

DOTRA'S...DotLine.....



ISSUE NO. 69

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A Publication of the N.J. Department of Transportation Retirees Association Inc.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Chet Andres

The dedication of the NJDOT Engineering and Operations Building to former State Highway Engineer Jack Friedenrich took place on September 22, over 300 guests, including former NJ Department of Transportation employees in attendance. Among them were approximately 100 DOTRA members who came to show their respect for Jack. Oyhers were former Transportation Commissioners Roger Bodman, Anne Canby, Lou Gambaccini, Jack Lettiere, John Sheridan, Mike Barrett and current Commissioner Steve Dilts. Led by Bob Innocenzi former Acting/Deputy Commissioner as the Master of Ceremonies, many recounted their appreciation for Jack's professional service to NJ and to his involvement with numerous Transportation engineering concerns across the country. It was a very memorable morning seeing so many familiar faces – although somewhat older- from our pre-retirement days.

Current Commissioner Steven Dilts said in his remarks, " I remain so grateful to the Employee Memorial Committee and DOTRA and its members for all you do for our Department and for all of us."

I was pleased to serve on the Committee, along with DOTRA Director Mary Bock and former Acting Commissioner Bob Innocenzi, which guided the concept of the Friedenrich Memorial dedication to its ultimate conclusion.

With the coming of the Thanksgiving Holidays, DOTRA wishes all its members a bountiful Holiday and gives thanks to you all for your support throughout the year!

DOTRA BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS

DOTRA holds its regular Monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Currently, we are meeting at Tessara's Italian restaurant in Hamilton Twp. Our business meeting **starts at 11 AM**, followed by Dutch-treat luncheon.

Our next meeting will be

Tuesday, November 3, 2009
at 11:00 AM

All members of DOTRA are welcome !!!
Schedule for Future Meetings:

Tuesday December 1, 2009
Tuesday January 5, 2010
Tuesday February 2, 2010

Tessara's
812 Route 33 Hamilton Twp

DOTRA'S HOLIDAY PARTY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th
MERCER OAKS, PRINCETON JCT.
(See Attached Flyer)

BUS TRIP TO "American Music Theater"
Lunch at Shady Maple
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2009

DOTRA
PO BOX 77160
WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628

EZ PASS

Did you know that if you are 65 years or older and have an E-Z Pass account you can get a senior discount? For more information, download an application from

<http://www.state.nj.us/turnpike/nj-Senior-Discount-Program-Application.pdf>

or call (732)-442-8600 ext.2100.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

By Sal Noto

We would like to be kept informed of any retiree who is ill, anyone confined to their home, or any retiree who needs help in one form or another.

News received from Florida that Frank Wegel (Materials) recently had hip replacement. Doing well too! Claims it was caused by a heavy flask carried in his back pocket. See his report on the upcoming Reunion elsewhere in the DOTLINE.

If you have any information to share about members or retirees, please call or send a note to Sal at **609-882-8395** or e-mail at judy_and_sal@yahoo.com

or write to Sal at 75 Stonicker Drive Lawrenceville NJ 08648.

Recent Obituaries:

Edward L. Cooper	(59)	NJDOT
Joseph Aiello		NJDOT
Carl J. Dellaira	(93)	NJDOT
Sue R. D'Ambrosia	(90)	DMV
Alice May Law	(80)	DMV
Bertha "Pat" Jackson		DMV
Caesar Molina	(68)	DMV

*DENOTES DOTRA MEMBERS

DOTRA'S ON THE INTERNET

Log onto DOTRA's own Web Site at:
<http://www.dotra.org>

You can read the latest issue of the NJDOT TRANSPORTER on our Website, as it is no longer being mailed out automatically by the NJDOT to Retirees.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ??

