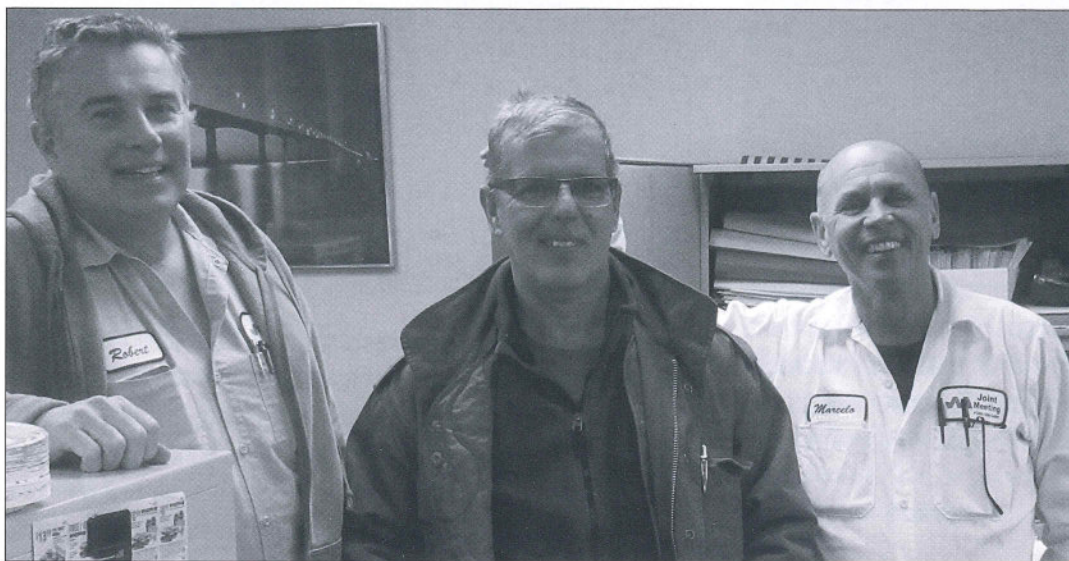


# JOINT MEETING NEWS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Employee News	2
McGhee earns award	4
Employees' service milestones	5
Perfect attendance winners	5
New appointments to Board	6

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1  
SPRING 2019



## Retirements

Five of our colleagues **Robert Surman**, **Marcelo Kofman**, **Roger Marques**, **Jim Freedley**, and **Jairo Nunez** have recently retired. We send them good wishes as they begin their retirement.

Robert (Bob) came to Joint Meeting in July 1981 as a Wastewater Operator and spent many years learning the various aspects of the operations. In 1996, Bob moved from Operations to Maintenance as a Mechanic. He was extremely valuable in the Maintenance Department due to his prior experience in Operations. In 2010, Bob moved into the Collections Department. He held S2 and C2 licenses. Bob also attained annual Perfect Attendance for three years and numerous quarters of Perfect Attendance.

Pictured above left to right are **Robert Surman**, **Roger Marques**, and **Marcelo Kofman**. Please see page 3 for continuation of Retirements.

## Upcoming Events

**May 6-10, 2019.** 104th Annual New Jersey Water Environment Association Annual Conference at Bally's, Atlantic City, NJ.

**July 16-19, 2019.** National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 49th Annual Summer Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

**September 21-25, 2019.** Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 92nd 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

## 2019 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

### Officers

Mayor Victor DeLuca  
*Chairperson, Maplewood*  
Joseph Florio  
*Vice Chair/Secretary, Union*  
Jacquelyn Johnson  
*Treasurer, East Orange*

### Members

Donald DeAugustine, *Hillside*  
Renee C. Burgess, *Irvington*  
Mayor Diane Thall-Egloff, *Millburn*  
Anibal Ramos Jr., *Newark*  
Joseph Petrosky, *Roselle Park*  
Howard Levison, *South Orange*  
Stephen Bowman, *Summit*  
Gerard Guarino, *West Orange*

### Executive Director

Samuel T. McGhee

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# Employee News



Pictured are some of the current Collections group along with some of the retirees. From left to right are **Steve Dowhan**, Superintendent; **Joseph Bonaccorso**, past Superintendent; **Samuel McGhee**, Executive Director; **Marcelo Kofman**, Collections Supervisor (retiree); **Robert Surman**, Collections Operator (retiree); and **James Paluch**, Assistant Superintendent Collections System.

## Promotions

**Glen Riscen** has been promoted to the position of Operations Manager I, replacing **Roger Marques** who is retiring. Throughout his 23-year career at Joint Meeting, Glen brings to his new position several years of experience in leadership positions in the Operations Department, as well as several years of experience in the Mechanical Maintenance department. He has also been successful in obtaining and maintaining his S-3 and his C-2 licenses.

