

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



ISSUE NO. 66

FEBRUARY 2009

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Chet Andres

WHAT A TEAM!!

Who says "NJDOT retirees" are not keeping up with the new "electronic age?" We are truly a smooth operating "machine" - thanks to the computer-internet age. Our Web Site Manager Bruce Strickland has now moved to New Mexico and keeps our Web Site current from there; DOTRA member information and renewals are picked up in West Trenton by Janis Stia and information forwarded by email to DOTLINE editor - Dot Andres; our Directors forward their reports electronically to the DOTLINE editor in Florida; the DOTLINE is written in Florida during the winter months and then emailed to Jim Dixon in Columbus NJ to be taken to the Printer. Each Quarter our updated Roster and Membership Labels are prepared in Ewing by John Waldner; then approximately 400 envelopes are addressed for mailing by Lou Papp (and wife Eileen) in Hamilton; 400 printed DOTLINES are stuffed into addressed envelopes and mailed from Columbus by Jim (and wife Lois) !

This is just part of our "operations" during the year. Thanks Board of Directors! We are doing a great job! And thanks Members for supporting us!

No wonder DOTRA has been successfully going onto 19 years! Did we get along this well when we were working? Yes, I think so. It is with this spirit of co-operation that keeps us alive.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SPRING LUNCHEON
MARCH 11th- WEDNESDAY**

**CHARLEY'S OTHER BROTHER
ROUTE 537
MOUNT HOLLY NJ**

**READ THE ENCLOSED FLYER
AND RETURN ASAP !**

**WE HAVE TRIPS!!
READ ABOUT THEM!**

DOTRA BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS

DOTRA holds its regular Monthly Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. All are invited to attend. Hope to see you there.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday Feb 3rd at 11 AM at :

**Tessara's Restaurant
812 Route 33 Hamilton Twp**

Our business meeting starts at 11 AM followed by Dutch-treat luncheon.

Schedule of future meetings at Tessara's:

Tuesday March 3,2009

Tuesday April 7, 2009
 Tuesday May 5, 200

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Meet any former NJDOT coworkers who do not belong to our organization? It happens all the time that someone who retired some time ago failed to join us- it is never too late!! Give them an application - attached to every issue of the DOTLINE – and encourage them to join the fun. We are getting lots of “younger retirees” – good for us to have some more energetic helpers to join the “experienced” talent we have in DOTRA.

DOTRA continues to grow and gain additional new members. We are pleased to introduce our latest new member:

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Goslin - Columbus, NJ **LIFE**
 (Local Aid)
Kenny Peter – Ewing, NJ - Scope Dev/ Utilities
Glenna Newman – Bordentown, NJ - ROW
Arthur Fisher – Jobstown, NJ - Utilities

RENEWED LIFE MEMBERS

Several more of our Members have renewed their dues this year as **Renewed LIFE MEMBER**:

Evelyn Medley – Princeton NJ (C&M)
 Shirley Guerieri – Trenton NJ (Supp Service)
 Joe Montague – Morrisville PA (Design)

ANNUAL RENEWALS

Most of our Members diligently renew Memberships each year and do not or cannot attend our DOTRA events, and we thank them for keeping us in their memories – It’s nice to see their names, even if there is not a note with their check.

So here are a few names that may be familiar to our DOTRA membership.

Recent Renewals for 2009

Ken Hey -Equipment

Bob Mitchell – Traffic Engineering
 Bob Kerr – Equipment
 Frank Mathews- ROW
 Bill Breen - Maintenance
 Charles Melillo – C&M
 John Brennan – Local Aid
 Frank Bara – Acctg & Audit
 Walter Hillier - Design
 Rita Cunningham – Traffic Engrg
 Nick Cifelli – C&M
 Al Buchanan - Design
 Jules Tompa - Planning
 Wilma Cimino - Design

DOTRA PO BOX 77160 WEST TRENTON NJ 08628

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 Triano	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)	
Jim Springstead (11)	
Janis Stia (11)	
Peter Yull (11)	

Director Emeritus – Dolores Murphy
 VACANCY = 0

COMMITTEES

CHAPLAIN –	Sal Noto	609-882-8395
MEMBERSHIP –	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
	Janis Stia	609-882-3862
	Art Egan	609-585-9145
BY-LAWS –	Mike Eckel	
HISTORIAN –	Jim Springstead	609-392-0848
ACTIVITIES –	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
DOTLINE –		

DATABASE –	John Waldner
WEBSITE –	Bruce Strickland

LAW OF VARIATION- If you change lines or lanes, the one you were in always moves faster than the one you are in now!

