

JOINT MEETING NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Employee News	2
Friends Move On	2
Perfect attendance winners	3
Employees' service milestones	4
New appointments to Board	6

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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

2015 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers

Joseph M. Florio
Chairperson, Union
Howard Levison
Vice Chair/Secretary, South Orange
Patricia Spango
Treasurer, West Orange

Members

Lonnie P. Hughes, *East Orange*
Salonia Saxton, *Hillside*
Renee C. Burgess, *Irvington*
Kathleen M. Leventhal, *Maplewood*
Robert Tillotson, *Millburn*
Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins, *Newark*
Carl Hokanson, *Roselle Park*
Mike McTernan, *Summit*

Executive Director

Samuel T. McGhee

Visitors to Joint Meeting

In January, students representing Future City Incorporated visited Joint Meeting to discuss community relations and the role of Joint Meeting. The students are from area colleges and volunteer their time to Future City Inc.

Future City Inc. is dedicated to providing a presence in the areas of sustainable environmental and community development. Key initiatives include Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association and Healthy Neighborhood/Healthy Home as well as other complementary initiatives specific to watershed, land use, local water sources and healthy neighborhoods.

Pictured above are, in center, Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**; in rear, Superintendent **Stephen Dowhan** and Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso**.

Upcoming Events

May 11-15, 2015. 100th Annual New Jersey Water Environment Association Annual Conference, Bally's, Atlantic City, NJ.

July 12-15, 2015. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 45th Annual Summer Conference, Providence, RI. Topic is Financing, Funding & Rates for the Future of Clean Water.

September 26-30, 2015. Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 88th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Employee News

New Arrivals — **Kellyann Quinn**, Wastewater Operator, welcomed a new baby girl, Alexa, on December 9, 2014. Alexa weighed in at 7 lbs, 15.9 oz. Kellyann and Alexa are both doing well.

Marriage — Congratulations to **Jason Kohlhepp**, Projects Department, who married Ryah Dekis in early spring. Jason and Ryah are residing in Lawrenceville, NJ.



Welcoming New Employee — Boiler Supervisor **Ron Helco** (left) welcomes our newest member of the Boiler Department, **Willie Cobb**, to Joint Meeting. Willie was unavailable for a photograph that appeared in the Fall 2014 edition of this newsletter.

Correction: In the prior issue of Joint Meeting News, Fall 2014, we incorrectly reported that **Joseph Branche**, Site Services, welcomed a new baby girl, Kayla, on July 17, 2014. Kayla was actually born on August 17, 2014. We regret our error.

Friends Move On

Once again, we are wishing a dear friend and colleague best wishes as he leaves Joint Meeting to begin retirement. **Mario Frietas** has concluded 26 years at Joint Meeting.

In his time with Joint Meeting, Mario was assigned to the Dewatering Facility. He has been an integral part of the training and development of new employees beginning their career with Joint Meeting.

Mario has been recognized on several occasions for Perfect Attendance as well as for going above and beyond during extreme weather situations.

We thank Mario for all of his contributions to the staff and operation of Joint Meeting. We wish him an enjoyable retirement.



Mario Frietas, on the left, is congratulated by Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**.

Boiler Operator **Robert Leskin** will also be entering retirement this spring. Bob came to Joint Meeting in August 2001 after working several years for Campbell Soup Company in South Plainfield, NJ.

Bob has been recognized on several occasions for Perfect Attendance during his career with Joint Meeting as well as for his outstanding efforts in 2011 during Hurricane Irene.

We thank Bob for all of his contributions to the staff and operation of Joint Meeting. We wish him an enjoyable retirement.



Robert Leskin, on the left, is congratulated by Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**.

Perfect Attendance

During calendar year 2014, 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, Operations
Harby Guerrero, Operations
Robert Surman, Collections Systems

Nineteen employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 4th Quarter of 2014. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Francis Bonaccorso, Operations
Julio Cabrera, Laboratory
Melanie Follmer, Laboratory
Jim Freedley, Operations
Morgan Frierson, Operations
Mario Frietas, Operations
Harby Guerrero, Operations
Charles Guest, Site Services

Adris Hariprasad, Electrical
Don Heminghaus, Sewer Maintenance
Rudolph Johnson, Security
Louis Lawson, Security
Jay Nunez, Operations
John Petito, Operations
Ralph Scott, Mechanical Maintenance
Roscoe Scott, Operations
Robert Surman, Collections Systems
Zygmunt Szczesny, Electrical
Pete Vlasakakis, Site Services

Seven employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2015. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Harby Guerrero, Operations
Don Jantas, Sewer Maintenance
Krzysztof Kielian, Mechanical Maintenance
Hector Reveron, Site Services
Thomas Shanks, Mechanical Maintenance
Robert Surman, Collections Systems
Pete Vlasakakis, Site Services

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



Holidays at Joint Meeting — On December 5, 2014, several staff members got together to celebrate the holidays at Mojitos in Elizabeth, NJ. Much thanks to **Mike Foster** for organizing the event.

