

# **DOTRA'S.....DotLine.....**



**ISSUE NO. 71**

**MAY 2010**

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

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By Chet Andres**

All of us are feeling the effects of the economic downturn that has hit our country and New Jersey, as well. The new Governor is reducing staff and functions in State government. As you will read in the accompanying article on page 1, DOTRA's printing and mailing costs to produce the DOTLINE will escalate to a level that may cause us to reduce the number of issues or find alternative ways to reach our widely scattered membership of 400 retirees.

Please remember that the DOTLINE is the primary way we have been able to keep in touch with each other through the years and let you all know what is going in our organization.

DOTRA continues to look for current DOTRA members who would be interested in joining our Board of Directors. Our Members come from a diversified NJDOT and DOTRA wants to continue to be representative of those roots. If you want more information or just talk about it, call me at 609-818-1921.

Stay active, stay healthy and have fun!

## **DOTLINE PRINTING EXPENSES**

Our opportunity to have the DOTLINE printed at no cost to our organization is no longer available. The annual cost to produce the DOTLINE will approximately double, an increase to approximately \$2000 annually. The Board of Directors is looking for ways to defray these costs. So far, we decided to ask you - our members- to provide email addresses for electronic mailing. If you are willing to receive your DOTLINE via electronic mailing. Please submit your email address to us at:

[DOTRAexpress@yahoo.com](mailto:DOTRAexpress@yahoo.com).

Send to the attention of DOTRA email Security Director.

Those members who do not have email or wish to continue to have their copy of the DOTLINE delivered quarterly by mail, should not respond.

The Board will discuss all options at the May and June Meetings and we request your comments and suggestions- either call or write any Board Member- phone numbers are listed in this newsletter - as soon as possible.

## **LOOK AT YOUR DOTLINE LABEL NOW !!!!**

**Notice your name and address? Note there is also Dues Pd: and a Year. That is the year that you last Paid your DOTRA dues.**

Lucky you if it says LIFE.!

So, if it does not indicate LIFE or 2010, you are now in arrears with your Dues! Please bring your membership up to date by paying \$10 per year through 2010. Use the Form on the last page of this News Letter. Your Dues keeps our organization going.

## **DOTRA BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS**

DOTRA continues to hold 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 4th, 2010 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 4, 2010

Tuesday June 1, 2010

No July meeting

Tuesday August 2, 2010

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DOTRA Anniversary Luncheon June 17, 2010**  
**German American Club Hamilton NJ**  
**See Attached Flyer !!**

**Over 60 SoftBall Game**  
**Saturday July 24, 2010 at WaterFront Park, Trenton**

**Annual DOTRA Picnic**  
**Belle Mountain-Valley Road -County Picnic Area**  
**Wednesday September 15, 2010**

**Annual Holiday Lunch**  
**Mercer Oaks CC – Mercerville NJ**  
**Wednesday, December 8, 2010**

**Holiday Trip to New York City**  
**Radio City Christmas Show- Early December**  
**Details in August Issue**

**DIRECTORS/ TERM OF OFFICE**

Chet Andres (12)	Mary Bock (10)
Dot Andres (12)	Don Hutchinson (10)
Jim Dixon (12)	Jay Johnston (10)
Mike Eckel (12)	Adrian Lincoln (10)
Sal Noto (12)	Lou Papp (10)
Hazel Rockhill (12)	Bruce Strickland (10)
Donna Troiano (12)	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

**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:**

Edna Schwing	72	NJDOT
Yolanda L DeMarco	91	NJDOT
John Supal	78	NJDOT
Madeline Smetanka	80	DMV
Geraldine Murphy	--	NJDOT
Karl J. Brodtman	--	NJDOT

\*DENOTES DOTRA MEMBER

**DOTRA**  
**PO BOX 77160**  
**WEST TRENTON NJ 08628**

**DOTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS**

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

**COMMITTEES**

<b>CHAPLAIN –</b>	Sal Noto	609-882-8395
<b>MEMBERSHIP –</b>	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
	Janis Stia	609-882-3862
	Art Egan	609-585-9145
<b>BY-LAWS –</b>	Mike Eckel	
<b>HISTORIAN –</b>	VACANT	
<b>ACTIVITIES –</b>		
<b>DOTLINE –</b>	Dot Andres	609-818-1921
<b>DATABASE -</b>	John Waldner	
<b>WEBSITE -</b>	Bruce Strickland	505-705-5578

