

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



ISSUE NO. 64

AUGUST 2008

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Chet Andres

It is now mid-summer , but not too soon for DOTRA Members to mark their calendars for the planned Fall and Winter social events scheduled by your Officers and Directors. We all work very hard to make your DOTRA experience rewarding and worthwhile.

DOTRA membership has evolved since its inception in 1991 with many new members joining us as they reach retirement age so that we always have a a mix of younger and older members. The same is true of our Board of Directors. I am glad to see the new DOTRA members volunteering as Directors to help guide our activities. New and interesting functions are being added to our schedule of quarterly luncheons and picnics.

Take a look at our BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Read about the upcoming planned events and get involved with DOTRA. We look forward to seeing or hearing from you!

DOTRA BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS

DOTRA holds its regular Monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Currently, we are meeting 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.

Our next meeting will be

Tuesday, AUGUST 5, 2008
At 11:00 UNO'sCHICAGO GRILL
Hamilton, NJ

All members of DOTRA are welcome !!!

Schedule for Future Meetings:

Tuesday - September 2, 2008
 Tuesday - October 7, 2008
 Tuesday - November 4, 2008
 Tuesday – December 2 , 2008

**DOTRA'S BUS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8,2008**

**DOTRA'S ANNUAL PICNIC
 THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2008
 (See attached Flyer)**

**DOTRA'S FIRST WINE TASTING
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23,2008**

**BUS TRIP TO "SIGHT AND SOUND"
 TUESDAY DECEMBER 9,2008
 SEE ATTACHED FLYER**

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
 HISTORIC CRANBURY INN-CRANBURY,**

NJ

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2008

**DOTRA'S FLORIDA REUNION
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

DOTRA

PO BOX 77160 WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628
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You can read the latest issue of the NJDOT TRANSPORTER on our Website, as it is no longer being mailed out automatically by the NJDOT to Retirees.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

By Sal Noto

We would like to be kept 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 any information to share about members or retirees, please call or send a note to Sal at **609-882-8395** or e-mail at

judy_and_sal@yahoo.com

or write to Sal at 75 Stonicker Drive Lawrenceville NJ.

Recent Obituaries:

*Ceil Witkowski	(59)	NJDOT
*Richard Hobson	(78)	NJDOT
*Robert Nolan	(87)	NJDOT
*Ted Fischer	(74)	NJDOT
*Elizabeth Garsky	(82)	NJDOT
*Allen Smith	(68)	NJDOT
*Mary LaRossa		NJDOT
*Betty Roy		
Raymond Weber	(92)	NJDOT
Mary Gordon	(93)	NJDOT
Claire MacClain		NJDOT
Ed Kierstead		NJDOT
Michael Dillon		NJDOT
Jeanne Amy Hutchinson		NJDOT
Stanton Taylor		NJDOT
Wayne P. Smith	(43)	NJDOT
Hugh F. Callahan	(85)	NJDOT

*DENOTES DOTRA MEMBERS

DOTRA'S ON THE INTERNET

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

Bruce Strickland is our WebSite Manager. There are new photos of DOTRA events on the WebSite. **The Florida Reunion 2008 photos are definitely on the site.** Take a look and leave a note.

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)	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
BY-LAWS –	Art Egan	609-585-9145
HISTORIAN –	Mike Eckel	
ACTIVITIES –	Jim Springstead	609-392-0848
DOTLINE –	Dot Andres & Bruce Strickland	609-818-1921 609-538-8189
DATABASE -	John Waldner	
MEMORIAL		
Committee Liason –	Mary Bock	609-882-0704
WEBSITE -	Bruce Strickland	609-538-8189

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:
SUPPORT OUR ACTIVITIES- WRITE to
DOTLINE**

**LET US KNOW ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE
DOING.
HELP KEEP OUR ORGANIZATION GOING !**

DOTRA TRIP INFORMATION

DOTRA will have a bus load of people attending the Debbie Reynolds Show at Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Monday September 8th.