CHAPLAIN’S REPORT

By SAL NOTO

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

If you have information to share, please call or send a note to me at 75 Stonicker Drive Lawrenceville NJ 08648 or 609-588-0930. My email is **judy_and_sal@yahoo.com.**

Recent Obituaries:

Emma Pearl Walker	(87)	NJDOT
Rose M. Buttice		NJDOT
Jacqueline Edna Murphy	(74)	NJDOT
Mary Kondash	(64)	NJDOT
R.Bruce Ely		NJDOT
Regina Sophie Pietras	(79)	MVS

*DENOTES DOTRA MEMBERS

DOTRA'S ON THE INTERNET

Log onto DOTRA’s own Web Site at:
http://www. dotra.org

Want to read the latest NJDOT Transporter? Go to our WebSite! As the NJDOT does not mail out The Transporter anymore, DOTRA makes available the most recent copies for you. All recent Quarterly issues of the DOTLINE are found on the WebSite.

Bruce Strickland (Info Tech) is our Web Site Manager and has been sending us infrequent but hilarious updates of his experiences while moving to Mountain Air, New Mexico with spouse Lydia. He says this is “the hot bed of movie making.” Move included four yowling cats and a vicious evil bird.

He’s now on line with a satellite dish, Direct TV and he even is getting some TV. Reports it’s a bit windy - in fact, a wind farm is going up 12

miles away. The house is off the paved roads-about a 10 mile slog when it rains. It’s all part of the big adventure.”

Keep us informed Bruce! Leave him a note on the WEBSITE.

**ARE YOU PLAYING GOLF?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO?**

The NJDOT Golf Club is still going strong – and looking for new members. Visit their Website

dotgolfclub@homestead .com

or call **Ken Kyte** at 609-538-0983 for more information.

DOTRA’S 2008 HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES A SUCCESS!!

Our Christmas Trip to “Sight and Sound” Theater in Lancaster PA was a huge success. A full bus load - 54 people of DOTRA family and friends -enjoyed the Miracle of Christmas. The show was a great way to kick off the holiday season. Everone enjoyed a relaxing drive through the Amish countryside. We finished the day with a great dinner buffet at The Shady Maple Restaurant. An enjoyable day for everyone.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON HELD AT THE CRANBERRY INN

The day after our Holiday Bus Trip to the Amish countryside, we were enjoying the fellowship and camaraderie of 130 DOTRA members and friends in Cranbury, NJ. Held at the historic Cranbury Inn, the DOTRA group

was entertained with Holiday Music by Karen on the chords. Many went home with door prizes and gifts.

It was a successful social year ending –thanks to our DOTRA Directors and Committees.

SPRING LUNCHEON TO BE HELD ON MARCH 11th

Joe Bodnar (Traffic Engrg) has arranged for the Annual Spring Luncheon held on Wednesday March 11th at Charley's Other Brother on Route 537 in Easthampton. This is a great restaurant, a great menu is offered, the price is great, and Charley's is easy to find - right off of Route 206, south of the Columbus Market on Route 537. A map is included.

See the attached flyer and send in your reservations.

ANOTHER FLORIDA REUNION !!! SEE YOU ON FEBRUARY 10th

The 2009 Florida Reunion will be held on Tuesday February 10th, 2009 in the Kissimmee-Orlando area. Last year 42 people made their way to the southwest shore of Lake Okeechobee in south central Florida. This year our Florida Ambassador to DOTRA, Frank Wegel, has selected a centralized Florida location for the group – hoping to reduce the complaints that the drive is too far!

The Café Dough Monde is located just off of Route 17/92 in Haines City, just south of Orlando. The directions can be "googled" or better yet, call Frank Wegel at 772-388-3991 or fwegel@bellsouth.net. You can reach the Restaurant at www.doughmonde.com

A social hour starting after 11 AM will be followed by a luncheon and then more socializing/picture-taking is planned. If you

haven't received your notice from Frank in the mail, please contact him now !

LAW OF RANDOM NUMBERS

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

DOTRA TRIP INFORMATION

By Jay Johnston

OUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

I am sitting in my office on this January 16th, with 16 degree temperatures outside of our NJ home sharing with DOTRA our cruise of a lifetime. On October 11th, Angel and I along with our cruise partners, the McDonoughs and DOTRA members the Hartmans' embarked on a 2 week Mediterranean Cruise. This cruise was our "someday cruise" that became a reality. We have been looking for the right time and itinerary. On October 11th we flew into Barcelona Spain and boarded the Holland American Zuiderdam. We were in Barcelona two days seeing the beautiful sights of Spain and enjoying the flavor of the country. Our first port was Monte Carlo, Monaco. We did a side trip to Nice, France and enjoyed the evening at the Grand Casino. We then sailed to Livorno and Civitavecchia Italy, enjoying side trips to a Tuscan winery outside Pisa and Rome. Our trip to Rome included an audience with the Pope. We then sailed to Messina Sicily, the Greek cities of Navplion, Katakolon and Kerkira. We finished the cruise in Dubrovnik, Croatia and Venice Italy. Additional highlights included our trip to Olympia, home of the first Olympics, our gondola ride in Venice, a renewal of our wedding vows on our 43rd anniversary.