**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.

A brief note was received from "The Portal " in **Mountain Air, New Mexico from Director Bruce Strickland.** Guess winter months are really quiet out there. The highlight of the winter for Bruce and crew was traveling to Arizona and meeting the "Senior Badminton Champion of Arizona" who credits her success to a daily dose of Aleve. (Think we've all seen her ad on TV!)

Our readers love the tales from the West- so hope we have some activity in our next Issue.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

The following former NJDOT'ers have joined (or re-joined ) DOTRA. We welcome them all and look forward to seeing them at our DOTRA events.

Tom Scerba - Bridge Design -retired in 1982- now lives in Columbus, NJ

Robert Bechter- Materials/ State Construction Office – now lives in Venice FL

Jack Crouteau – Research- now lives in Cape Coral FL

Maria Custy – Outdoor Adv/C&M- Whitehouse Station NJ

Monica Kosinar – Traffic Engeering – Old Bridge, NJ LIFE MEMBER

Walter Sharpe- Right of Way- Stockton, NJ LIFE MEMBER

### **ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON TO BELD ON JUNE 17<sup>th</sup>**

The arrangements to celebrate St. Patrick's were so good at the German-American Club in Hamilton Township, DOTRA will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary Luncheon there on June 17<sup>th</sup>. A great menu is offered and a reasonable cost of only \$22. Donna Troiano, Joe Bodnar and Jay Johnston are chairing the event. Plan to see and meet your old friends there!

**Return the Attached Flyer**

## **DOTRA TRIPS REPORT** by Jay Johnston

### **SPRING TRIP TO LANCASTER, PA**

On April 27th, 32 DOTRA members and friends traveled to Lancaster, PA. We spent a few hours at the Rockville Outlets for some shopping and then went to the Sight and Sound Theater production of "David." It was a beautiful show as only Sight and Sound Theater could produce. We then traveled to everyone's favorite place - The Shady Maple Smorgasbord. It was a full day of entertainment and good cooking!

I am in the process of booking the Radio City Christmas Show for early December. We will leave from Hamilton NJ and have free time on our own in NYC and see the tree in Rockefeller Center and the Christmas show matinee performance .

Information will follow in the August issue of the DOTLINE.

### **SOFTBALL AT TRENTON THUNDER WATERFRONT PARK** by Jim Dixon

The over 60 Softball League has scheduled their Annual Event at Trenton Thunder for 2010. This year the League will have all four teams playing back-to-back games on Saturday July 24. These games are planned for Game 1 to begin at 9:30AM and Game 2 at 11:00AM. Trenton Thunder is away that Saturday, so WaterFront Park is available to us alone. Those attending our Doubleheader will also be able to attend the Trenton Thunder (Yankees) vs. Reading (Phillies) Game on Saturday, July 31. One ticket at a cost of \$10 will get you into the Park on both weekends to see all the games. Those who attended last year had a great time! So, come out and see us again! For tickets, contact me at 609-298-3398 or email at me :

jdixonsr@comcast.netgame

### **DOTRA FLORIDA REUNION**

The historic Marsh Landing Restaurant in Fellsmere, Florida was the site of the February DOTRA Reunion. It was a wonderful site for the small gathering of faithful NJDOT'ers who found

their way to a part of central Florida not known or visited by too many people. However, to its historic credit is that the town council of the Town of Felsmere granted voting rights to all Florida women in 1912- prior to the granting of these rights by the State of Florida or other states in the U.S.A. ( a kind of a reverse “hanging chad” story.)

The small but merry group included former NJDOTer's -Al Ari, Frank Battaglia, Jack Crouteau, Bob Bechter, Cliff Heckman, Ted Hamler, Jack Lutz, Rick Fugaro, Nick Nicu, Frank Scarpati, Dot Andres, Chet Andres – accompanied by spouses and friends. Special thanks to Laurie Lutz for the pictures of all those sun-tanned faces.

