

JOINT MEETING NEWS

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Retirements

Once again, we are wishing two of our dear friends and colleagues best wishes as they leave Joint Meeting to begin retirement. Those leaving are **Santos (George) Garcia** and **Wayne Kidd**.

George began his career at Joint Meeting in May 1991 as a Wastewater Operator in the Dewatering facility. Before coming to Joint Meeting, he was employed by GAF Chemical for 10 years until the plant reduced its work force. George has been a stabilizing force for Joint Meeting. In his tenure with JM, he has been cited for process improvement suggestions and for going the extra mile during the December 1999 power failure. A big part of his ongoing contribution is being here at work. George attained Annual Perfect Attendance for six years. For six other years he maintained three quarters of Perfect Attendance; for six years he had two quarters of Perfect Attendance; and for five years, one quarter. George will be missed greatly and we wish him an enjoyable retirement. Pictured above are **George Garcia**, on the left, and Superintendent **Steve Dowhan**, on the right. Please see page 2 for continuation of *Retirements*.

Upcoming Events

May 7-11, 2018. 103rd Annual New Jersey Water Environment Association Annual Conference, Bally's, Atlantic City, NJ.

July 23-26, 2018. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 48th Annual Summer Conference, Boston, MA.

September 29-October 3, 2018. Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 91st 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

2018 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers

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

Members

Christopher Mobley, *Hillside*
Renee C. Burgess, *Irvington*
Samuel Levy, *Millburn*
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, *Newark*
William Fahoury, *Roselle Park*
Howard Levison, *South Orange*
Stephen Bowman, *Summit*
Gerard Guarino, *West Orange*

Executive Director

Samuel T. McGhee

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Employee News

Special Occasions

Congratulations to **Jim Paluch**, Assistant Superintendent-Collections Systems, on the marriage of his youngest daughter, Erin Elizabeth. Erin and her new husband were wed on February 10, 2018.



Happy anniversary to Assistant IPP Manager **Adewale (Wale) Akinokun** who recently celebrated his 25th work anniversary at Joint Meeting. Helping Wale, third from the right, celebrate his anniversary are, left to right, **Steve Mercandetti**, **Chris Stafford**, **Donald Jantas**, **Dave Viera**, **Mike Phillips** and **James Bunkiewicz**.



Purchasing Officer **Michelle DeFrancis** was elected President of the Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey. She was inducted in December 2017 and was sworn in by Joe Valenti, former Bureau Chief DLGS,DCA. Michelle, on the left, is pictured with Joe Valenti.

Retirements (continued from page 1)

Wayne Kidd joined Joint Meeting in January 2002 as a Wastewater Operator. He was formerly employed as a Chemical Operator by Shamrock International for 12 years and as a Lab Tech for Lawters International. Wayne also was a member of the United States Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam. He proved himself invaluable to his coworkers at Joint Meeting where he would assist and teach the proper methods to new staff coming on board. We wish Wayne a healthy and enjoyable retirement.



Pictured above, Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, left, and **Steve Dowhan**, right, congratulate **Wayne Kidd** on his retirement from Joint Meeting.

Roscoe Scott began his career at Joint Meeting in September 2006 as a Wastewater Operator Trainee. Prior to Joint Meeting, he worked for Facile Holding for 24 years before the plant closed. Roscoe has been cited for excellent attendance on numerous occasions in his 11-year career. He also played an important part during Hurricane Irene in 2011. His response was professional in an extreme situation. We wish Roscoe a healthy and happy retirement.



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, on the right, congratulates **Roscoe Scott**.

In March 2011, **Louis Lawson** started his career at Joint Meeting as a Security Officer. Before joining Joint Meeting, Louis worked for two years as a Substance Abuse Counselor at the Net Center, and another 10 years as a Substance Abuse Counselor for The Bridge. He has always been the type of person to extend himself to others and try to be helpful. Louis has also been cited for perfect attendance on numerous occasions in his career with Joint Meeting. We wish Louis a healthy and happy retirement.



Executive Director **Samuel McGhee**, on the right, congratulates **Louis Lawson**.

New Employees

Joint Meeting is pleased to introduce our newest staff members.



Stacey Shultz, Director of Administration/Finance, comes to Joint Meeting with 30 years of experience in finance and has served in positions of Controller and Finance Director. She has worked in both non-profit and for-profit organizations. Stacey is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She graduated from SUNY with a BS in Business Economics.



Marcia Lezama, Site Services, is a resident of Rahway, NJ. Prior to coming to Joint Meeting, she worked for Saint Clare's Health System and Little Stars Medical Day Care.

Employee Bowling Night

Once again, our employees had a chance to show off their bowling skills at Jersey Lanes in Linden, NJ. The event took place in February 2018. Many of our staff turned out to demonstrate their skills and have some fun outside of work. Employees from Operations, Laboratory, Collections and Administration were well represented. Some of the highlights include bowlers and their scores: **Bob Surman** (195), **Ron Helco** (188), **Lenny Bucher** (204), **Ray Jimenez** (138), **Matt Bodzioch** (184), **Steve Pascucci** (185), **Will Anderson** (168), **Darius Mayes** (209), **Shelton Colbert** (150), **Andres Gallego Sanchez** (169), and **Paul Hunt** (176). Thanks to all who turned out. Much thanks to Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** for sponsoring the event.