Any questions about your dues? If any members want to write and update their info, find someone, we will be happy to hear from you anytime. Just send your questions to our **DOTRA P.O. BOX.**

DOTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT- Chet Andres	609-818-1921
1st VP- Jay Johnston	609-588-0930
2nd VP- Jim Dixon	609-298-3398
TREASURER- Lou Papp	609-585-7697
ASST.TREAS- Frank Herrera	609-392-0633
REC.SEC- Hazel Rockhill	609-581-3560
CORRES. SEC-Donna Troiano	609-298-5962

DIRECTORS/ TERM OF OFFICE

Chet Andres	(09)	Mary Bock	(10)
Dot Andres	(09)	Don Hutchinson	(10)
Jim Dixon	(09)	Jay Johnston	(10)
Mike Eckel	(09)	Adrian Lincoln	(10)
Sal Noto	(09)	Lou Papp	(10)
Hazel Rockhill	(09)	Bruce Strickland	(10)
Donna Troiano	(09)	Phil Vecere	(10)
Joe Bodnar	(11)		
Art Egan	(11)		
Al Gallo	(11)		
Frank Herrera	(11)		
Janis Stia	(11)		
Peter Yull	(11)		
Director Emeritus- Dolores Murphy			
Vacancy =1			

COMMITTEES

CHAPLAIN -	Sal Noto	609-882-8395
MEMBERSHIP -	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
	Janis Stia	609-882-3862
BY-LAWS -	Art Egan	609-585-9145
HISTORIAN -	Mike Eckel	
ACTIVITIES -	VACANT	
DOTLINE -	Dot Andres & Bruce Strickland	609-818-1921 609-538-8189
DATABASE -	John Waldner	
MEMORIAL		
Committee Liason -	Mary Bock	609-882-0704
WEBSITE -	Bruce Strickland	609-538-8189

VIEW FROM THE PORTAL- (por-TAHL- New Mexican for Deck)

by Bruce Strickland

Here's a New Mexico story from a neighbor of ours.

Some of the cattle on adjoining ranches find their way into Deer Canyon Preserve (DCP) property. We're all fine with it because their grazing reduces fuel for grass fires. But problems can develop.

Late Thursday night, Dr. K, Maribeth and I tried for several hours to get the cows here in Phase II to come to the water trough. The rain water had all dried up and there was no way for us to get the water to the trough in its current location at the rock pit. We moved the trough up by Well 2M and ran a hose to fill it. But no cows. The idiots just bawled and stayed at the pit waiting for water to magically appear.

I have some large farm buckets (-20 gallons in size). I put one of them on the back of my truck and filled it with water. Now its past dark and the herd (about 20 cows, bulls and calves) are bedded down for the night. But they are still thirsty. I back the truck up as close to the herd as I can while still being on a lot's building site. I turn the truck off, get out and splash water up into the air and get back into the truck. Soon a few cows move towards the truck. Soon a couple are drinking. I start the truck and move slowly up the road towards the new location of the trough. In a short while, I have one cow running to keep up with the truck. When I get close to the trough, the cow forgets the truck and enjoys the water in the trough. I tried to seduce more of the herd to come, but they simply would not leave the herd. Having exhausted time and ideas, we all went home.

The next morning on my way to see Dr. Sanchez in Belen, I checked the water level in the trough: not a drop had been drunk. And the cows were still at the pit.

Before leaving the Dr's. I mentioned that I was up till 10PM the night before trying to get a neighboring rancher's cow herd to come to a water trough because all the rain water had dried up. I was worried for them because of the lack of water and they did not seem to know their way home. Asking the name of he rancher, I said "Mr. Cisneros and

he's about 90 years old." The Doctor picked up the phone and called him - no reponse - so he left a message on his answering machine, telling him to call him immediately. The response came back to Dr. Sanchez-ASAP- that Cisneros was selling his herds and land to his nephews. So, Dr Sanchez called and talked to one of the nephews. This nephew was not the owner of the cows on the DCP property but apparently knew who the herd belonged to. Dr. Sanchez told the nephew to get in touch with the herd owner and tell him " to get his herd off DCP property because there was a DCP owner that was concerned that the cows were in danger because all the water was gone. And that the DCP lot owner could not get the herd to come to the water trough."

When I got home about 4 hours later, I went to check on the herd and they were all GONE...BUT THIS IS NEW MEXICO. If you have a cow herd issue, go see your Doctor!!

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER UPDATE

Those DOTRA members who we have not heard from and who have not paid their annual dues since 2007 will be dropped from the DOTRA Membership roster. Check your Mailing Label now! No future DOTLine will be mailed to the last address on our Data Base. Unfortunately, we often are not notified of members moving and in spite of our efforts to keep informed of the well-being of our former co-workers, we do lose touch. We appreciate your help in contacting us with any news of NJDOT retirees.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Again, some familiar names are added to our current DOTRA members – as the State of New Jersey has offered another early "buy-out." And some of you will probably say, "they are too young to retire!" So here is our latest list with some brief info we received- provided by the **new members**.

