

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



ISSUE NO. 63

MAY 2008

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Chet Andres

DOTRA was founded in 1991 by a small group of newly retired Department of Transportation employees with the idea of maintaining the friendships and acquaintances formed over many years at the NJDOT. Most of these people began work at the State Highway Department under Highway Commissioner Dwight Palmer. The concept was to make DOTRA a social organization with occasional get-togethers to keep informed about "old what's his/her name and where are they now?"

As DOTRA grew in membership, the DOTLINE was started early on so that as retirees moved to new locations around New Jersey and across the country, we had a means of communications with news of DOTRA members. Later, a Website was set up to make it even easier to keep each other informed about where we are and what we are doing.

So if any of you are still looking for "old what's his name", please contact us .. There's lots of ways – write via the DOTRA PO Box, send a note to the DOTLINE or use the Internet at njdotra@gmail.com or the Website at www.DOTRA.org – and maybe we will be able to help you.

As always DOTRA members are welcome to attend the Monthly business meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON
JUNE 4th -WEDNESDAY**

**HISTORIC CRANBURY INN
CRANBURY NJ**

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

SAVE THIS DATE !

**ANNUAL PICNIC AT BELLE MOUNTAIN
September 11, 2008**

**Details will follow in August issue of
DOTLINE !**

DOTRA BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS

DOTRA holds its regular Monthly Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 6th at 11 AM at UNO's CHICAGO GRILL, located just off I-295 on Sloan Road East- near the AMC Movie Complex. Our business meeting starts at 11 AM followed by Dutch-treat luncheon.

Schedule of future meetings:
Tuesday June 3 2008

NO JULY MEETING

Tuesday August 5,2008

DOTRA'S ON THE MOVE AGAIN- SO CHECK
NEW MEETING LOCATIONS IN THE DOTLINE!.

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 –LIFE

Richard Stout – Pennington NJ - Federal Aid.

Rich worked for 43 years in the NJDOT, retiring in 2002. We're happy you finally found us, Rich!

RENEWED LIFE MEMBER

Several more of our Members have renewed their dues this year as **Renewed LIFE MEMBER**:
We heard from the following so far:

Charles Guenzel- Design – Yardley, PA
Carl Rebbeck –Design- Hamilton Twp
Jay Johnston – Budget/Program- Hamilton Sq.
Lori Leonardi – Info Tech - Ewing

ANNUAL RENEWALS

Most of our Members diligently renew Memberships each year, 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 2008

Bob Nolan -Traffic Engineering
Antoinette Damiano –Accounting
Jerry Tucci –ROW
Jack Wouters- ROW
Nick Tuz –FHWA
Pete Hollis- Equipment/Reg 1
Dave Walls – Electrical
Dorothy Guest – ROW
Ron Kosky –Maint/Reg2
Charles Mellilo- C&M

DOTRA
PO BOX 77160
WEST TRENTON NJ 08628

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

By Jay Johnston

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 609-588-0930 or email to JRJ0506@ verizon.net. Write to me at 3 Golden Crest Court, Hamilton Square NJ 08691.

Recent Obituaries:

*Paul Zarzeczny	(72)	NJDOT
Don Paric		NJDOT
*Robert Delaney	(78)	NJDOT
Win Allen	(83)	NJDOT
*John Mainzer	(72)	NJDOT
*Allen Smith	(68)	NJDOT
Jerry Eure Sr.	(85)	NJDOT
William Parrott	(63)	NJDOT
Ronald Cochran	(64)	NJDOT
Jack Smith	(74)	NJDOT
Pasquale Tammaro	(62)	NJDOT
Joan Mooney	(52)	NJDOT
Harry Kraut	(82)	NJDOT
Raymond Clarke	(77)	NJDOT
Frank Marchetti	(83)	NJDOT
Stella Hillman	(99)	MVS
Evelyn Marut	(68)	MVS
Joan Nelson	(78)	MVS
Vera Petrino	(87)	MVS

Irma Palinczar (90) MVS
 Sarah Greenwald (93) MVS
 Gemma Long (86) MVS

*DENOTES DOTRA MEMBERS

DOTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT- Chet Andres 609-818-1921
 1st VP- Jay Johnston 609-588-0930
 2nd VP – Jim Dixon 609-298-3390
 TREASURER- Lou Papp 609-585-7697
 ASST.TREAS– Frank Herrera 609-392-0633
 REC.SEC- Hazel Rockhill 609-581-3560
 CORRES. SEC-Dolores Murphy 609-466-3341

