

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



ISSUE NO. 67

MAY 2009

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Chet Andres

HONORING DICK HOBSON 1930-2008

A "Remembrance Ceremony" was held in April honoring former DOTRA President Dick Hobson . The ceremony and unveiling of a plaque honoring Dick was held at the Department of Transportation Employee Memorial site located at the rear of the NJDOT headquarters on Parkway Avenue.

"Dick was admired and respected for his commitment to public service and for consistently offering his time to give back to his community and to the many service organizations that he participated in."

Dick was President of DOTRA for two terms following President Guy LoBue. He was devoted to DOTRA and even had DOTRA lapel pins made for all members at his own expense.

As a member of the Board of Directors, Dick often suggested ways to improve and expand the ways in which to improve DOTRA.

DOTRA Director Emeritus, Dolores "Dee" Murphy was among those who spoke in honor of Dick at the Remembrance Ceremony, as did NJDOT Commissioner Steven Dilts, former Commissioner Jack Lettiere, former Assistant Commissioner Dennis Keck and Chairman of the Employee Memorial Committee John Stults. Dick's son and wife Ceil were among the family guests.

In addition to Dick's contributions to DOTRA, Dick was a retired from the US Army and active in veterans affairs, local Youth Scouting organizations, an active member of the Lions Club and personally assisted in collecting and distributing donated eyeglasses, medical equipment wheelchairs to disabled and needy.

With all the organizations Dick belonged to, he was not "just a member," he was a worker finding ways to get things done."

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE 3rd- WEDNESDAY
CHARLEY BROWN'S
ROUTE 27
KINGSTON NJ**

READ THE ENCLOSED FLYER

**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 May 5th 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 May 5, 2009
 Tuesday June 2, 2009
 No Meeting in July
 Tuesday August 4, 2009

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 members:

NEW MEMBERS

Daniel Piscopo -Hamilton NJ – Design Specs

Jack Mansfield – Hamilton Sq. NJ- Design 37 years

William Dill – Ewing NJ- Account & Audit -39 years

RENEWED LIFE MEMBERS

Mike Immordino- Ewing NJ - Geo Tech

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.

Keep the Mail Box Full!

<p>DOTRA PO BOX 77160 WEST TRENTON NJ 08628</p>
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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 –	Jim Springstead	609-392-0848
DOTLINE –	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
DATABASE -	John Waldner	
WEBSITE -	Bruce Strickland	505-705-5578

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	

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:

*Charles Eichle		NJDOT
*Michael Gross		NJDOT
*Paul Zabicki	(75)	NJDOT
Robert Santoro		NJDOT
Edward Kerr Sr	(85)	NJDOT
Russell Chell	(77)	NJDOT
Albert “Tommy” Orsi	(95)	NJDOT
Edward Cooper	(74)	NJDOT
*Pasqual Loiacano	(79)	NJDOT
Mary Kondash		NJDOT
Barbara DiStafano	(51)	DMV
Raymond Hesel	(85)	DMV
*Walter Musick	(81)	NJDOT
Joyce May Dixon	(91)	NJDOT
Albert Cross		NJDOT
Pasqual Rossi		NJDOT

James Finnerty
 Paul Williams
 Ethel Grace Uveges
 Lawrence Franscella
 *DENOTES DOTRA MEMBERS

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DOTRA'S ON THE INTERNET !!
Log onto DOTRA's own Web Site
<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 on line the most recent copies for you. Specific questions about the Transporter, call the NJDOT Communications Office at 609-530-3681.

All recent Quarterly issues of the DOTLINE are found on the WebSite.

Regards from Mountain Air, New Mexico By Director Bruce Strickland

I've been busy keeping up and getting the latest DOTLINE's onto our Web Site.

Now, about this New Mexico adventure – the winds settled down and we've had 14 days of sun and highs in the 40's and 50's. This isn't the winter I know from New Jersey. I go into town and see people dressed either for sub-freezing temps or in shirtsleeves. A sweatshirt does the trick for me.

I was going into town on the 10 mile dirt road this morning. Met up with several Longhorn cattle that have the run of the place. "Longhorn" is a good name for them. Since landlines for phones aren't an option, we now have a "tellular" phone- a cell phone with a base and antenna. Four bars, better than the 1 or 2 on a handheld cell phone.

There's one bar in town- The Rosebud." It's also a cigar bar so I don't spend much time there. It looks the way a bar named Rosebud would look.

FedEx and UPS drop off packages at the local hardware store, which also has an enclosure with a rattlesnake for entertainment. The snake greets people looking for their packages

with a cheerful rattle. The snake was rattling at me a few days ago and I mentioned how it seems to take him some time to warm up to people. Manager said it's been 10 years and it's still rattling at him.

Keep us informed Bruce! Anyone want to reach Bruce, leave him a note on the WEBSITE.

