Rich Cirlincione**.



Students Tour Joint Meeting

Joint Meeting once again opened its doors to the youth of America by providing a tour of the facility for the students of Pequannock Township High School. The students were led by Krista Lau-Munoz, a teacher of Environmental Sciences at the school. The staff providing the tour included Operations Supervisor **Miguel Foster**, third row center with white shirt; Operations Manager **Roger Marques**, rear row far right; and Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso**, third row far right.

Payroll Self Service

To access Empower, do the following (Internet Explorer v 6 or above is required):

1. Type **https://personal.ecipay.com/Prod/Login/** in your browser and press Enter.

2. Enter your 6 digit Employee # (located on your pay stub) including the zeros and Password in the corresponding fields. Example if your number is 71, enter 000071; 352 is 000352 and so forth.

3. The first time into the system, your Password is the last six digits of your social security number. You will be asked to change your password.

4. Click the Show Client Code link (this will only be necessary the first time logging in from a particular computer or if your cookies have been deleted).

5. Enter the client code JMEUC.

6. Click Login to access the Home Page.

7. Upon login, the menu on the left side will give you access to different features.

If any employee has difficulty, please call **Bob Barry** at ext 1253 or email at rbarry@jmeuc.com.

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

30 YEARS

Donald Jantas, Pretreatment
Michael Phillips, Pretreatment

20 YEARS

Michael Foster, Administration

15 YEARS

Ron Helco, Boiler

10 YEARS

Curtis Brown, Operations
Jaime Rivera, Maintenance
Millicent Walker, Laboratory

5 YEARS

Francis Bonaccorso, Operations
Louis Lawson, Security

Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

The Joint Meeting Board of Directors announced that four new members have joined the Board.

Richard Sun has been appointed by the City of Summit to the Board of Directors. He replaces **Mike McTernan**.

Joint Meeting welcomes **Quilla Talmadge** to the Board of Directors. Ms. Talmadge replaces **Lonnie Hughes** for the City of East Orange.

Mayor **Victor DeLuca**, representing the Township of Maplewood, has joined the Board of Directors. He replaces **Kathleen Leventhal**.

Joint Meeting welcomes **Sip Whitaker** from the Township of Hillside to the Board of Directors. Mr. Whitaker replaces **Salonia Saxton**.

We thank the former members of the Board of Directors for their service to Joint Meeting and welcome the new Board members.

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 609-292-7524.

Important Telephone Numbers:
Teamster Local 575 Welfare Fund, 201-592-6800
Pensions and Benefits, 609-292-7524

If further assistance is required, please contact **Bob Barry** in Human Resources.

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

Sr. Project Manager
John McNamara

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
Roger Marques

Maintenance Manager
Roman Wisniewski

Safety Officer
Richard Stafford

Board Committees 2016

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2016 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Sip T. Whitaker
Renee C. Burgess
Victor Cirilo
Richard Sun

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Renee C. Burgess
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins
Carl Hokanson
Robert J. Tillotson

Finance and Budget Committee

Chair: Joseph M. Florio
Victor Cirilo
Carl Hokanson
Quilla E. Talmadge

Personnel and Procurement Committee

Chair: Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins
Renee C. Burgess
Victor DeLuca
Joseph M. Florio