

JOINT MEETING NEWS

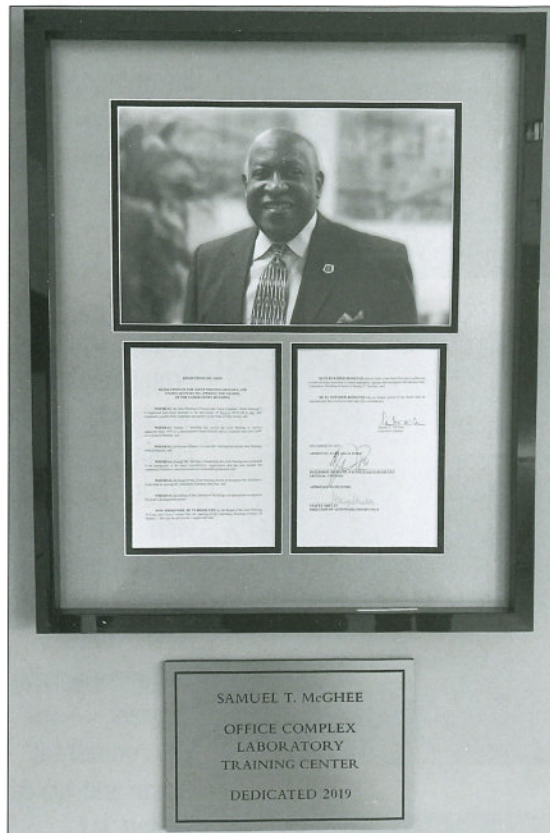
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SPRING 2021

In Honor of a True Leader

Family, friends and colleagues of **Samuel T. McGhee** had the privilege to participate in a virtual memorial service held on Saturday June 12, 2021. The naming of the Samuel T. McGhee, Office Complex, Laboratory and Training Center was officially done by the Board of Directors of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties in December 2019. A memoriam to Mr. McGhee is proudly displayed at the Joint Meeting Facility.



Mr. McGhee served as the Executive Director for 15 years. In his tenure at Joint Meeting, one of his desires was to support initiatives, which permitted employees to pursue educational goals as well as professional certifications. Mr. McGhee oversaw several accomplishments such as the completion of the new Laboratory/Office Complex as well as the new cogeneration facility.

Upcoming Events

July 20-21, 2021. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Utility Leadership Virtual Event.

October 16-20, 2021. Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 94th 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

2021 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers

Donald DeAugustine
Chairperson, Hillside
Renee C. Burgess
Vice Chair/Secretary, Irvington
Mayor Victor De Luca
Treasurer, Maplewood

Members

Alicia Holman, *East Orange*
Richard Wasserman, *Millburn*
Anibal Ramos Jr., *Newark*
Joseph E. Petrosky, *Roselle Park*
William Haskins, *South Orange*
Marjorie Fox, *Summit*
Joseph M. Florio, *Union*
Bill Rutherford, *West Orange*

Executive Director

Hanifa Z. Johnson

Employee News

New Employees

Bart Brophy, Operations Manager, comes to Joint Meeting after serving as the Superintendent at the Landis Sewerage Authority. Prior to Landis, he served in Senior Management positions for over 15 years. Bart possesses the following licenses: S-4, C-3, T-1, N-1-and W-1.



Reginald Helms, Boiler Operator, comes to Joint Meeting after a long career of 14 years with the Newark, NJ Board of Education. Reginald and his family reside in Bloomfield, NJ.



Julia Campbell, Operations Supervisor, most recently served as the Laboratory Manager at Middletown Sewerage Authority. She received her B.S. Degree in Microbiology from Rutgers University and her M.S. Degree in Environmental Science, also from Rutgers. Julia possesses her S-2 license.



Cesar Jurado, Wastewater Projects Engineer, joins the JM family after serving as an Engineering Specialist with STV Inc. and a Project Manager with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. Cesar graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology with a Bachelors' Degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering. Cesar and his family reside in Edison, NJ.



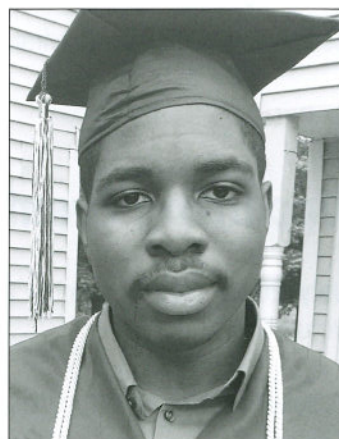
Jose Ortiz, Electrician, joins the Electrical department with several years of experience at AeroFarms where he served as a Mechanical Electrician. He also worked for JVM in Linden as a Mechanical Electrician. Jose attended Hudson Electrical Institute in Jersey City. He resides in Union, NJ with his family.