Our Pick up time is at 10 AM at the Starr Bus Tours Parking Lot – Suburban Plaza - 1646 Nottingham Way - Hamilton Twp. NJ

Jay says there are **a few seats remaining** IF anyone wants to join us. Remember guests are always invited to join us. If you have any last minute questions, call Jay at 609-588-0930.

A Holiday Bus Trip has been announced by Jay- a trip to “**Sight and Sound Theater** with Dinner at the Shady Maple Restaurant. The trip is Tuesday, December 9, 2008. A cost of \$85.00 includes bus trip, theater and Dinner. Check the attached Flyer. Remember the cost of gasoline and let someone else drive you there!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Again, some familiar names are added to our current DOTRA members – and you will probably say, “they are too young to retire!” So here is our latest list with some brief info we received- provided by the new members.

**Michael Drangula -Hamilton Twp Design
Joseph Montague MorrisvillePA- Design
Allan Weber – Manchester Twp. Design**

LIFE MEMBER

Lynn Russo –Local Aid - Bluffton SC

Any questions about your dues? If any members want to write and update their info, we will be happy to hear from you anytime. Just send it to our **DOTRA P.O. BOX 77160 West Trenton NJ 08628.**

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 10th

Arrangements have been made to hold out DOTRA Holiday Luncheon at the Cranbury Inn in their new Regency Room. The event will take place on Wednesday December 10 from 11:30 until 2:30. There will be lots of room here- not as last year when a large number of members and guests arrived- and our caterer was not prepared for the numbers.

The Cranbury Inn is easily reached from all directions and we look forward to a good group of members and guests supporting and attending the event.

So, look for the Flyer in the next DOTLINE edition coming out on or about November 1st.

DOTRA TO HOLD WINE TASTINGS !!

There will be a series of wine tastings for DOTRA Members and guests this Fall starting on Tuesday September 23 at 7:30 PM at Mama Flora’s on Olden Avenue in Ewing.

These will be educational, social and fun. Each session will have 6 to 8 different wines for you to experience. There will be some food along with the wine (not dinner but sufficient knish to get you through the evening.)

It is a sit-down format that gives you the opportunity to patiently get to know the wine, understand your reaction to it, take notes, and discuss it with others present. This approach limits the number of attendees to a max of 25.

Peter Yull will be your Host. He brings some 40 years of first hand experience in the world of wine. While he is not a connoisseur, he is a "wine aficionado" who enjoys helping others find enjoyment in drinking wine.

Each session will be \$25 per person.

With sufficient interest we will hold tastings in October and November.

If you are interested in participating, contact Peter at 609-394-7145 or by email at pyull@aol.com.

Reservations are required.

ANNUAL JUNE LUNCHEON

Many thanks to Adrian Lincoln for arranging our June Anniversary Luncheon at the Cranbury Inn on June 4th. And thanks to wife Anna who certainly helps to keep arrangements straight.

Lots of good food, drinks and meeting of former co-workers and friends. And many new faces to report were there.

Charlie Gunzel, Allan Webber, Ron Jones, Alan Samour, Mike Drangula and Joe Montague from Design made up a group table. Nancy Nelson (Human Resources) finally was able to adjust her schedule and join us. Nice to see you all.

Bernadine Pederson (Design) was there with her group from Administration and Personnel-Helen Rose and Dee Murphy. Bernadine will be moving to "The Evergreens" in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania this summer- and promises to send her new address and come to future events. Nice to see Nellie Hoffman (DMV) back after several knee surgeries.

A first time attender- Andy Parrella (C&M) and his wife were there with interesting stories of their trips to Europe since retiring from the NJDOT and giving up their restaurant business in Yardley. Janis and Frank Stia (C&M), Jules Tompa (Planning) and Callie Olexy(C&M) were busy re-acquainting with friends.