DIRECTORS/ TERM OF OFFICE

Chet Andres (09)	Adrian Lincoln (10)
Jay Johnston (10)	Jim Dixon (09)
Dot Andres (09)	Dolores Murphy (08)
Lou Papp (10)	Phil Vecere (10)
Joe Bodnar (08)	Hazel Rockhill (09)
Art Egan (08)	Janis Stia (08)
Jim Springstead (08)	Peter Yull (08)
Al Gallo (08)	Bruce Strickland (10)
Frank Herrera (08)	Richard Hobson (08)
Sal Noto (09)	Don Hutchinson (10)

COMMITTEES

CHAPLAIN –	Jay Johnston	609-588-0930
MEMBERSHIP –	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
BY-LAWS –	Art Egan	
HISTORIAN –	VACANT	
ACTIVITIES –	Jim Springstead	609-392-0848
DOTLINE –	Dot Andres &	609-818-1921
	Bruce Strickland	609-538-8189
DATABASE -	John Waldner	
WEBSITE -	Bruce Strickland	609-538-8189

DOTRA'S ON THE INTERNET

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

Bruce Strickland (Info Tech) is our Web Site Manager. Bruce reports that our Web Site continues to have about 80 to 100 "hits" per month. Check the WEBSITE for photos of our DOTRA events and Florida Reunion.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

Bruce Strickland reports there are no longer issues of The Transporter being mailed out automatically by the NJDOT to retirees.

According to Erin Phalen at the NJDOT , you may call for a copy at 609-530-2127. Bruce has downloaded the Transporter to our Website and it is available NOW! Check out the Web Site for a link.

SPRING LUNCHEON HELD ON MARCH 12th

Joe Bodnar (Traffic Engrg) arranged for the Annual Spring Luncheon held on March 12th at the Tessara Restaurant on Route 33 in Hamilton Township. A total of 42 retirees and 25 guests attended the luncheon and many positive comments were received as to the quality of food and service. It was good to see the regular luncheon attendees in addition to numerous new faces.

Thanks for the good job, Joe!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FLORIDA REUNION

The 2008 Florida Reunion was held on Tuesday February 12th, 2008 at the historic Clewiston Inn in Clewiston Florida. Forty two DOTRA faithful made their way to the southwest shore of Lake Okeechobee in south central Florida. Thanks to **Trude and Jim Hart** for finding this old Florida gem as our gathering spot this year. **Frank Wegel** handled the notifications, brow beating and reservations among DOTRA members- along with souvenir Valentine gifts for the ladies.

Special thanks to **Laurie and Jack Lutz** who did a phenomenal job recording the entire affair. They have put together a DVD/ CD of the occasion which will be uploaded and available on our Web Site. Arrangements will be made to see the DVD at our June Luncheon. **Laurie and Jack Lutz (Reg 2-Maintenance)** drove down from Orangeburg South Carolina for the occasion. Former co-

workers may be interested to know that Jack is driving a Harley now.

There was a contingent of former Design people who gathered with **Jim Morrison** and drove down from The Villages in central Florida. In fact, the Design group was well

represented by **Ken Afferton, Judy and Frank Scymanski, Charles Takacs, and Fred Bogdan.**

The **Construction and Maintenance** group was well represented by **Al Alaimo, Al Ari, Frank Battaglia, Mike Gross, Frank "Ted" Hamler, Dave Quaid, Frank Scarpati, Rich Svetz, Ted Stine, Al Malatesta and Anthony Gelak.**

Our perennial attendees **Maria and Sante Falvo (Const) and Betty and Don Clark (Electrical-Reg 2)** drove over from the west coast of Florida. **Ed Downs (Plant Engineering)** was there for the first time, driving over from his mobile home site near Fort Pierce.

Many thanks to the spouses who regularly attend and have set up their own tradition.

To those who did not make it this year, we will be looking for you at next year's event.

Again many thanks to **Jim and Trude Hart (Data Processing)** for finding a great location for the DOTRA tradition and **Kathy and Frank Wegel (Materials)** for making sure the event will continue. Frank is already busy on finding a location in the Orlando area- or south- for next year's event. One possibility is DoughMonde in Haines City.

Got ideas and suggestions for a location for next year, contact **Frank Wegel** at **772-388-3991** or write

8060 142nd Street Sebastian FL 32958
or
fwegel@bellsouth.com

DOTRA TRIP INFORMATION

By Jay Johnston

Here's a trip you do not want to miss - Debbie Reynolds at Resorts Atlantic City on Monday September 8, 2008.

This is a casino bus trip which includes transportation, coin vouchers, food vouchers, the Debbie Reynolds Show – all for \$55.