**Chris Pabst** has been promoted to the position of Project Manager, replacing Jason Kohlhepp. Chris began his career with Joint Meeting in 2009 after serving honorably in the United States Marine Corps. He has held the positions of Wastewater Operator and Mechanic. Chris was promoted to Operations Shift Supervisor, and in 2013, he assumed the position of Training Coordinator. In March 2016, he was then promoted to Assistant Project Manager. Chris has also been successful in achieving his S-3 license.

We wish Glen and Chris success in their new roles.

## New Employees

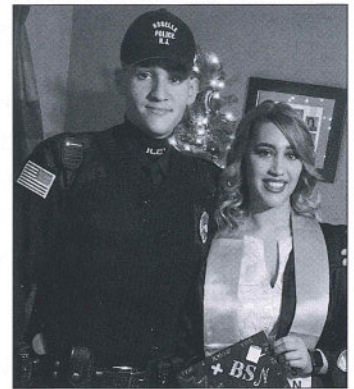
We are pleased to welcome **Nitin Sharma** as our new Lab Technician. Prior to coming to Joint Meeting, Nitin was employed by International Flavor & Fragrances as an Analytical Chemist. He graduated from NJIT in Newark, NJ with a B.S. degree in Environmental Science. Nitin and his family reside in Sayreville, NJ.

We welcome **Agnieszka "Agnes" Klimczak** to the Joint Meeting family in the role of Lab Assistant. Agnes was previously employed as a Laboratory Technician at both Camin Cargo Control and Inspectorate America Corporation. She received her Master of Science degree from Rutgers University. Prior to Rutgers, Agnes received her Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering from Rzeszow University in Poland. She and her family reside in Colonia, NJ.

**Jason Rucki** is our newest addition to the Operations Management Team. Jason has assumed the position of Operations Supervisor. Prior to coming to Joint Meeting, he was employed for 11 years by the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority as a plant operator. Jason possesses his S-3 and C-1 licenses. He attended Ramapo College and resides in Ringwood, NJ with his family.

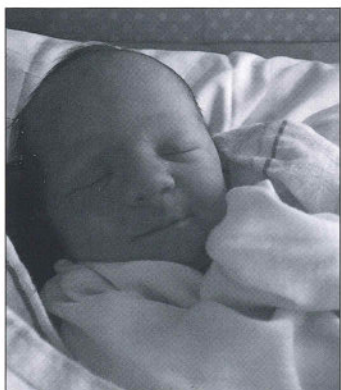
## Family Achievements

Proud father **Antonio Diaz** and proud Grandmother **Miriam Ledee** congratulate brother and sister Justin Diaz and Cameron Diaz. Justin was appointed to the Roselle, NJ Police Department. Upon graduating from the six-month Union County Police Academy, Justin began his assignment on January 1, 2019. Cameron Diaz graduated in December 2018 from Chamberlin College of Nursing with her B.S.N. degree. Congratulations to both on their accomplishments.





## New Family Members



Above left: **Eric Dowhan** and his wife Ashley celebrated the arrival of Caleb Joseph Victor Dowhan. Caleb weighed in at 6 lbs., 5 oz. Congratulations to Eric and Ashley and Grandpa, Superintendent **Steve Dowhan**.



Above right: **Djavana Menter** and her husband Leonard welcomed Briana Nevaeh to the family. Briana was 6 lbs., 11 oz., at birth and was 19 inches long. Congratulations to the proud parents.

## Wedding Announcements



Above left: **David Dipner**, Lab Technician, and his fiancée, Patricia Rosato, tied the knot on March 23, 2019 after four years together. David and Patricia will be residing in Tinton Falls, NJ.



Above right: After nearly eight years together, **Joe Wiewiorski**, Operations Shift Supervisor, married Melanie Jefferson on February 17, 2019. They are currently living in Edison, NJ.

Congratulations to all the newlyweds.

## Retirements *(continued from page 1)*

Marcelo joined us in September 1979 as a Sludge Handling Operator. In 1982, he moved into the Boiler Department as a Boiler Operator. In 1989, Marcelo became a Sewer Maintenance

Inspector, and after 16 years, he became a Collections System Operator. Marcelo did so well in this position to warrant him being promoted to Collections System Supervisor. Marcelo held S1 and C2 licenses.