SPRING LUNCHEON HELD ON MARCH 11th By Joe Bodnar

The annual Spring Luncheon was held on March 11th at Charley's Other Brother on County Route 537 in Easthampton (outside of Mt. Holly) A total of 42 retirees plus 20 guests attended the Luncheon and many positive comments were received as to the quality of the food and the service. It was good to see the regular luncheon attendees in addition to numerous new faces. Thanks to all who attended and made it a successful gathering.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FLORIDA REUNION !!! By Frank Wegel

The 2009 Florida Reunion was held on Tuesday February 10th, 2009 in the Kissimmee-Orlando area. This year 41 people made their way to The Café Dough Monde , located just off of Route 17/92 in Haines City, just south of Orlando. A unique café/bakery, many in the group went back with bags full of "goodies."

A social hour started at 11 AM and the group was treated to a video of last year's attendees at Lake Okeechobee. More photos and videos were taken by Laurie and Jack Lutz (C&M-Reg2) will be followed by a luncheon and then more socializing/ picture-taking is planned. Many thanks to Jack and Laurie Lutz who have made very professional recordings of the Reunion events over the years.

Many of the "usuals" were there- the Don Clark's, Al Alaimo, the Al Ari's, the Fred Bogdan's , Nick Nicu was back, Trude and Jim Hart, Dave Quaid, Ted Hamler, Jim Morrison, Charlie Takacs, Peg and Bob Micali, Dot and Chet Andres.

Newcomers included Arturo Blanquara and wife, Peg and George Wieger came from Ewing, Jean

and Dan Servideo, Michelle and Ray Burroughs, George Jodeksnis. Hamilton-based Frank Herrera made special arrangements to extend a trip to Orlando in order to attend the DOTRA Reunion.

Missed by all this year were Maria and Sante Falvo. Special welcome back to Dot and Cliff Heckman – Cliff looks great and wanted to thank all his DOTRA friends who sent him letters and get well wishes during the past year.

One person who registered early failed to attend! An APB (all-points bulletin) was aired to find Bob Bechter, a former Materials person who was lucky enough to have transferred to DBC (Department of Building and Construction) early in his career, never showed up! The mystery was solved hours later. Our intrepid retiree set forth on the expedition as planned from his home in Venice, Florida. Having programmed his GPS system for the journey, he navigated his way without incident and arrived at the Clewiston Inn in Lake Okechobee – no one was there to greet him from DOTRA. Oops! We hope to see Bob in 2010 and are soliciting donations for a new chart and sextant.

Lacking other suggestions for next year's Reunion location, the event will be held again at the Café Dough Monde, because of its more centralized location, - with some suggested changes. The directions can be "googled" at www.doughmonde.com. Better yet call Frank Wegel at 772-388-3991 or send a note to fwegel@bellsouth.net

DOTRA TRIP INFORMATION

By Jay Johnston

BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. –

There were 42 **DOTRA Family and Friends** at the Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade in Washington DC on Friday April 3rd thru Sunday April 5, 2009. As part of our trip, we visited Union Station, St. Mathews Cathedral, FDR, WWII, Vietnam and Korean Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithsonian Institute. The highlight of our tour was the Cherry Blossom Parade and mass at the National Cathedral where DOTRA was acknowledged, by the church, for its

attendance. The Cherry Blossoms were at their peak!

UPCOMING TRIPS

Canada and New England Fall Cruise to Quebec

It has been rescheduled. DOTRA family and friends will be sailing on the Norwegian Cruise liner "Jewel" from NYC round trip to New England and Canada on October 20th thru 30th. We will be visiting Boston, Halifax, Charlottetown PEI, Sydney, Quebec and cruising the scenic Gulf of St. Lawrence. Outside staterooms are \$1299 per person, double occupancy and outside staterooms with balcony are \$1399pp, double occupancy.

See the attached Flyer for details.

BUS TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS

Join the DOTRA Family and Friends Group on a Starr bus trip to Niagara Falls and Niagara, Ontario on September 10 thru 13th. The Group will be staying at the Country Inn and Suites. Trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation from Hamilton, NJ, 3 continental breakfasts, 2 dinners, 3 nights accommodations, and taxes, gratuities and baggage handling. Included also are a guided sight seeing tour of Niagara Falls and Niagara on the Lake, Maid of the Mist Boat Ride, admission to IMAX theater. Free time to enjoy the sights on your own is built in. See the attached Flyer.

Any questions call Jay at 609-588-0930. Hurry! .

THE 15 ORIGINAL STATE HIGHWAYS

By Mike Eckel

"When the Department started the highway effort in 1917, it figured 15 highways would do it for the entire state ...and laid out a network of highways that basically are still there today in updated versions."

ROUTE

1

DESCRIPTION

Elizabeth to Trenton, by way of Rahway, Metuchen, New Brunswick and Hightstown.

