

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.
WEST TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08629

MINUTES OF MEETING

The April meeting of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Retirees Association, Inc. (DOTRA) was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at Tessara Restaurant. After establishing a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 11:09 AM by President Clint Griggs with the Pledge of Allegiance following. The following were in attendance:

Joe Bodnar	Lou Papp	Clinton Griggs	John Rainiero
Andrea Mansfield	Donna Troiano	Bob Miller	Mike Eckel
Janis Stia	Frank Stia	Jay Johnston	Gerry Sellner
Frank Palise			

These members were absent: Peter Yull, Dot Andres, Frank Herrera and Bruce Strickland. Jim Dixon attended as a volunteer.

The minutes of the 3/07/2017 meeting were received and approved as corrected. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Miller and seconded by Joe Bodnar. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for February 2017 was given by Lou Papp. Balance as of 2/28/17 is \$14,687.31 including \$4,987.49 in the checking account. A move to accept the report, pending audit, was made by Donna Troiano and seconded by Janis Stia. The motion passed. There were two CDs that matured in March and rolled over. It was suggested that next year, one of these CDs be made a 2-year investment in order to stagger the maturity of our CDs.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Janis Stia reported that there were no new membership applications received during March. 4 membership renewals, with 1 member paying for a life membership, were received. There was \$105.00 in dues paid.

Clint followed up on his recent meeting with Commissioner Rick Hammer and Deputy Commissioner Joe Bertoni. Clint received a copy of the list of retirees names (no contact information) from 2016 and so far, in 2017. We will receive quarterly updates. Clint will distribute the list so that everyone can peruse it for names that they may be familiar with. From there, DOTRA may be able to establish a contact point.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating Committee –Joe Bodnar reported that we have a full slate of officers but now 4 positions on the Board that remain unfilled with the passing of Art Egan. 15 Board members is the lowest we want to go before we begin to search for new members. In June, we will have 16 Directors, when Frank Herrera resigns.

By-Laws —There was no report. Clint asked for a volunteer to take Art Egan's place. Clint will arrange to pick up By-Law material from Anna Egan, Art's widow.

Website – Clint reported for Bruce Strickland that there were 131 hits in March for a total of 23,447 hits. The new counter continues to work well.

Employee Memorial –Jim reported that there was an EMC meeting in March. On March 30, EMC held 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 on May 5. The Memorial lighting/landscaping project is nearly complete. A Remembrance plaque for former Commissioner Jamie Fox, who passed away recently, will be placed at the memorial in time for the 2017 September 11 Remembrance Ceremony.

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

Chaplain – Jay Johnston that Jack Mansfield and Board member Art Egan has recently died. Jack and Art were both 72 years old and each worked at the DOT for 37 years. Also, DOTRA member Gloria Allen has passed away at age 90. John Wouters and Thomas Cochran recently passed away.

Audit Committee: Frank Palise announced the Audit Committee will be setting a date for the annual audit within 2 weeks.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Spring Breakfast: Joe Bodnar reported that breakfast buffet at The Golden Dawn Diner was a great success. There were 49 attendees. There was plenty of room and ample food. The menu included eggs, home fries, pancakes, French toast, breakfast meats, juice, coffee, etc. The financial report will be given later. We will put a blurb in the DOTLine that in the future, if an event has to be cancelled due to weather, etc., an announcement will appear on the web site.

Wine Tasting: The March 27 wine tasting at Mama Flora's on Olden Avenue was postponed. An article for the next event will appear in the May DOTLine. A wine tasting works best when 10 or 18 people attend. The cost is \$35.00. Peter Yull coordinates the reservations.

Trips –Jay Johnston has planned a bus trip to Radio City Music Hall on December 6. Jay has preliminary plans for a bus trip to Doolans in Spring Lake for an Old Tyme Rock & Roll show and lunch.

June Luncheon: Clint asked for a volunteer to coordinate this event. Janice & Frank Stia will take this initiative. 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, Bloomin Grove in Ewing, Stone Terrace in Hamilton. There was a discussion about BYOB or not. Jim Dixon reminded the group that if we choose a "BYOP" venue, we hold the liability and we are not insured. Janis & Frank will look for a venue with a bar, but at a reasonable price. This is getting harder to find. June 13, a Tuesday, was set as the first choice of date.

September Picnic: Mike reported that Mercer County Park Commission now charges \$150 for a picnic permit, which is a fee we pay to Mercer Oaks also but waived the fee because we got the permit in Jay's name and he is a Mercer County resident. The picnic area at Belle Mountain is reserved for Wednesday, September 13.

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. Dot will be at the May meeting to give an update in person.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kate Immordino, former DOTer and DOTRA member, under the name Kate Francis, has self-published a light mystery book set in Mercer County, involving NJ government. She has offered to appear at the June Luncheon to discuss her experience as a writer and fulfillment of a life- long desire to write.

DOTLINE: Deadline April 15 for all articles to Frank Palise.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday 5/02/2017 at Tessara Restaurant at 11:00 AM. At the close of the meeting, the May DOTLine will be prepared for mailing by Board members. Since there was no further business to discuss, a motion to close the meeting was made by Mike and seconded by Joe and the motion carried. Clint adjourned the meeting at 12:33 PM. Jay will officiate at the May meeting, since Clint will be absent

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Mansfield
Recording Secretary