Bowlers pictured are, left to right, **Sorin Astalus**, **Roman Wisniewski**, **Miriam Ledee**, **Waliyy Dixon**, **Ray Jimenez**, **Matt Bodzioch**, and **Malika Johnson**.



Also enjoying bowling are, left to right, front row **Coyonna Smallwood**, **Marlon Echeverria**, **Paul Hunt**, **Shelton Colbert**, **Will Anderson**; and back row **Waliyy Dixon**, **Andres Gallego Sanchez**, **Matthew Ellis**, **Darius Mayes**, **Allen Patterson**, and **Lamar Shell**.



Students Tour Joint Meeting

Joint Meeting was pleased once again to open its doors to the youth of America by providing a tour of the facility for the students of Millburn High School. The staff providing the tour included Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso**. Chaperones for the school were Michelle Rosenthal, Cindy Parlavecchio and Elinore Begala-Gorden.

Christmas Pride

Joint Meeting was pleased to invite employees to participate in a holiday ugly sweater contest. We had several outstanding and unique examples of sweaters.



Participants in the contest are pictured above, left to right, **Miriam Ledee**, **Adolph Kofman** (retired), **Ray Jimenez**, **Theresa Jones**, **Tony Wyczesany**, **Malika Johnson**, **Chris Pabst**, **Roman Wisniewski**, **James Bunkiewicz**, **Marcelo Kofman**, **Joe Bonaccorso** and **Francis Bonaccorso**.



The judging of this important event was conducted by Executive Director **Samuel McGhee** and Purchasing Officer **Michelle DeFrancis**. The result was a three-way tie among **Tony Wyczesany**, **Theresa Jones** and **Roman Wisniewski**. They are pictured above, left to right, in their winning attire. We look forward to next year's competition.

Suggestions

Joint Meeting maintains a **Suggestion Box** for employees to submit thoughts and ideas directly to the Executive Director. The box is in the lobby of the P&O building. Employees are encouraged to utilize this quick and effective method of communication.

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service

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

35 YEARS

James Freedley, Operations

25 YEARS

Adewale Akinokun, Pretreatment

Roger Marques Sr., Operations

10 YEARS

William Anderson, Operations

Maurice Clark, Operations

Joseph Osborn, Operations

Note: It was reported in a previous newsletter that **Humbert Mortola** and **Jessie Ordner** celebrated 15 years with Joint Meeting. They actually celebrated 10 years. Our apologies for the error.

Perfect Attendance

During calendar year 2017, 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

Harby Guerrero, Operations

Robert Surman, Collections Systems

Ten employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 4th Quarter of 2017. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Joseph Branche, Site Services

Julio Cabrera, Laboratory

James Foy, Electrical

Harby Guerrero, Operations

Charles Guest, Site Services

Rudolph Johnson, Security

Jane Martynova, Laboratory

Tony Rivers, Site Services

Ralph Scott, Mechanical Maintenance

Robert Surman, Collections

Three employees have achieved a perfect attendance record for the 1st Quarter of 2018. Those individuals achieving a record of no lateness, no sick time and no absences are:

Antonio Diaz, Mechanical Maintenance

Rudolph Johnson, Security

Krzysztof Kielian, Mechanical Maintenance

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

Liberty Science Center

Joint Meeting Assistant Superintendent **Francis Bonaccorso** participated as a judge 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 from McNair High School.

The STEM Showcase celebrated its 60th anniversary on March 12, 2018 at Liberty Science Center. Formerly known as The Hudson County Science Fair, the program brings together over 300 students, grades five through 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.



Participating in the event were, left to right, Frank Pestana, Executive Director North Bergen MUA; Jennifer Marques, Laboratory Manager PVSC; Harshal Agrawal; Lisa Oberreiter, Superintendent II PVSC; and **Francis Bonaccorso** Assistant Superintendent JMEUC.

Joint Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

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

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

Samuel Levy has been appointed by the Township of Millburn to the Board of Directors. Mr. Levy replaces **Diane Eglow**.

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

Joint Meeting is pleased to add **Jacqueline Johnson** to the Board of Directors. Ms. Johnson replaces **Quilla Talmadge** for the City of East Orange.

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

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.

If further assistance is required, please contact Human Resources.

www.jmeuc.com



Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

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& Administrative Offices
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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
Jason Kohlhepp

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
Roger Marques

Maintenance Manager
Roman Wisniewski

Safety Officer
Richard Stafford

Administrative Office Manager
Grace Quintero

IT Manager
Ray Jimenez

Board Committees 2018

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 1st half of 2018 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Gerard Guarino
Renee C. Burgess
Samuel D. Levy
Christopher D. Mobley

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Renee C. Burgess
William Fahoury
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins
Samuel D. Levy

Finance and Budget Committee

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

Personnel and Procurement Committee

Chair: Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins
Renee C. Burgess
Joseph M. Florio
Howard Levison