The possibility that this gathering may be the “Last Florida Reunion” was postponed when Frank Scarpati stepped “up to the plate” and offered to chair the event in February 2011 in West Palm Beach at one of his favorite hang-outs 'Dirty Gerty's or some similar named location.

Thanks to Frank Wegel and wife Kathy for keeping this event successfully going for so many years- you have provided a great annual meeting for our DOTRA retirees in Florida. And thanks to Frank Scarpati for volunteering to keep it going!!

## **HISTORIAN'S COLUMN**

### **IN THE BEGINNING- Part 2**

**By Mike Eckel**

(continued from January 2010 Issue of DOTLINE)

Bridge and Tunnel building boomed in the twenties. The style of the bridges varied. For example, the Victory Bridge over the Raritan river between Perth Amboy and South Amboy is a movable bridge that opens for marine traffic. Dedicated in 1926 as the Victory Bridge in honor of those men and women from New Jersey who served in World War 1, it was only a partial solution to the summer traffic problem. Serious congestion occurred within 4 years of its completion.

The Morris Goodkind Memorial Bridge (originally the College Bridge) is a multi-span concrete arch fixed bridge carrying Route 1 over the Raritan River in New Brunswick. Designed by NJDOT General Supervisor of Bridges Morris Goodkind for whom it was later named, the structure opened in 1929. The public preferred fixed bridges (those that don't open) because they eliminated traffic tie-ups. Some of those bridges built at the time were:

1928 Outerbridge Crossing from Perth Amboy to Tottenville, Staten Island, named to honor Eugenius H. Outerbridge, the first Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. (In 2002, the PA-NY/NJ performed a \$52M renovation of the first bridge.)

1928 Goethals Bridge from Elizabeth to Howland Hook, Staten Island named to honor George Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal.

1931 Bayonne Bridge, a prize-winning 1,675-foot steel arch bridge that spans the Kill Van Kull from Bayonne to port Richmond, Staten Island, designed by Othmar Ammann.

1932 Pulaski Skyway, originally called the Diagonal Highway, is a cantilever and truss bridge with a 135-foot clearance at the center above the water. The center height was required to allow ships to pass under the bridge. It has been designated a civil engineering landmark.

1939 Edison Bridge was the largest, highest and longest span bridge of its type in the United States when completed. With a height of 135 feet and a four-lane, 52 foot wide roadway on Route 9, the structure was built about 3,000 feet upstream of the Victory Bridge. It was called the “Route 35 extension from the Woodbridge cloverleaf to Keyport.”

During the later 1920's and 1930's, the State Highway Department used methods and technologies to improve the flow of the growing volume of traffic through intersection design and signs. Some of these were:

Wider highways: roads were expanded to 3 lanes, a New Jersey first.

Jug-handles and Grade Separations: The nation's first cloverleaf, partial cloverleaves and flared intersections complemented circles.

Signs: “Silent policemen” provided some order to traffic movement at busy intersections,

Divided highways, the department constructed the first divided highway on Route 1 in Elizabeth in 1936. Highway Engineers noticed that the worst accidents occurred when “two streams” of traffic crossed each other. To enhance safety, engineers developed a number of grade separations to help reduce accidents.

By the 1930's New Jersey achieved a national reputation for its enterprise and excellence in the transportation area. Others copied its highways, bridges and intersections. Still others marveled at its innovations in rail and air travel.

### **Early Aviation**

**Some of the milestones in this period included:**

**1927** Air express service began at Hadley Airport and had two international air services. One route transported passengers and mail to Montreal and the other carried mail to Mexico City. In 1929 air mail service began at the newly opened Newark Airport.

**1929** The Legislature adopted the Uniform Aeronautics Act to establish regulatory standards for aviation.

**1931** The Legislature created the State Department of Aviation, the office of the State Director of Aviation and the State Aviation Commission.

#### **Rail travel**

**1930 to 1935:** The Lackawanna Railroad electrified its train facilities from Hoboken to Morristown. The Pennsylvania railroad electrified its rail service from New York to Trenton in 1933 and Washington DC in 1935.