As we sit back and enjoy the photos and the memories, it was truly a dream vacation.

CRUISE - Roundtrip from NYC to Quebec City and Northern Wilderness

Join DOTRA Family and Friends on July 23rd thru August 1, 2009 on a 9 day round trip cruise on the Carnival Triumph from NYC Gulf of St. Lawrence, visit historic Quebec City, experience the wilderness and picturesque landscapes formed by melting glaciers, while visiting the ports of Baie - Comeau and Havre St. Pierre, Quebec. Also enjoy the relaxation of 4 full sea days aboard a ship that is a destination in itself. Rates are \$1229 per person double occupancy for an outside stateroom, and \$1449 per person double occupancy for outside stateroom with balcony. See the attached flyer.

Any questions call Jay at 609-588-0930.

BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. –

A great trip is arranged to the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington DC on Friday April 3rd thru Sunday April 5, 2009. The trip includes 2 nights at the Westin Hotel in Arlington, VA, 2 full breakfasts and 1 dinner. Included is a guided tour of Washington DC, the National Cathedral, self-guided tour of FDR, WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorials. Admission to the Cherry Blossom Parade seating, mobile tour of Arlington National Cemetery and much more. Price is \$319 per person –twin/double occupancy. See the attached flyer.

Any questions call Jay at 609-588-0930. Hurry. This trip is filling up quickly.

INTERSTATE 287 – THE MISSING LINK **By Mike Eckel**

Often called the missing link of roadways, I-287 took 64 years of planning and construction before Governor Jim Florio and Commissioner Tom Downs opened the last link to traffic on a cold rainy day in November 1993. Originally proposed as the New York-New Jersey Beltway in 1929 by the Regional Plan Association, the purpose for building a network of express highways in the Metropolitan New York area from the Outerbridge Crossing(NJ)

to Rockland County (NY) was to serve the ever-increasing motor vehicle users as a New York- New Jersey metropolitan area bypass.

Studies continued in 1937 and 1947 until the Legislature passed a bill for construction of the Middlesex Freeway, from Route 22 in Somerville to Route 17 in Mahwah to the Outerbridge Crossing.

NJ Governor Robert Meyner and NY Governor Averill Harriman finalized plans to connect a route in New Jersey with a similar route in New York at the Outerbridge Crossing and again in Suffern in 1956.

In June construction on the 93 mile beltway was added to the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways; in September 1958, the road was named I-287.

Stops and starts in construction included an “interstate restructuring” in 1980 announced by Commissioner Louis Gambaccini that left the last section of I-287, a 21 mile link, unfinished. Construction resumed from Route 23 to the Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike in 1984.

The Environmental Impact Statement took 11 years to complete, as the alignment impacted 77 acres of wetlands and included 36 bridges. The longest bridge was the Wanaque River bridge at Lake Inez. NJDOT used the new AASHTO seismic design for the first time in the state on this and the Pequannock River bridges. The fog problem that plagued the bridge was solved by bi-directional light guidance tubes that would illuminate yellow to help the driver negotiate the bridge.

When the NJDOT looked for a way to solve noise problems on I-287, in the Montville, Kinnelon and Pequannock areas, the Department used a 7,000 year old method called Gabion baskets to create a noise wall along I-287 from 1985 to 1992.

The walls are still intact, although special measures were needed in certain areas. In

Montville, to ensure they were aesthetically appealing, the contractor filled the baskets by hand with crushed rock. (To be continued)

Proudly he announced her name is Parker knott and "she's perfectly beautiful!"

LAW OF PROBABILITY - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of the act.

HERE AND THERE

By Dot Andres

Well, we are back to our "winter life style" in New Smyrna Beach Florida. Couldn't wait to escape New Jersey this year! It's a great way to spend the winter- sun bathing at the beach, eating, shuffleboard, sun bathing at the pool, eating, golf, more eating... But, you didn't have to ship the cold down here now!

Marie Beatty, former secretary to our early Transportation Commissioners, wrote to update us on her activities. "I'm 92 years young. No pills, no cane and still go to Atlantic City once a month!" What a great life!

Dominic Tassone (Equipment) always writes a note with his annual renewal and wishes all a Happy New Year!

Just a few notes to report on –

Adrian Lincoln(ROW) and wife Anna called over the Xmas Holidays, vacationing in the South with his first great grand-daughter.

**HAVE A GREAT 2009!
STAY ACTIVE ! STAY WELL !
GET INVOLVED**

o **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, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)
- () PLEASE ADD **YOUR COMMENTS** FOR DOTLINE.

NAME: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

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

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

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

COMMENTS: _____

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