

DOTRA'S.....DOTLine.....



ISSUE NO. 103

May 2018

A Publication of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Retirees Association Inc.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Clint Griggs

As I write this, we are anxiously awaiting some consistent spring- like weather...without snow!!

The DOTRA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome its newest member Ann Laurie Fratticcioli. In the short time she has been with the board, she is really “freshening up” our DOTRA message. Shortly, you can expect to see a sharp new look to our website and receive timely emails regarding DOTRA events and updates. Welcome aboard, Ann!

Our Spring Breakfast get together took place on March 14, 2018 at the Golden Dawn Restaurant in Hamilton. Our thanks again to Joe Bodnar for chairing our “Spring Fling”. It was a great turn out and everyone had a wonderful time.

During the month of March, we welcomed new members Will Day and Linda Cardell Murphy to the DOTRA family.

Be sure to check out the flyer for our upcoming June Anniversary Luncheon taking place on June 13, 2018 at the iconic Mastoris Diner in Bordentown. Be sure to make plans to attend this one.

Lastly, be sure to check out all the great information in this issue of DOTLine. There are some new features for you to enjoy. Don't be shy about sending us info on your latest accomplishment, trip, or just to let us know how and where you are.

Have a great Spring & Summer (if they ever get here!!) See you soon.

**Our mailing address:
DOTRA
PO BOX 77160
WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628**

UPCOMING EVENTS

June Luncheon

June 13, 2018 @ 11:30 AM
Mastoris Diner, Routes 130 & 206, Bordentown

Annual DOTRA Fall Picnic

September 12, 2017
Mercer County Valley Road Picnic Grounds

Holiday Season Party

December 12, 2018
Mercer Oaks Country Club
Village Road West, West Windsor, NJ

DOTRA ON THE INTERNET!!

You can read the current issue of the DOTLine on the Website - as well as check back issues!!!

Log onto DOTRA's own Web Site:

<http://www.dotra.org>

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 – June 5, 2018 at 11 AM at Tessara's Restaurant, 812 Route 33, Hamilton Twp.** Our business meeting starts at 11

AM followed by a Dutch-treat luncheon. **Please note that there is no meeting scheduled for July.** Schedule of future meetings at Tessara's:

Tuesday, August 1, 2018
 Tuesday, September 5, 2018
 October 3, 2018

2018 DUES were due January 1, 2018!!!
Please do NOW!!!

Check your Mailing Label to see if you are paid up for 2018!! Electronic "mailers" have been notified by e-mail! Don't forget to notify DOTRA if you have a change of address. This is especially important for Life members and those who receive DOTLine electronically.

DOTLine ELECTRONICALLY

If you are willing to receive your DOTLine via electronic mailing, please submit your email address to us at:

DOTRAexpress@yahoo.com

DOTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD
& OFFICERS

President	Clint Griggs	609-888-0115
1st Vice Pres.	Jay Johnston	609-588-0930
2nd Vice Pres.	Gerry Sellner	609-737-1665
Treasurer	Frank Stia	609-882-3862
Asst. Treasurer	Lou Papp	609-585-7697
Recording Sec.	Andrea Mansfield	609-890-9497
Corres. Sec.	Donna Troiano	609-298-5962

DIRECTORS/TERM OF OFFICE

Donna Troiano (18)	Dot Andres (18)
Mike Eckel (18)	Gerry Sellner (18)
Andrea Mansfield (18)	John Rainiero (19)
Bruce Strickland (19)	Bob Miller (19)
Lou Papp (19)	Clinton Griggs (19)
Frank Stia (19)	Joe Bodnar (20)
Frank Palise (20)	Janis Stia (20)
Jay Johnston (20)	Ann Fratticcioli (20)

COMMITTEES

Audit	Frank Palise	609-896-2011
Chaplain	Jay Johnson	609-588-0930
Membership	Janis Stia	609-882-3862
By-Laws	Vacant	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Historian	Mike Eckel	609-499-9225
Activities	Vacant	xxx-xxx-xxxx
DOTLine	Frank Palise	609-896-2011
Database	Gerry Sellner	609-737-1665
Website	Bruce Strickland	505-847-3300
DOT Memorial	Jim Dixon	609-298-3398
Nominating	Joe Bodnar	609-298-6260

Directors Emeritus

Adrian Lincoln, Margaret "Peg" Wieger, Hazel Rockhill, Phil Vecere, and Chet Andres

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Janis Stia

During the last three months, the following new members have joined DOTRA:

Murphy, Linda	Traffic Operations
Day, Will	Traffic Operations-South

Welcome to all!