#### **FUNDING MILESTONES**

##### **1941 Defense Highway Bill**

Passed by Congress to correct critical deficiencies in highways and bridges, "essential to national defense" the bill included funds for road construction to defense sites. Congress recognized that that the wartime delay in the construction of transportation projects would result in a major backlog after the war and a potential transportation crises. Therefore, the federal government provided funds in the same bill to support extensive survey and planning projects. States later used the resulting plans as the basis for implementing expanded post-war highway programs. The federal government encouraged highway departments to secure rights of way large enough to to permit future widening and to construct bridges which could easily be enlarged.

##### **1944 Federal Aid Program**

This was passed by Congress to develop the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, to supplement existing primary (trunk lines) and secondary (feeder routes) programs and set the tone for post-war development.

##### **1947 Aid to Local Governments**

Designed by the state after the war to provide financial aid to counties and municipalities, the funds are distributed mainly under legislated formulas reflecting area, road mileage and population each calendar year. They are used for such varied purposes as construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair, lighting, policing of roads and bridges. Local governments may also apply limited amounts for debt service on road and bridge bonds.

##### **1956 Federal Interstate Highway Act**

Legislation created the national "highway trust fund" with a budget of \$25 million to hold additional monies from national taxes on fuel and tires. In the mid-1950's, the federal government had primary responsibility for

financing the interstate system . It provided 90 percent of construction costs.

#### **MORE RECENT NJDOT HISTORY by Al Alaimo**

In 1975, the Department was faced with a dilemma of buying buses or possibly losing the Federal funds for Mass transit. This was before NJ Transit was formed and all mass transit issues were with the NJDOT. Funds were available to purchase 866 buses to be distributed to various bus lines in the State. At this time, a purchase of this size was the largest in the world. New York City, not to be out done, eventually made an even larger purchase.

The Bureau of Equipment became the lead Bureau for this endeavor. Specs were prepared, reviewed by the Contract Section and put out to bid. The winning bid was Flexible Company in Ohio. Once the contract was awarded, arrangements were made to have on site inspection with Equipment and Materials personnel assigned to Ohio. The buses were to be delivered and final inspection made in Fernwood.

In a government operation, there are many people and agencies involved. No easy undertaking. Department personnel were numerous and the purchase was ultimately concluded through cooperation of various bureaus and support of top management through every phase.

At the time, this was a giant step in mass transit and even impressed Washington gurus that we were able to go this far!

#### **HERE AND THERE**

**By Dot Andres**

Well, we are back from a cool winter in Florida- but no complaints. We saw a little skim of ice on the pond and did see a few flakes, BUT... Nothing like New Jersey!!

We need your input to keep the DOTLINE worthwhile! Our members like to read about what their former co- workers are doing with all of their free time!

**USE THE COMMENTS SECTION ON THE APPLICATION FORM TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING, WHERE YOU ARE GOING... . READERS LIKE THE "TRAVEL CORNER". WE WILL USE IT IN THE AUGUST DOTLINE.**

○  
○ **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

**HUMOR CORNER**  
"American Management "

The Americans and Japanese decided to engage in a boat race. Both teams practiced hard and long to reach their peak performance levels. On the big day the Japanese won by a mile.

The American team was discouraged by the loss. Morale sagged. Corporate management decided that the reason for the crushing defeat had to be found, so a consulting firm was hired to investigate the problem and recommend corrective action.

The Consultants's finding: The Japanese had 8 people rowing and 1 person steering; the American team had 1 person rowing and 8 people steering.

After a year of study and millions spent analyzing the problem, the Consultant firm decided that too many people were steering and not enough were rowing on the American team. So, as race day neared year, the American's team management structure was completely reorganized. The new structure: 4 steering managers, 3 area steering managers and a new performance review system for the 1 person rowing the boat to provide work incentive. That year, the Japanese won by TWO MILES!

Humiliated, the Americans laid off the rower for poor performance and gave the managers a bonus for discovering the problem.  
(Source: The Orange Peel )