

The March meeting of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Retirees Association, Inc. (DOTRA) was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at Tessara Restaurant. After establishing a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 11:04 AM by President Clint Griggs with the Pledge of Allegiance following.

The following were in attendance:

Joe Bodnar
Lou Papp
Clinton Griggs
Mike Eckel

Andrea Mansfield
Donna Troiano
Bob Miller

Janis Stia
Frank Stia
John Rainiero

These members were absent: John Rainiero, Gerry Sellner, Frank Palise, Peter Yull, Jay Johnston, Art Egan Dot Andres, Frank Herrera and Bruce Strickland. Jim Dixon attended as a volunteer. Franny Davis attended as a guest.

The minutes of the 2/07/2017 meeting were received and approved as distributed. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Joe Bodnar and seconded by Mike Eckel. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for January 2017 was given by Lou Papp. Balance as of 1/31/17 is \$14,823.79 including \$ 5,128.80 in the checking account. A move to accept the report, pending audit, was made by Bob Miller and seconded by Janis Stia. The motion passed. The CD maturity date has been added to the monthly report for each CD.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Janis Stia reported that there were no new membership applications received during February. 18 membership renewals, with 1 member paying for two years, were received. There was \$190.00 in dues paid.

Clint followed up on his recent meeting with Commissioner Rick Hammer and Deputy Commissioner Joe Bertoni.

He received a call from Joe Bertoni, who stated that a letter will be sent to every retiree that will contain DOTRA information; Clint will ask for a copy of the letter to confirm that all of the contact information for DOTRA is up-to-date. In addition, a link to DOTRA is now on the NJDOT internal Intranet. Andrea Mansfield will ask her daughter to look for it. Clint was asked to supply more of the DOTRA flyers that we recently printed; Clint

will see that they are delivered. Clint again asked Janice DeJohn in HR about getting retiree names. She will research this and let Clint know the outcome. She indicated that *The Transporter* may once again list retirees' names as was done in the past. NJDOT has concerns about violating confidentiality and that is the primary reason that they do not share the names of retirees with DOTRA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating Committee –Joe Bodnar reported that we now have a full slate of officers and 3 positions on the Board that remain unfilled. Since Frank Herrera is inactive, his position on the Board will be vacated when his term is completed in June 2017. Because the Directors decided to allow the Board to become smaller through attrition, there will be no active recruiting to fill the vacant positions.

By-Laws —Art Egan was absent so there was no report.

Website – Clint reported for Bruce Strickland that there were 191 hits since the breakdown in February for a total of 23,323 hits as of this morning. The new counter is working well so far.

Employee Memorial –Jim reported that there was an EMC meeting in February. In March or April, EMC plans to hold a basket making class for those people who would like to volunteer in the future. The 50th anniversary booklet has been printed and is for sale at the NJDOT store for \$10. EMC has agreed to display our “invitation to join” card and will allow a recruiter from DOTRA at any future event. They will continue with flower & pretzel sales on April 12 for Easter and close to Mother’s Day. The Memorial lighting/landscaping project is nearly complete. The EMC works very hard to make events successful. They have 2 new members and are still recruiting and have found a replacement for Treasurer Janice DeJohn. EMC is looking into a Remembrance plaque for former Commissioner Jamie Fox, who passed away recently.

Historian – In the February DOTLine, Mike wrote a story about Route 31. He reported that he is working on an article for the May DOTLine. Dot Andres will contribute a story, based on updates and anecdotes from the ongoing out-reach project, for the May DOTLine.

Chaplain – Jay Johnston was absent but, it was announced that former Commissioner Jamie Fox has recently died. Bob Suess is in the hospital for an extended stay.

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Audit Committee: The Audit Committee will soon be setting a date for the annual audit. Art Egan leads this effort.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Spring Breakfast: Joe Bodnar reported that The Golden Dawn Diner will charge \$14.00 incl. tax and gratuity for a breakfast buffet. We will charge \$15.00 for the March 15 event. At the buffet, Board members will be encouraged to identify those who may need assistance carrying their trays to their tables and lend a hand and Joe will try to get a mix of booths and tables. We have 50 reservations already; it is hoped we will increase that for the 2017 breakfast. The menu will include eggs, home fries, pancakes, French toast, breakfast meats, juice, coffee, etc. Reservation deadline is tomorrow, March 8. There will be a 50/50.

Wine Tasting: It was reported that on March 27 there will be a wine tasting at Mama Flora's on Olden Avenue. An article for the March 27 event appeared in the February DOTLine. A wine tasting works best when 10 or 18 people attend. The cost is \$35.00. Peter Yull coordinates the reservations.

Trips –Jay was absent. He will announce plans for a future trip as soon as he can.

June Luncheon: Clint asked for a volunteer to coordinate this event. Plans must be in place before the May DOTLine is printed. Several venues were suggested including Freddie's Tavern in Ewing, Villa Maninno in Bordentown. Andrea will get information from Villa Maninno.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Miller is working toward archiving DOTRA records (including-DOTLines, Minutes, Treasurer's Reports, By-Law Changes, Directors/Officers) to a permanent location.

Dot Andres previously suggested that we clean up the DOTRA roster by contacting individuals by phone who are not regular attendees at our events to see what might be interesting to them. Board members felt that contacted members were happy to hear from us and giving positive feedback. All updated info is being sent to Gerry so that he can correct/update our roster. Since Dot is in Florida for the winter, she requested

that responses be sent to her via e-mail and hard copy so that she can incorporate into her next DOTLine article.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike reported that Mercer County Park Commission now charges \$150 for a picnic permit, which is a fee we pay to Mercer Oaks also. There was discussion about changing the venue, but we must have a convenient way to get ice and a pavilion. Belle Mountain meets those criteria. The picnic area at Belle Mountain is reserved for Wednesday, September 13.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday 4/04/2017 at Tessara Restaurant at 11:00 AM. Since there was no further business to discuss, a motion to close the meeting was made by Janis and seconded by Mike and the motion carried. Clint adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.