We wish our colleagues much success.

Summer Intern

Akinola Akinokun, son of **Adewale Akinokun**, IPP Assistant Manager, will be working during the summer for the IT Department. He has completed his first year at Rutgers University where his major is Computer Science.



Retirement

We wish one of our colleagues, **Glen Riscen**, much luck and success as he retires from Joint Meeting after 25 years.

Glen has been with Joint Meeting since 1996 when he was hired as a Wastewater Operator. He worked for seven years as an Operator before transferring to the position of Maintenance Mechanic. In addition to his Mechanic position, Glen served as the on-site representative for the Collective Bargaining Unit Local 641. He also served honorably in the United States Army National Guard and held S-2 and C-1 licenses. Glen has proven himself to be an asset throughout his career at Joint Meeting and we wish him well.



Ray Jimenez, IT Manager, and his wife Peggy are the proud grandparents of their granddaughter Tyranda, born on November 12, 2020. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19.2 inches long. Her parents are Michelle and Katrina. We wish them all much happiness.



Congratulations

Richard Benner, Security Officer, recently became engaged to Jessica Pires. They have been a couple for seven years after meeting at a July Fourth barbecue. At this time no date has been chosen for their wedding.

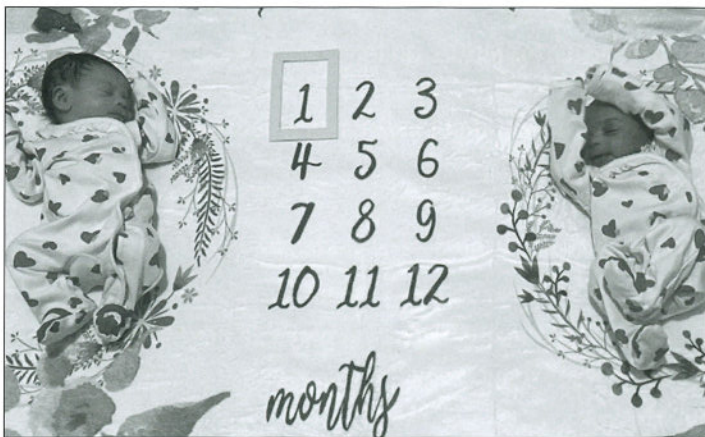
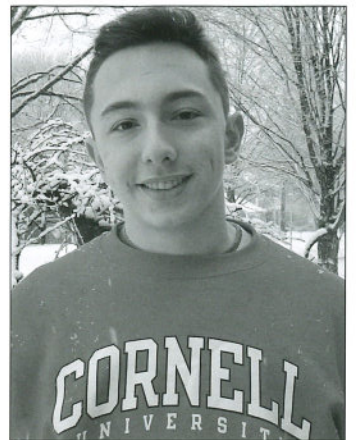


New Family Members

David Dipner, Laboratory, and his wife Patricia welcomed their son Thomas into the world on February 16, 2021. Thomas weighed 4 lbs. 10 oz. and was 17.2 inches long. Congratulations to the proud parents.



Tyler Wisniewski, son of **Roman Wisniewski**, Maintenance Manager, is a high school senior at the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST), which has a core focus on STEM. He has distinguished himself by achieving academic honors with the NJROTC unit. This is where he developed a passion for engineering. His hard work has paid off, as he has been accepted to attend Cornell University's College of Engineering in Ithaca N.Y. to pursue his dreams.



Darius Mayes, Operations, and Joell Criss celebrated the birth of twin girls. Jade, on the left, weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz. and Jasmine weighed 5 lbs. and 1 oz. Welcome to the family!