Patricia Bowker- C & M,/Comm. Office-West Trenton, NJ, 6-2009,35 years
Cindy Szucsik – C&M/ Comm. Office -Wrightstown NJ 6-2009, 38 years

Doreen Plummer – Design Office-HamiltonNJ, 6-2009, 35+ years

Ron Gruzlovic – C&M -Hamilton NJ, 2009, 37+ years

MaryJane Kruszewski- Capital Programs Langhorne PA, 10-2005, 40 years

James Lear – C&M – Ewing NJ, ret.2008, 30+ years

John Maiorana- Div of Law/DAG-Lawrenceville NJ, retired 1990, RBA active

We got news that two members of DOTRA have address changes and moved to Venice Florida- John Walz and Joe Maresca. Have you met up yet ?? Must be a popular place to be as Ray Coluanduoni also has a residence there.

ANNUAL PICNIC AT BELLE MOUNTAIN held on September 9th

The day was a bit overcast and rain threatening so some of the more than 100 advance sign ups did not show up. Those who came had a great time and the eats were delicious and plentiful! The event was held at the Belle Mountain /Mercer County Park on Route 29 near Titusville.

Once again, **Phil Vecere** and his hard working Picnic Crew did a wonderful job of preparing and cooking. Many thanks to all the helpers who helped to make this a huge success each year. Also, great to see some of our newer retirees. Many thanks to Bill Burd and the Titusville Fire Department for supplying the ice.

EMPLOYEE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The **Annual Silent Auction** will be held at the NJDOT complex on December 3rd and December 4th. This is a great fund raiser for the Employee Memorial Committee and all who participate have come away with some great

“bargains.” Stop into the NJDOT in on those dates- come early to put in your bids! Director Mary Bock and her committee has worked very hard on preparations for this Annual event.

DOTRA's TRAVEL CORNER

The Niagara Falls/Canada Bus Trip took place on September 9 – 13, 2009 - twenty one DOTRA members and friends made the trip. The next trip ?? Plan ahead now. See the attached Flyer for August 2010 for a 14 day Baltic Explorer Cruise to Northern Europe and Russia. Cruise leaves from Amsterdam and includes air fare from Newark. More to come on this one!

DOTRA's HOLIDAY TRIP SOLD OUT!!

DOTRA will again have a bus load heading for Pennsylvania Dutch Country on Wednesday November 11th for a Smorgasbord Lunch at the Shady Maple Restaurant, followed by a special holiday show at 3 PM at the American Music Theater. The cost is \$75.00 and includes bus trip, theater , lunch and gratuities.

- Reminder to Attendees-

The Bus Pick Up Location will be at 9:30 AM at the AMC Theater complex in Hamilton Twp-off of Sloan Road at the I-295 exit- behind UNO's. Our return will be approximately at 8PM.

If you have any questions, call Jay Johnston at 609-588-0930.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 9th

Arrangements have been made by Sal Noto and Janis Stia for our DOTRA Holiday Luncheon at the Mercer Oaks Country Club. The event will take place on Wednesday December 9th from 11:30 until 2:30. This is a great location for the DOTRA group, known by those who have attended events here previously. A great menu has been planned as well as music to entertain our group. Return the attached Flyer as soon as possible.

REPORT FROM FLORIDA

by Frank Wegel

Frank Wegel writes that he has Bad News and Good News !!

Bad News 1 - " I gotta bad hip."

Good News 1- " I gotta new hip on October 8th!"

"Bad News- 2- Cafe Dough Monde where we met this past year appears to have shut down-wind mill and all! "

"Good News-2- the "Committee" has met and found a new location. It is in central Florida but near the east coast. The meeting place we have decided upon is Marsh Landing in Fellsmere. Fellsmere is the first town south of the Mason-Dixon line that allowed women to vote! Also, it's home of the famous frog leg festival and the infamous Goby Fest."

"I talked to the owner who said there's no problem for us to order from the individual menu and get individual checks. Now you can't say, "why did you order that.!" The menu goes from burgers to 'gator tails (locally caught) to great steaks. You can order from the lunch or dinner menu when we meet." Check the Web site at www.marshlandingrestaurant.com .