Another table was spotted with Hazel Rockhill, Ed Skwara, Joe Notaro and Mike Eckel. Jim Dixon, Carl Rebbeck and Ed Baker with their wives, Judy and Frank Scymanski, Lou and Eileen Papp, Mearl Challender and wife Katherine seemed to be enjoying the reunion of NJDOT retirees. Floyd Gentiles (C&M) drove down from East Stroudsburg for the event.

Always good to see the Lambertville-EQT group – noble supporters of our Luncheons. And who can forget the Herrera brothers and their group.

DOTRA PICNIC TIME AGAIN

Once again, **Phil Vecere** and his hard working Picnic Crew will be putting together their Annual DOTRA PICNIC. Last year, almost 140 people were there. Battling a shifting wind and smokey grills last year, the Vecere Picnic Crew is back for more. We are returning to Belle Mountain County Park- recently renovated-located off of Route 29 between Titusville and Lambertville.

Return the attached Flyer as soon as possible so we can plan our food and drinks. We have a reputation of never running out of drinks and food (except for potato salad). Want to bring a home made dessert, donations always accepted.

HERE AND THERE

By Dot Andres

Always anxious to see the contents of the DOTRA MailBox.

Surprise to all the DOTRA Directors!! Our WebSite Manager and Director Bruce Strickland (Information Tech) surprised us all with the announcement that he was getting married - after all these years! The “quiet ones” are always there to grab the headlines!

Our email box had a nice note from Cliff Heckman (Materials) now back in Diamond Beach, N J. after a “rough winter of chemo” in Florida, thanking all for the cards and prayers. We hope you are doing well Cliff!

Frank Wegel and Al Ari keep us informed of the latest NJDOT “losses.”

Ed Downs (Support Services) forwarded a note and photo from our 2007 Florida Reunion . Thanks Ed.

Our renewals box had a lot of mail but not too many notes. Long time members like Sam Whitehead (Design), Marie Beatty (Office of State Highway Engineer), Bob Leahey (C&M), Ernie Nolan (C&M), Gene Salvia (C&M), Richard Tompkins (FHWA), Jack Stanley (Bridge) and Dot Stanley (Office of IG)

Then, there is Bruce Strickland who surprised us all when he recently “tied the knot.” Good luck to Bruce and his new bride.

Nice to see some of our newest members coming out to our Monthly Tuesday Meetings - Mike Drangula and Joe Montague from Design.

Also, some of our returnees from wintering in the South, Don Hutchinson and Al Gallo.

Please Members - whenever you move or change you address, be sure to notify us at DOTRA via Post Office Box. This is particularly important for our Life members who do not have to renew their dues annually.

Many times we learn of a change when the Post Office refuses to forward a DOTLINE and the DOTLINE is being returned by the USPS as “Moved-Undeliverable.” We are unable to forward you the last copy of DOTLINE and our contact is broken !

HUMOR FROM THE PAST-

Who doesn't remember some of the foul-mouthed “riske” comedians of our youth - like the shocking George Carlin of the 60's and 70's – who, in reality today, now sound very mild after we have “matured” and moved into the 21st century.

Frank Wegel (Materials) reminded us that all that George Carlin had to say wasn't “censorable”. Some of it was really funny! There were some of real gems, such as...

Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things?

If a man is standing in the middle of a forest speaking and there is no woman around to hear him, is he still wrong?

Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do practice?

If you spin an oriental man in a circle 3 times, does he become disoriented?

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Can vegetarians eat animal crackers ?

Hmmmm....

- **Put Tuesday February 10th, 2009 on your calendar for the Annual Florida Reunion in the Kissimmee/Orlando area. Further details to follow in the November issue of DOTLINE.**
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- **Contact Frank Wegel at 772-388-3991 or write 8060 142nd St. Sebastian FL32958. EMAIL- fwegel@bellsouth.com**

APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM ON THE BACK PAGE !!!

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 BELOW)
- PLEASE ADD **YOUR COMMENTS FOR DOTLINE.**

NAME: _____

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

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

TELEPHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

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

YOUR COMMENTS: _____

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