Perfect Attendance

During calendar year 2020, seven employees had a perfect attendance record. The records included no sick or absent days due to illness or injury. The employees are:

Francis Bonaccorso, Administration
Michelle DeFrancis, Administration
Stephen Dowhan, Administration
Andres Gallego-Sanchez, Collections
Harby Guerrero, Operations
Roger Marques, Operations
James Paluch, Collections

Nine employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 4th Quarter of 2020. Those individuals achieving a record of no sick time and no absences are:

Jan Dmytrach, Mechanical Maintenance
Melanie Folmer, Laboratory
James Foy, Boiler Department
Harby Guerrero, Operations
Edward Kobovitch, Laboratory
Samuel McGhee III, Operations
Manisha Patel, Laboratory
Michael Pelayo, Operations
Laquan Robinson, Boiler Department

Eleven employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2021. Those individuals achieving a record of no sick time and no absences are:

Shelton Colbert, Operations
Marlon Echeverria, Operations
Harby Guerrero, Operations
Joseph Jacobi, Operations
Brian More, Operations
James Mulroony, Operations
John Petito, Industrial Pretreatment
Arkadius Plonski, Operations
Joseph Polomene, Operations
Tony Rivers, Site Services
Thomas Shanks, Mechanical Maintenance

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

Pensions and Benefits

If you have not done so, all employees must 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:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbos-register.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.

If further assistance is required, please contact Human Resources.

New Ways to Access Your Health Benefits Online

The New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) and the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB) are excited to announce a new portal, **Benefitsolver**, for accessing all your health benefit enrollment needs, including the fall Annual Open Enrollment period.

What You Need to Know

Through Benefitsolver, you can access information about your health benefits and complete your enrollment applications online. You'll be able to add new dependents and upload documentation right to the website, as well as confirm your coverage and get links to all your health benefit vendors. You'll have multiple ways to access the new portal including 24/7 access via a new mobile app.

What You Need to Do

Beginning June 1, 2021, you will be able to log in to review your health benefit information. *

Navigate to: <http://mynjbenefitshub.nj.gov>

- a. Click Register
- b. Enter Social Security Number and Date of Birth
- c. Enter Company Key = SHBP/SEHBP
- d. Click Continue

Once you're on the Benefitsolver website, you will be asked to enter your personal email address so we can keep in touch with you — send you reminders, confirmations of enrollment, and important information about how to get the most out of your benefits.

From there, download the MyChoice Mobile App so you can have your benefits at your fingertips — even take a picture of your insurance cards and store them in the app, so you're never without them!

Don't worry, your personal information is safe with us, we don't share this with outside vendors.

If you have questions regarding your benefits, please see your employer or call the NJDPB Office of Client Services at 609-292-7524.

If you have trouble accessing the Benefitsolver website, please see your Human Resources Representative.

* You may also be able to access Benefitsolver via your myNewJersey account at

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/>

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

35 YEARS

Michael Phillips, IPP/Lab

30 YEARS

Paul Cuttino, Operations

25 YEARS

Michael Foster, Administration

20 YEARS

Donald Heminghaus, Administration

James Murdoch, Mechanical Maintenance

Nathan Rogers, Projects Department

15 YEARS

Jaime Rivera, Mechanical Maintenance

10 YEARS

Francis Bonaccorso, Administration

Carlos Delacruz, Operations

David Dipner, Laboratory

Djavana Menter, Laboratory

Grace Quintero, Administration

Lamar Shell, Operations

Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

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

Joint Meeting Board is pleased to welcome **Bill Rutherford** to the Board of Directors. Mr. Rutherford replaces **Gerard Guarino** for West Orange.

Richard Wasserman, representing the Township of Millburn, has joined the Board of Directors. Mr. Wasserman replaces **Tara Prupis**.

Marjorie Fox has been appointed by Summit to the Board of Directors. Ms. Fox replaces **Stephen Bowman**.

Joint Meeting is pleased to add **William Haskins** to the Board of Directors. Mr. Haskins replaces **Walter Clarke** for South Orange.

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

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 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
Hanifa Z. Johnson

Chief Engineer
Position Vacant

Superintendent
Stephen Dowhan

Director of Admin. and Finance
Daniel Gonzalez

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
Bart Brophy

Maintenance Manager
Roman Wisniewski

Safety Officer
Richard Stafford

Administrative Office Manager
Grace Quintero

IT Manager
Ray Jimenez

Board Committees 2021

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2021 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Renee C. Burgess
William Haskins
Bill Rutherford
Richard Wasserman

Public Relations Committee

Chair: William Haskins
Renee C. Burgess
Joseph E. Petrosky
Richard Wasserman

Finance and Budget Committee

Chair: Joseph M. Florio
Victor De Luca
Marjorie Fox
Bill Rutherford

Personnel and Procurement Committee

Chair: Anibal Ramos Jr.
Victor De Luca
Joseph M. Florio
Alicia Holman