Good News 3- who wants to take over my duties next year??? With all the responses I anticipate we should have a lively meeting on February 9th. Please remove all electioneering signs from the restaurant 15 minutes before voting. No handing chads expected to occur."

Let's hear from you!

DOTRA's WINE TASTING !!

by Peter Yull

Our October wine tasting had to be canceled due to lack of sufficient response, but we are trying again so please respond ASAP. This time we are doing "Bubbly."

On Monday, November 2nd at 6:30PM we will meet at Mama Flora's in the Shop-Rite Center on North Olden Avenue near Parkside Avenue in Ewing. Directions phone 609-434-1188. We will be doing sparkling wines that include France, California and Italy. Food is included-enough to pass as a lite dinner! A fun time guaranteed, and we might even find something we enjoy.

Those of you who are interested, please email me at pyull@aol.com or call me at home 609-394-7145.

Please note that the tastings are limited to a total of 22 people. Cost will be \$25,00 per person.

HERE AND THERE

By Dot Andres

The Andres took a great trip out to Colorado this September. Flew to Denver and then traveled north and west covering the perimeter of Colorado and the back-bone of the Rockies. Travel was by tour bus with daily stops to ride various old/restored railroad lines that still operate in the Rockies. These included the Georgetown loop outside of Vail, the Silverton-Durango narrow -gauge coal train, and a trip through the Royal Gorge outside of Boulder. The trip to the top of Pikes Peak was climaxed by an early Fall snow and sleet storm -temps at 26 degrees in early September when NJ was still experiencing summer temps.

Scenery included the lush forests of the Rockies, tremendous rocks and peaks of 14,000 feet and the stark contrast of the more remote south and western Colorado plains in Mesa Verde and Colorado National Monument parks. What wonderful scenery and places to go in the USA!

A nice letter and trip report from Mearl Challender (Design). "In July my grandson Jim and I took off on another adventure. This time

a non-stop flight over the Arctic from JFK to Beijing.”

“Points of interest in and around Beijing included the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tianammen Square, the Ming Tombs, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace and the site of the 2008 Olympics.”

“In Xian the main attraction is the terracotta Warriors guarding the Emperor of China. This site includes thousands of life size men and horses dating back over 2200 years. Jim and I thought this was the highlight of the trip.:

“The adventure ended in Shanghai with the sights of a spectacularly modern city, including the second tallest building in the world.”

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Good luck and our best wishes to Adrian and Anna Lincoln who are picking up stakes in Princeton and heading to Florida. As soon as

they are settled we will share their new address with all.

Several phone calls from our Resident Weather Man in Florida **Nick Nicu (GeoTech)** to tell us about the record-breaking heat wave in the Daytona Beach area in early October. Hurricane- free this year, central Floridians had to cope with temperatures above 98 degrees and high humidity- strange weather for this time of the year.

- **Put Tuesday February 9th, 2010 on your calender. It will be at the Marsh Landing – just off of I-95 in Fellsmere Florida – that’s just north of Vero Beach on the east coast**
- **“Snowbirds”- make sure you are on the Mailing List! Contact Frank Wegel at 772-388-3991 or write 8060 142nd St. Sebastian FL32958. EMAIL- fwegel@bellsouth.net**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- () **NEW** APPLICATION FOR DOTRA MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00/ YEAR (FILL IN FORM COMPLETELY)
- () **RENEWAL** OF DOTRA MEMBERSHIP FOR YEAR _____ CHECK FOR \$10.00 ENCLOSED
- () REQUEST FOR **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** IN DOTRA _____ CHECK FOR \$75.00 IS ENCLOSED
- () **CHANGE OF ADDRESS** (FILL IN NAME ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER & EMAIL BELOW)
- () PLEASE ADD **YOUR COMMENTS FOR DOTLINE.**

NAME: _____

STREET/ PO BOX: _____ **APT. NO.** _____

TOWN/ CITY: _____ **COUNTY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

FORMER UNIT WITHIN NJDOT: _____ **YEARS WORKED** _____ **YEAR RETIRED** _____

YOUR COMMENTS: _____

Send Application and Check to: “DOTRA” – PO BOX 77160, WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628