Front row left to right are **Mike Foster**, **Adolph Kofman**, **Marcelo Kofman**, **Aron Harris**, **Beatriz Rubio**, **Miriam Ledee**, **Patricia Fraga**, **Djavana Menter**, **Janee Carr**, **Lenny Bucher** and **Jan Dmytrach**. Back row left to right are **Steve Pascucci**, **Louis Lawson**, **Julio Cabrera**, **Humbertt Mortola**, **Dave Dipner**, **Bob Barry**, **Malika Johnson**, and **Dave Shapiro**.

Joint Meeting Goes High Tech

Joint Meeting has introduced a new way to communicate to our employees. Electronic bulletin boards were installed throughout the facility on April 1st. Initially, the monitors have been located in the P&O employee break room, the Dewatering break room, the New Lab employee lunchroom, and the P&O Administration area.

The bulletin boards are intended to distribute information quickly and efficiently to all staff. Some examples of information that will be displayed include an employee's anniversary with Joint Meeting, a monthly birthday list, job postings, safety reminders, special events of employees (new baby in the family, passing of a loved one), and acknowledging outstanding service.

We hope this new process will be beneficial for all staff.

School Group Tours Joint Meeting

On April 9, 2015, Joint Meeting provided a guided tour for 32 students and five faculty members from Oak Knoll High School in Summit, NJ. The students were members of the student honors chemistry class and are studying water and wastewater treatment chemistry. The students were anxious to gain a practical review of the areas they are studying in the classroom.

Staff members assisting with the tour were Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso**, Operations Manager **Glen Riscen**, Safety Officer **Rick Stafford** and Training Coordinator **Chris Pabst**.

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

20 YEARS

Steve Dowhan, Superintendent
Pete Vlasakakis, Site Services Worker

15 YEARS

Steve Mercandetti, Pretreatment Analyst
Reneece Porter, Operations Supervisor

10 YEARS

Melanie Follmer, Lab Technician
Ray Jimenez, I.T. Manager
Rudolph Johnson, Security Officer
Steve Pascucci, Chemical Engineer
Ed Pochepka, Wastewater Operator
Eugene Rivera, Maintenance Mechanic

5 YEARS

Robert Barry, Human Resources Director
Antonio Diaz, Maintenance Mechanic
Kazimierz Kowalski, Site Services Worker
Djavana Menter, Lab Technician
William Moore, Wastewater Operator
Tom Shanks, Maintenance Mechanic

Winter is Over

The winter weather of 2014/2015 has certainly proven to be a challenge to all of us. Dealing with the cold temperatures, shoveling snow and driving on dangerous roads, it seemed to never end.

Not only were staff digging themselves out and coming to work, the snow removal on the property became an additional challenge for our staff once they arrived.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their continued dedication to Joint Meeting.

— *Samuel T. McGhee, Executive Director*

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 six digit Employee # (located on your pay stub) including the zeros and Password in the corresponding fields. Example if your number 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.

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.



Left to right are **Hector Reveron**, **Tony Rivers**, and **James Gibson**.



Left to right are **Sorin Astalus**, **Beatriz Rubio**, **Ramon Vara** and **Dave Shapiro**.

Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

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

Joint Meeting is pleased to welcome Mayor **Carl Hokanson** from Roselle Park to the Board of Directors. Mayor Hokanson replaces **Ryan Kelly**. We thank Mr. Kelly for his service to the Board.

Joint Meeting is also pleased to welcome Mayor **Robert Tillotson** from Millburn to the Board of Directors. Mayor Tillotson replaces **Sandra Haimoff**. We thank Ms. Haimoff for her service to the Board.

www.jmeuc.com



Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

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Elizabeth, NJ 07202
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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 2015

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2015 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Lonnie P. Hughes
Renee C. Burgess
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Howard Levison

Public Relations Committee

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

Finance and Budget Committee

Chair: Howard Levison
Lonnie Hughes
Mike McTernan
Patricia Spango

Personnel and Procurement Committee

Chair: Kathleen M. Leventhal
Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins
Mike McTernan
Salonia Saxton

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:

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 Robert Barry in Human Resources.