CHAPLIN'S REPORT

By Jay Johnston

We would like to be informed about any retiree who has passed away, is ill, confined to their home, in a rehabilitation center, or needs help in one way or another. Please send any information to me at:

3 Golden Crest Court, Hamilton N.J. 08691
 Phone: **609-588-0930**,
 E-mail: **jay050645@yahoo.com**

RECENT OBITUARIES

George Kook, Jr.*	?
James DiClaudio	67
John C. Powers*	71

John Papp	70
Frank Hamler*	?
Mary Kane	94
Robert Kerr*	90
Darlene Posluszny	62
Raymond A. Burroughs*	61
Michael Barrett	82
Raymond Pihls*	85
William Breen*	87
Timothy R. Ward	67

Note – Messrs. Pihls and Breen are not recent, but, were missed at the time of their passing.

***Denotes DOTRA Member**

NJDOT EMPLOYEE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jim Dixon

The Employee Memorial Committee hopes all a Happy Easter. EMC had a very successful Easter Basket Sale of 15 baskets in about one hour! These were baskets for kids.

The Committee is currently scheduled to meet with the new Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti at the end of April. This meeting is for the EMC to explain what they do and seek a Memorandum of Understanding to continue operating with their regular events. Upcoming events include: Mother’s Day Flower Sale on Thursday, May 10, 10AM-2PM outside the Jack Freidenrich Building (also known as the E & O Building and the Spring Clearance Sale Wednesday May 16, (time to be determined) in the Multi-Purpose Room. These 2 events are open to retirees also. A third event for active employees only is the Annual Employee Appreciation Picnic tentatively set for Thursday June 21 with a rain date of June 22at 12 Noon outside of the Jack Freidenrich Building.

The updates for all events will be posted by both the EMC notices and DOTRA Website.

The Committee is still reorganizing and seeking all new officers to continue the success of the EMC over

the last 15 years. So far a new Treasurer and an Assistant Secretary have come forward.

SPRING BREAKFAST

By Joe Bodnar

On March 14, forty-eight (48) DOTRA members and guests attended the spring social at the Golden Dawn Diner-Restaurant. The service was great, but the accommodations were a little tight. The establishment claimed we interfered with their lunch trade last year. To appease the owners, next year we will begin our breakfast at 9:00 AM to allow the employees sufficient time to prepare for their lunch trade. This should satisfy the owners and allow our members to enjoy the use of a larger area of the restaurant. All in all the attendees had an enjoyable time.

Attached are two pictures taken at the breakfast. One shows Ann Fratticcioli, our DOTRA Director and member Bob Sauber; the other shows Clint Griggs, DOTRA President and Joe Bodnar, breakfast Chairman.



More photos are located at the following site:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/G4CjtLc0GUgKvsvu2>

FLORIDA REUNION

By Steffan Franklin

Our Florida reunion luncheon at Milliken's Reef in Cape Canaveral last Tuesday on February 13, 2018. All had fun, with 19 persons attending. The day was

just beautiful, and some people went site seeing at Cape Canaveral.



Next year I will have it in the Villages Fl. We should get more people to attend (I Hope).

Back Row---Charles & Anne Takas, Connie & Richard Sawicki, Kathy Swango, Marty Tobin, Front Row--- John Lutz (Laurie Lutz taking photo), Frank & Kathy Wegel, Dot Andres, Joan & Rick Fugaro, Keith Swango, Liz Tobin, Gail & Tony Gelak Very Front Row---Steffan & Cindy Franklin



DOTRA TRIPS
By Jay Johnston

DOTRA trips for 2018 have not been finalized yet. As trips are developed they will be announced in future newsletters.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

by Donna Troiano

Welcome to our new section focusing on the travels of our DOTRA members. As we all travel throughout the US and abroad, it is obvious that we retirees love to travel. Have you been on a trip recently or in the past that left you with special memories?