See the attached flyer and return it ASAP. Call me (Jay) at 609-588-0930 for more info if you need it.. Trip is expected to fill up quickly so hurry up!

The Board of Directors is currently working on some new Social activities with some newer retirees as our Directors, we are looking for ways to get more members involved.

Suggested have been an afternoon wine and cheese - ala Director Peter Yull, a day at the new Philadelphia casinos. **Got ideas for 2008? Call me ASAP at 609-588-0930.**

HERE AND THERE

By Dot Andres

Well, we are beginning to pack up the car and cat and are ready to return to New Jersey for the remainder of 2008. Been a great way to spend the winter- sun bathing at the beach, eating, shuffleboard, golf, more eating...

You get the picture. Saw **Nick Nicu (GeoTech)** several times this winter. He lives in Spruce Creek Fly-In in Daytona year round

and always asks the status of his former co-workers.

We continue to check the mail box for notes from our members- sparse but a few notes received.

Charlie Guenzel (Design) writes, “ Retirement is great ... although I do miss the people. We’re enjoying our 3 grandchildren and the opportunity to travel whenever we want. We cruised the Baltic last summer with 3 other couples, visiting the Scandanavian countries plus Gdansk, Tallium and St. Ptersburg – truly an interesting mix of cultures in 2 weeks.”

We heard that **Norma Spleid (Electrical)** has moved from Sun City, California to Zeeland, Michigan. **Carl Woodson (Maint)** is now living in Farmville VA. **Floyd Gentiles (C&M)** is now in East Stroudsburg PA.

Heard from **Hazel Rockhill (C&M) and DOTRA’s Recording Secretary**. She writes that she is ” a great grandmom for the second time. Baby Ethan arrived recently and joins brother Isaac, now 2 years old. They live in North Dakota so I have to get on a plane to see them. Hope to do that soon.” Congratulations Hazel!!

DOTRA’S HUMOR CORNER

ENGINEER’S HUMOR

Bubba and Junior from Surface Design were standing at the base of the flagpole at the E&O building, looking up. One of the Secretary’s walked by and asked what they were doing. “We’re supposed to find the height of the flagpole, but we don’t have a ladder.” The Secretary took a wrench from her purse, loosened a few bolts, and laid the pole down. Then she took a tape measure from her

pocket, took a measurement, and announced, “Eighteen feet, six inches,” and walked away.

Junior shook his head and laughed,” Ain’t that just like a girl ! We ask for the height and she gives us the length !”

ARE YOU OLD?

OLD IS WHEN...Your friends admire your new alligator shoes and you’re bare foot.

OLD IS WHEN ...You don’t care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don’t have to go along.

OLD IS WHEN ...You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor, not the police.

OLD IS WHEN ...Getting lucky means you found your car in the parking lot.

OLD IS WHEN ...An “all nighter” means not getting up to go to the bathroom!

WORK

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned couldn’t concentrate.

Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I couldn’t hack it so they gave me the ax.

After that I tried to be a tailor, but I wasn’t suited for it.

Next, I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was exhausting.

Next was a job in a shoe factory, but I just didn’t fit in.

I became a professional fisherman, but I discovered I couldn’t live on my net income.

I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was too draining.

So, I finally got a job as a historian until I realized there was no future in it.

SO I RETIRED AND I FOUND I AM A PERFECT FIT FOR THE JOB !

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: _____

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

Debbie Reynolds

AT RESORTS ATLANTIC CITY



Monday, September 8, 2008

\$55 per person

PACKAGE INCLUDES*

- DEBBIE REYNOLDS SHOW
 - \$21 COIN BONUS
 - \$5 FOOD VOUCHER
 - DELUXE MOTORCOACH
TRANSPORTATION
- Show time 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Debbie Reynolds is the star of more than thirty motion pictures, two Broadway shows, two series, as well as dozens of television appearances. Debbie made her screen in "The Daughter of Rosie O'Grady." Her first big break came in an MGM musical starring Fred Astaire and Red Skelton, "Three Little Words." A subsequent performance in a Busby Berkley musical, "Two Weeks With Love," convinced the legendary L.B. Mayer to choose her for the leading female role in what became one of the greatest screen musicals of all time, "Singin' In The Rain."

This is a must see star that you will never forget!

**Full payment is required to book this trip
Full and final payment is due no later than July 20, 2008
Please make checks payable to: DOTRA**

**Mail to: Jay Johnston
3 Golden Crest Ct**

Hamilton, NJ 08691

For information and reservations contact: Jay Johnston @ 609-588-0930

**Pick Up Location: Starr Tours Pick up
Suburban Plaza
Nottingham Way, Trenton, NJ**