- 2 Trenton to Camden, by way of Bordentown, Fieldsboro, Roebbling and Burlington
- 3 Camden to Absecon, by way of Berlin and Hammonton
- 4 Route No. 1 in or near Rahway, to Absecon by way of Perth Amboy, Keyport, Middletown, Red Bank, Long Branch, Asbury Park, Point Pleasant, Lakewood, Toms River, Tuckerton and New Gretna
- 5 Newark to the bridge crossing the Delaware River about 2 miles above Delaware, by way of Morristown, Dover, Netcong, Budd's Lake, Hackettstown, Buttsville and Delaware.
- 6 Camden to Bridgeton and Salem, by way of Woodbury, Mullica Hill, Woodstown and Pole Tavern.
- 7 Hightstown to Asbury Park, by way of Freehold, Jerseyville and Hamilton.
- 8 Montclair to state line at Unionville, by way of Singac, Wayne, Pompton Plains, Butler, New Foundland, Stockholm, Franklin Furnace and Sussex.
- 9 Elizabeth to Phillipsburg, by way of Westfield, Plainfield, Bound Brook, Somerville, Whitehouse, Clinton, West Portal, and Bloomsbury.
- 10 Paterson to Fort Lee Ferry, by way of Dundee Lake and Hackensack.
- 11 Newark to Paterson, by way of Belleville, Bloomfield, Nutley and Passaic.
- 12 Paterson to Phillipsburg, by way of Little Falls, Pine Brook, Parsippany, Denville and over Route No. 5 to Budd's Lake, then to Washington and Broadway.
- 13 New Brunswick to Trenton, by way of Kingston, Princeton and Lawrenceville.
- 14 Egg Harbor City to Cape May City, by way of Mays Landing, Tuckahoe and Cape May Court House.

15 Bridgeton to Cape May Court House, or such other point on Route No. 14 as may be determined by the State Highway Commission.

NOTE: Let's have a contest!!!! Anyone out there want to identify these roads by their current route number?? Send a note with your answers to Mike Eckel at the DOTRA PO Mailbox. No Interstates please. A prize will be awarded for the most correct answers !

SOFTBALL IS HERE says Jim Dixon

The 60 and over Senior Softball League of Mercer County will hold a special All Star Game at the Trenton Thunder Waterfront Park on June 14th, following the regularly scheduled game between the Trenton Thunder and Binghamton Mets League at 1:00PM. Cost is \$8 for both. Come and see us!!

**HERE AND THERE
By Dot Andres**

Well, we are packing up and getting ready to head back to New Jersey for the nice Spring weather. We are a little later leaving New Smyrna Beach Florida this year as grandson is graduating from University of Florida with degree in Mechanical Engineering. Anyone know of a job out there!

And speaking of jobs, is anyone out there bored or need some extra cash. DOTRA member **Frank Palise (Materials)** continues to work with a Hightstown consulting firm. He writes that there may be positions available for qualified retirees as certified/ qualified Material Inspectors. Interested call Frank Palise directly at 609-896-2011.

Received a very nice note from **Gene Salvia (Construction)**. "Thanks for the few words you were kind enough to ask on my renewal card. Well, not to be too explicit, I'll give you some idea of my life after 90. Still living by myself in the house we had built in 1952 (3 bedrooms on an acre of lawn) and so far have been able to make out with the cleaning, cooking, etc."

"My daughter has worked for our town for 27 years as the administrator and borough clerk so she has been great."

“On my 90th birthday (November) we had a great party with 16 of us in a nice local restaurant. Christmas Eve was celebrated in our home with 18 kids and adults and they all returned on Christmas Day to open gifts and have a light meal. One of my grandsons and his wife spent the night with me.”

“Aside from the normal old age problems, I seem to be holding up pretty good. Thanks again for asking.” **Gene Salvia (Construction)** in Gladstone NJ.

I just had to share Gene’s lovely letter with his friends and former coworkers from the NJDOT. Thank you Gene- stay well and God Bless!

Just a few notes to report on – **Adrian Lincoln (ROW)** says that he and wife Anna will be heading off to warmer climates soon and relocating to Florida.

Mearl Challender (Design) says that he and grandson Jimmy traveled to Peru last summer. It was an 11 day trip which included time in the

Andes, with 2 days in Machu Pichu. “As the young folks say today, it was Awesome!”

Dot and Jack Stanley (Bridge) diligently renew their Memberships each year. **Dot (Office of IG)** says “they are both doing well, although Jack has some difficulty getting around.” Our best wishes to you both.

Regards received from **Frank Bara (Acctg & Audit) and Joe Unangst (C&M)** Glad to hear you are both doing well. Finally caught up with Life Member **Jose Marino (C&M- Region 2)** and hear he is now in Nutley. And, **Mike Immordino (Geo Tech)** is back in New Jersey after quite a while in Colorado.

A long letter was received too late for the DOTLINE from **Seth Barton (Local Aid)** about his recent trip along the Ohio River. We’ll save it for the next issue of DOTLINE. Thanks Seth and everyone else, we love hearing and reporting about you!

○ **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWALS**

- () **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: _____ E-MAIL: _____

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