This is the section where you can share those travel memories. Tell us where you've been and how wonderful, stressful or funny your trips have been. Did the weather cooperate? Did everything go as planned? Or were there surprises? We all want to know.

Have you been to Fiji? Did the water taste special? Have you been to the Grand Canyon? Did you ride a mule to the bottom or raft on the Colorado River? Have you been on an African Safari? Were you ever worried for your safety? We all want to know.

Send me your travel stories by mail at 827 East Drive, Bordentown, NJ 08505 or electronically at DonnaTroiano@aol.com. I know, my email address is not very creative!

We are looking forward to learning where our DOTRA friends have traveled. We all want to know.

Here's our first article from Kathy Schiro:

Recently, Andy and I took a trip to India,



then a road trip to Fort Lauderdale, and a cruise on Royal Caribbean's largest ship "Harmony of the Seas".

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW INCOME TAX LAW

By Frank Palise

We will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on April 20th. We are debating where we will travel to for this occasion. I told him I would rather spend the money on a cruise than a party. We only know we don't want to travel points north, as we've had enough snow.

We are in the mist of doing paperwork now for a cruise from Tokyo to Hong Kong. Trip isn't until November, but we need to get lots done due to renewal of passports, as ours are not expired, but you need a certain amount of empty pages, they can't add any more than what we have, so off we go.

Plus, we have a tour starting in Fairbanks, Alaska in August, which will be followed up by a cruise starting at Stewart, Alaska to Settle, Washington.

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

By Mike Eckel

Place original documents that cannot be replaced in a safe deposit box or a fire proof box. These might include original signed copies of things that are not accessed often, such as birth and marriage certificates, legal contracts, passports, powers of attorney, wills, divorce decrees, life insurance and annuity contracts.

Other important records to keep safe include bank account numbers; brokerage account numbers; passwords and pins with answers to security questions; Life insurance policy numbers with face value, beneficiary, owner and company name including group coverage's. List of pension and IRA accounts and beneficiaries. Other Insurances policy numbers and company such as homeowners, auto and long-term care. Photo copies of all cards kept in your wallet, such as credit/debit cards, membership cards and driver license. You should also go through your home or apartment and video tape everything and transfer that information to a thumb/flash drive. All of this information can be kept in a safe deposit box or at home in an expanding type folder.

As you may know, starting in 2018 and lasting till 2025, the Federal income tax law has been drastically changed. It is imperative that you talk to your tax advisor about these changes and how they will affect what taxes you will pay in 2018. A good site to visit that summarizes this law is:

<https://www.factcheck.org/2017/12/guide-tax-changes/>

Here are some of the highlights:

1. The number of tax brackets remain the same at seven. But the tax rates have been reduced. Also, the range of taxable income in each bracket has been reduced.
2. The exemption amount for the Individual Alternative Minimum Tax has been increased by approximately 29.5%.
3. The Standard Deduction has been increased to \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for joint filers.
4. The personal exemption for each dependent, including yourself, of \$4,050 has been **eliminated!** If you are a family of four, you just lost \$16,000 worth of deductions.
5. The Child Tax Credit per child for joint filers has been increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000, with the cut off for eligibility increased from \$110,000 to \$400,000.
6. If you itemize instead of taking the Standard Deduction, your deductions for property taxes and state income taxes will be capped at \$10,000. Also, the limits on itemized deductions have been repealed.
7. Mortgage interest deduction for those currently holding a mortgage remains the same. However, the deductible limit drops from \$1.1 Million to \$750,000 for new mortgages.

LAST WORD...You have the last word. Maybe someday you will tell us what it is....

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWALS

() **NEW** APPLICATION FOR DOTRA MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00/ YEAR _____
- \$75.00 LIFE MEMBERSHIP _____

(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
(Converting from annual membership)

() **CHANGE OF ADDRESS** (FILL IN NAME ADDRESS,-both snail mail and email, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

() PLEASE ADD **YOUR COMMENTS** FOR INCLUSION IN AN UPCOMING DOTLine.

NAME: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

STREET/ PO BOX: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

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

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

I WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON A DOTRA COMMITTEE _____

COMMENTS: _____

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

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RETIREES ASSOCIATION