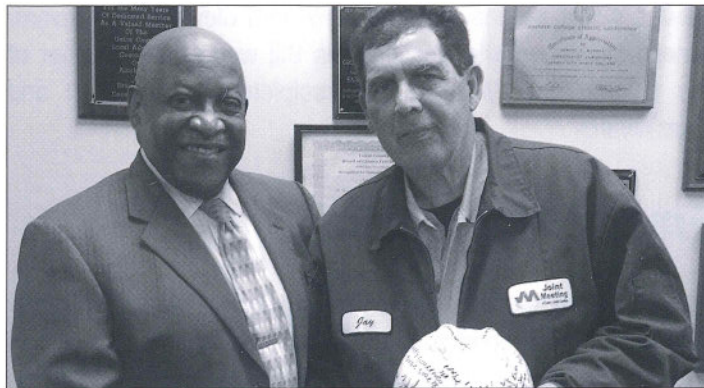
Roger was hired in March 1993 as a Secondary Operator. He was promoted to Operations Supervisor in July 2001. Roger was then promoted to Operations Manager II in July 2012 and to Operations Manager I in January 2014. During his career at Joint Meeting, he was cited for his dedication and leadership during the Christmas 2004 power failure, the Storm Event in October 2005, Hurricane Irene in August 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Roger held C-2 and S-3 licenses. Upon leaving Joint Meeting, Roger will enjoy his retirement in South Carolina with his family.

Jim started out his career at Joint Meeting in May 1983. He found his calling as a Wastewater Operator in Sludge Handling. Jim has been invaluable in working with new employees and mentoring them through the complicated processes of the facility. He has been cited on numerous occasions for his perfect attendance.



**Jim Freedley**

Jairo (Jay) began with Joint Meeting in March 2009. Based upon his prior operations experience, he was assigned to the Dewatering Facility. Prior to Joint Meeting, Hatco/Chemtura Corporation employed Jay as a Chemical Operator for 24 years. During his tenure with Joint Meeting, he was cited on numerous occasions for his perfect attendance and specifically for his efforts during Hurricane Irene in August 2011.



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, on the left, congratulates **Jairo Nunez**.



## Well Deserved Award

Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** was the recipient of the T. William Cleveland, Jr. Award. He received the award on March 2, 2019 at the NJWEA North Jersey annual dinner dance. Mr. Cleveland retired in 1978 as the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator for the Township of Livingston after 38 years of service with the municipality. In addition to his professional service, he served 58 years with the Livingston Fire Department. He also served as President of the North Jersey Section of the NJWPCA from 1984 to 1986 and was a member of the NJWEA Conference Committee. Bill was a fixture at the Annual Conference and North Section meetings and would always be found attending to others in the Hospitality Room or at the Annual North Section Picnic.



Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso**, on the left, presents Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** with the T. William Cleveland, Jr. Award.

In 1974, the North Jersey Section created a new award to recognize an individual member's extraordinary service to the Section. T. William Cleveland Jr. was the first recipient of what was to be the most prestigious Section award. Following his receipt of the award, the Executive Committee announced that henceforth the North Jersey Section Award for Extraordinary Service would be known as the T. William Cleveland, Jr. Award. Among his many other recognitions Bill was a Life Member of the NJWEA, S-5 Member, and recipient of the Bedell and Croft Awards.

## Emergency Training

Each Year, Joint Meeting personnel receive training in safely working in confined spaces. The training is critical to ensure staff are aware of the risks involved and understand the necessity of teamwork. In addition to the employee training, Joint Meeting Safety Manager **Rick Stafford** coordinates confined space training and "live" Trench Training exercises for the Elizabeth Fire Department. According to Elizabeth Fire Dept.

Battalion Chief William Vignali, "The department training is mandatory and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find locations to do realistic scenarios. Joint Meeting's willingness to let us train is invaluable for us when it comes to maintaining our skills."



Members of the Elizabeth Fire Department are seen here conducting a training exercise on the proper methods of approaching a trench rescue situation.



Members of the Elizabeth Fire Department are on site to conduct annual manual training exercises. Joint Meeting is one of the few locations where the fire department can conduct its required training.

## Supporting the Next Generation

Joint Meeting Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso** participated in the judging at the Jersey City Medical Center/RWJ Barnabas Health STEM Showcase held at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City. The NJWEA Water Resources Project Award went to Harshal Agrawal, a 12th grader from McNair Academic High School in Jersey City.

The STEM Showcase celebrated its 61st anniversary on March 12th, 2019 at Liberty Science Center. Formerly known as The Hudson County Science Fair, the program brings together more



than 300 students from grades five to 12, representing schools throughout Hudson County. In partnership with organizations such as the NJWEA, the STEM Showcase engages the community in recognition of individual and team research.



Pictured at the STEM Showcase are, from left to right, Harshal Agrawal; **Francis Bonaccorso**, Assistant Superintendent JMEUC; Jennifer Marques, Laboratory Manager PVSC; and Frank Pestana, Executive Director North Bergen MUA.

## Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

### 30 YEARS

**Carmine Cristiano**, Wastewater Operator

### 15 YEARS

**Samuel McGhee**, Executive Director

**Tony Rivers**, Site Services Worker

### 10 YEARS

**Harby Guerrero**, Wastewater Operator

**Malika Johnson**, Administrative Clerk

**George Pelayo**, Wastewater Operator

### 5 YEARS

**Michelle DeFrancis**, Purchasing & Procurement Officer

**Anthony Dinardo**, Site Services Worker

**Derrick Williams**, Site Services Worker

## Perfect Attendance

**D**uring calendar year 2018, two 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/Maint.

**James Paluch**, Asst. Superintendent Collections Department

Nine employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 4th Quarter of 2018. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

**William Cobb**, Boiler

**Marlon Echeverria**, Operations

**Yuval Ghitelman**, Operations

**Charles Guest**, Site Services

**Adris Hariprasad**, Electrical

**Rudolph Johnson**, Security

**Hector Reveron**, Maintenance

**Tony Rivers**, Site Services

**Christopher Stafford**, Collections

Four employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2019. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

**Marlon Echeverria**, Wastewater Operator

**Fredy Gamboa**, Site Services Worker

**Harby Guerrero**, Wastewater Operator

**Jane Martynova**, Lab Technician

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

## Help is Available

Joint Meeting maintains an Employee Assistance Program administered by Barnabas Health.

The program provides assistance to employees and their families. The program is called ONESOURCE and can be reached at 1-800-300-0628. The service is confidential and is available 24 hours, seven days per week, 365 days a year. The clinicians offer referral, counseling and crisis intervention. Employees needing assistance obtaining these services may also contact Human Resources.



# Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

The Joint Meeting Board of Directors announced that three new members have joined the Board and welcome the new board members.

Joint Meeting is pleased to welcome back **Donald DeAugustine** to the Board of Directors. Mr. DeAugustine replaces **Christopher Mobley** for the Township of Hillside.

Mayor **Diane Thall-Eglow** has been reappointed by the Township of Millburn to the Board of Directors. Mayor Thall-Eglow replaces **Samuel Levy**.

**Joseph Petrosky**, representing the Borough of Roselle Park, has joined the Board of Directors. Mr. Petrosky replaces **William Fahoury**.

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

## Employee Bowling Night

Once again, our employees had a chance to show off their bowling skills at Jersey Lanes in Linden, NJ when Joint Meeting held its spring bowling night on April 11, 2019. Many of our staff turned out to demonstrate their skills and have some fun outside of work.

Here are the top scores: **Ron Helco** (158, 171), **Paul Hunt** (186, 205), **Andres Sanchez** (221, 200), **Darius Mayes** (195, 193), **Matt Bodzioch** (171, 165), **Al Cummings** (155, 123), **Arkadiusz Plonski** (143, 109), **Will Anderson** (130, 126), **Bob Barry** (182, 178), **Humbertt Mortola** (157), and **Marlon Echeverria** (125, 119).

Much thanks to Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** for sponsoring the event.

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### 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*  
Stacey Shultz

*Director of Human Resources*  
Robert Barry

*Industrial Pretreatment Manager*  
Michael Phillips

*Project Manager*  
Christopher Pabst

*Purchasing Officer*  
Michelle DeFrancis

*Asst. Board Sec./Financial Asst.*  
Position Vacant

*Asst. Superintendent  
Operations/Maint.*  
Francis Bonaccorso

*Asst. Superintendent  
Collection System*  
Jim Paluch

*Operations Manager*  
Glen Riscen

*Maintenance Manager*  
Roman Wisniewski

*Safety Officer*  
Richard Stafford

*Administrative Office Manager*  
Grace Quintero

*IT Manager*  
Ray Jimenez

### Board Committees 2019

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2019 are:

#### Operations Committee

*Chair:* Gerard Guarino  
Renee C. Burgess  
Donald DeAugustine  
Dianne Thall-Eglow

#### Public Relations Committee

*Chair:* Renee C. Burgess  
Joseph Petrosky  
Anibal Ramos Jr.  
Dianne Thall-Eglow

#### Finance and Budget Committee

*Chair:* Joseph M. Florio  
Stephen Bowman  
Gerard Guarino  
Jacquelyn E. Johnson

#### Personnel and Procurement Committee

*Chair:* Jacquelyn E. Johnson  
Renee C. Burgess  
Joseph M. Florio  
Howard Levison

